

After a postwar slump, landings increased from 4 million pounds in 1922 to about 7 million pounds per year during the period 1926–1931. Following this period, the catch declined steadily to a low of 1½ million pounds in 1942. This decline began after the stock market crash, but was too long (11 years) to be attributed entirely to its effects.

Three reasons for this drop in landings are: the meteoric expansion of the California sardine fishery during 1932–1936, the unprecedented demand for soupfin shark livers during the period 1937–1943, and the military restrictions on vessel cruises that went into effect at the start of World War II.

TABLE 1  
Total Annual Rockfish Landings in the Northern, Central, and Southern  
California Areas,\* 1916–1956, Inclusive

Year	Pounds			
	Northern	Central	Southern	Total
1916	14 279	2,773,638	2,131,035	4,918,952
1917	28,082	4,307,400	3,438,544	7,774,026
1918	65,511	5,041,638	3,135,605	8,242,754
1919	15,075	3,508,089	1,874,945	5,398,109
1920	20,454	3,576,177	2,036,446	5,633,077
1921	30,672	2,952,000	1,778,986	4,761,658
1922	22,872	2,538,683	1,750,459	4,312,014
1923	7,473	2,743,770	2,345,379	5,096,622
1924	20,477	1,578,083	3,144,325	4,742,885
1925	66,414	1,973,220	3,448,987	5,488,621
1926	65,506	3,194,390	4,281,073	7,540,969
1927	124,346	2,713,534	3,552,724	6,390,604
1928	107,264	3,284,602	3,028,043	6,419,909
1929	257,819	2,715,208	3,063,382	6,036,409
1930	250,968	3,853,466	3,120,930	7,225,364
1931	105,950	3,605,088	3,566,658	7,277,696
1932	89,232	3,043,780	2,503,307	5,636,319
1933	31,119	2,756,025	2,000,630	4,787,774
1934	116,182	2,598,479	1,889,370	4,604,031
1935	160,321	3,036,733	1,634,120	4,831,174
1936	187,424	3,481,605	934,875	4,603,904
1937	133,417	3,142,243	1,015,554	4,291,214
1938	547,603	2,407,904	681,630	3,637,137
1939	755,440	1,718,643	859,043	3,333,126
1940	583,605	2,113,302	873,729	3,570,636
1941	456,083	1,913,120	1,036,419	3,405,622
1942	271,959	726,068	425,413	1,423,440
1943	1,375,468	887,535	499,189	2,762,192
1944	5,525,923	800,666	95,641	6,422,230
1945	11,718,824	1,362,287	204,863	13,285,974
1946	9,464,778	1,341,089	355,355	11,161,222
1947	6,356,942	1,732,780	408,862	8,498,584
1948	3,952,240	1,954,521	634,215	6,540,976
1949	3,290,741	1,868,638	908,498	6,067,877
1950	3,744,222	3,428,393	943,294	8,115,909
1951	4,573,598	5,380,488	1,037,966	10,992,052
1952	2,635,194	7,277,538	807,453	10,720,185
1953	3,091,672	8,477,957	658,601	12,228,230
1954	3,193,209	8,161,586	1,285,337	12,640,132
1955	2,967,837	5,722,645	3,991,215	12,681,697
1956	3,118,829	8,558,692	3,265,994	14,943,515

\* Northern Area—California State boundary south to Sonoma County line.  
Central—Sonoma County south to San Luis Obispo County line.  
Southern—San Luis Obispo County south to international boundary.

TABLE 1  
Total Annual Rockfish Landings in the Northern, Central, and Southern California Areas, 1916–1956, Inclusive