

great number of fish but has been declared illegal and has not been used since 1947.

Until 1931 the average yearly commercial catch of white sea bass was well over 1,000,000 pounds reaching a peak of nearly 3,000,000 pounds in 1922. Since 1932 the catch has fluctuated widely, amounting to 1,000,000 pounds on only three occasions (1933, 1935 and 1947). Generally the catch has remained at a figure slightly over a half million pounds; the lowest landings on record were made during 1944 when only 394,000 pounds were reported.

Numerous restrictive measures have been enacted throughout the years in order to give maximum protection to this heavily fished species. These laws include such items as closed seasons, closed areas, gear prohibitions, minimum size limits, and bag limits.

Los Angeles Harbor and vicinity has usually been the center of the white sea bass fishery, although in 1946 over half of the total landings were made in the Santa Barbara region. A small portion of the catch is also made along the coast of Lower California each year and landed at either San Diego or Los Angeles. The landings recorded for white sea bass do not represent a true record of the actual pounds caught, since at present nearly all of these fish are landed eviscerated. In earlier years they were both eviscerated and beheaded before being landed. A reasonably accurate approximation of the total poundage of fish caught can be obtained by adding 15 percent to the total landings given in Figure 62 to cover loss of weight in cleaning.—*John E. Fitch.*

Reference (see page 210): 48, 121, 133, 137.

2.35. GREENLING SEATROUT

This is a fine food fish taken only in small quantities by market fishermen. Many more are taken by sportsmen. Greenling seatrout, *Hexagrammos decagrammus*, are found along rocky shores and reefs and around kelp beds from Alaska to Point Conception. Their food consists to a large extent of worms, crustaceans and small fishes. They are also known to eat plants such as sea lettuce. The commercial catch consists solely of fish taken incidentally with rockfish, lingcod or other varieties. Sportsmen take them almost everywhere they fish along the Northern California coast; from rocks or reefs, from skiffs and larger boats. The greenling seatrout belongs to the family Hexagrammidae. There are three similar species found in Northern California, of which it is the most common.

Seatrout seems to be a pleasing name to epicures and is, thus, confusingly used by many dealers and fishermen to indicate other species

TABLE 16
GREENLING SEATROUT
Pounds

1919.....	47	1936.....	59
1920.....	647	1937.....	57
1921.....	30	1938.....	566
1922.....	101	1939.....	24
1923.....	38	1941.....	143
1925.....	75	1947.....	115
1935.....	30		

TABLE 16
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Pounds