

## 54. COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET

There has been a tendency toward larger boats in the commercial fishing fleet and for the past few years boats entering the fisheries have been of considerable size. In southern California many new boats were built which was the natural consequence of several successful seasons and they were larger to suit the requirements of the longer voyages necessary in the tuna fishery. At San Francisco, the development of the sardine industry attracted larger boats to operate both for the new land plants and the floating reduction ships. To meet this exigency, boats were built and more than the usual number of larger boats from Oregon, Washington and Alaska were attracted to California waters to try their luck at between-season fishing.

COMMERCIAL FISHING FLEET, 1935

Regions of home ports	Number of boats grouped by length in feet					Total number of boats in each region
	Up to 24 feet	25 feet to 39 feet	40 feet to 64 feet	65 feet to 84 feet	85 feet and over	
Oregon, Washington and Alaska boats fishing in						
California.....	0	23	36	54	1	114
Del Norte.....	3	15	2	0	0	20
Eureka.....	18	149	18	0	0	185
Sacramento.....	116	140	0	1	0	257
San Francisco.....	47	364	35	18	2	466
Monterey.....	99	176	45	21	0	341
Santa Barbara.....	46	46	19	0	0	111
Los Angeles.....	164	308	146	74	26	718
San Diego.....	29	105	59	13	35	241
Total number of boats in each length group.....	522	1,326	360	181	64	2,453

In 1935 there was a general increase in numbers of all sizes of boats which actively participated in fishing; this increase was 15 per cent over the total figure for 1934. In checking over the figures for the previous year (Fish Bulletin 44, page 30) an explanation of the increase is quite obvious. There were 22 additional boats from the northern states and Alaska, which came south. At San Francisco there was the increase in the number of larger boats due to the sardine fishery development. At Los Angeles an unexpected run of albacore brought into action many of the older, smaller boats which had been tied to the moorings for years and pleasure fishing craft owners were encouraged to enter the commercial field for this profitable fishing so close at hand. However, the 30 per cent increase in the number of boats over 65 feet in length would far outbalance in value and fishing ability the 46 per cent increase in the number of those under 40 feet in length.—*Geraldine Conner*.

References (see page 164) : 41, 70.