

earlier years, forms were supplied to the fishermen for this registration, but it was found that many fishermen took out commercial fishing licenses but neglected to register their boats.¹ As a result of this, considerable patrol work was necessary to get a complete registration. In 1933 a new combination license and boat registration form was introduced. (See Figs. 11 and 12) The fact that the record of the boat is made a part of the required information in obtaining a commercial fishing license has simplified the work and enabled us to get a more complete registration.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET, 1934

Regions of home ports	Number of boats grouped by length in feet					Total number of boats in each region
	Up to 24'	25' to 39'	40' to 64'	65' to 84'	85' and over	
Oregon, Washington and Alaska boats fishing in California.....	0	13	38	41	0	92
Del Norte.....	1	9	1	0	0	11
Eureka.....	7	144	18	0	0	169
Sacramento.....	87	148	0	0	0	235
San Francisco.....	43	343	36	8	0	430
Monterey.....	67	155	43	16	0	281
Santa Barbara.....	35	36	14	0	0	85
Los Angeles.....	124	244	158	65	28	619
San Diego.....	24	90	47	11	29	201
Total number of boats in each length group.....	388	1,182	355	141	57	2,123

A further requirement for purposes of identification is that every commercial fishing boat shall carry a pair of California Division of Fish and Game number plates. For the records of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the state number takes the place of the boat name or the U. S. Custom House number, which were former means of identification. Before this distinctive numbering system was adopted, considerable difficulty was experienced in getting accurate boat records. These difficulties were chiefly due to the fact that through the years, numbers had been issued to the fishermen from several sources—state, federal and fraternal. The numbers were frequently changed. There was also considerable confusion in the boat names. Prior to 1909, the state's market fishermen's licensing law, which licensed a boat according to the number of men in the crew rather than the individual fisherman, required that the license number be displayed on either side of the bow of the boat. This license number was painted on a tin plate, 12 inches square, with figures 4 inches high. Two different colors were used, one for boats with a crew of one or two men, where a license fee of \$5 was charged, and the second color was given to boats carrying more than two men, for which there was an increase in license fee. The number and colors changed each year. In March, 1909, a new paper license system went into effect. Under this system, individuals were licensed and for the first time a description of each fisherman was required. Each license was numbered but the number plate was no longer required on the boat. The federal government required that the larger boats be documented, that is, all boats

¹ For obsolete form, see pages 75–76 of: Conner, Geraldine. California's fishing boat census. Calif. Div. Fish Game, Fish Bull. No. 30, pp. 72–107, 1931.