

**TABLE 5**  
**PACIFIC COAST LANDINGS OF ALBACORE**  
**Pounds**

Year	California	Oregon	Washington	Total pounds
1936.....	945,595	11,176	-----	956,771
1937.....	2,020,016	1,353,522	332,299	3,705,837
1938.....	6,814,900	8,000,000	4,112,328	18,927,228
1939.....	10,000,362	6,484,795	1,729,772	18,214,929
1940.....	3,940,638	9,286,261	1,330,266	14,557,165
1941.....	3,341,209	7,545,131	1,045,364	11,931,704
1942.....	10,621,360	10,942,956	1,841,312	23,405,628
1943.....	21,384,864	10,385,956	5,749,514	37,520,334
1944.....	18,433,574	22,418,704	11,869,555	52,721,833
1945.....	21,275,300	12,178,371	6,066,955	39,520,626
1946.....	18,069,274	3,950,804	2,172,539	24,192,617
1947.....	13,171,751	9,173,623	-----	22,345,374

Oregon and Washington landings supplied by Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission.

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### 2.1.3. Bluefin Tuna

Like the albacore, the bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus*, is a temperate species that enters our fishing area only at certain seasons. Its known distribution is from Cape San Lucas, Lower California, to approximately the Columbia River. With all the fishing that has been done for yellowfin tuna and skipjack within the tropics in an interval of years, no authenticated records exist of bluefin tuna within this area. To the north, on the contrary, where no fishery exists for bluefin, specimens are frequently taken incidentally. Large schools have been seen, and individuals taken in the region between Point Conception and San Francisco.

Gradually our fishing season is lengthening. In an average year this extends from June to September, and the heaviest fishing occurs in July and August. The earliest catches are now invariably made off Guadalupe Island, Mexico. In May or June the bluefin begin to show in Southern California waters. These observations of bluefin to the north of Point Conception have for the most part been recorded in the late summer and in the fall. Either there is a northward movement with the advance of summer, or possibly an inshore flanking movement of the fish along the coast.

The bulk of the bluefin catch consists of small fish, weighing individually from 10 to 40 pounds. However, runs of larger fish, of 100 pounds or more, particularly in the sporadic winter catches are not uncommon. Fish of the commercial catch do not, however, attain the excessive size of the Atlantic bluefin.

Up to 1930 the fishery was strictly local, extending from Point Conception to the Mexican Border. In that year some bluefin tuna was caught in Mexican waters, in the vicinity of Guadalupe Island. In the following years we had progressively earlier deliveries from this region. Similarly, there was an extension of the season in the fall, and occasional deliveries were made in October and November. In 1946, there was at least a single delivery in every month of the year, and all the pre- and postseason catches were made at Guadalupe Island. Such catches are still sporadic, suggesting that we have as yet entered merely the fringes of the off season distributional area.