

REVIEW OF THE PELAGIC WET-FISHERIES FOR 1969 AND 1970

Total landings of wet-fish increased both in 1969 and 1970. This increase reflects landings of the anchovy reduction fishery which was conducted under a 140,000 ton quota during the 1969-70 season and a 100,000 ton quota during the 1970-71 season (Table 1). Landings of Pacific mackerel during 1970 were the lowest since 1926 when records of mackerel landings were first separated by species. A moratorium was placed on the take of Pacific mackerel on November 23, 1970, which limited the catch to mixed loads with no more than 15% Pacific mackerel. The moratorium on sardine catch was changed in 1969 to permit a seasonal quota of 250 tons for bait purposes only.

TABLE 1
Landings of Pelagic Wet-Fishes in California in Tons; 1964-70

Year	Sardine	Anchovy	Pacific Mackerel	Jack Mackerel	Herring	Squid	Total
1964.....	6,569	2,488	13,414	44,846	175	8,217	75,709
1965.....	962	2,866	3,525	33,333	258	9,310	50,254
1966.....	439	31,140	2,315	20,431	121	9,512	63,958
1967.....	74	34,805	583	19,090	136	9,801	64,489
1968.....	62	15,538	1,567	27,834	179	12,466	57,646
1969.....	53	67,639	1,179	25,961	85	10,390	105,307
1970*.....	221	93,805	311	22,304	157	9,933	126,731

* Preliminary

Sardine

During most of 1969, a moratorium was in effect restricting the take of sardines to mixed loads with no more than 15% sardines. A law became effective November 10, 1969, which permits 250 tons of sardines to be landed annually for bait, with the provision that no boat possess more than 3 tons any calendar day. After the quota is reached, sardines may not be possessed for any purpose except vessels may contain 15% or less by weight. Sardines so taken can be used only for canning, preserving, and reduction. Sardine landings were primarily used for dead bait in 1969 and 1970, and brought from \$300 to \$500 per ton to the fishermen.

Anchovy

The fifth anchovy reduction season closed May 15, 1970, with 83,473 tons of a 140,000 ton quota landed (Table 2). Monterey area landings were only 2,020 tons while southern California plants processed 81,453 tons. Fishermen at Monterey received \$20.50 per ton for their catch while the price in southern California was \$20 per ton. Domestic fish meal prices remained generally high during the season, providing considerable incentive to the fleet and processors.

During the 1969-70 season, the fishery, despite the record southern California catch, was not without its problems. Early in January 1970, when it seemed

TABLE 2
Anchovy Landings for Reduction in the Southern and Northern Permit Areas; 1965-66 through 1969-70

Season	Southern Permit Area	Northern Permit Area	Total
1965-1966*.....	16,468	375	16,843
1966-1967†.....	29,589	8,021	37,610
1967-1968‡.....	852	5,651	6,503
1968-1969§.....	25,314	2,736	28,050
1969-1970¶.....	81,453	2,020	83,473

Seasons

* November 12, 1965 through April 30, 1966

† October 1, 1966 through April 30, 1967

‡ September 15, 1967 through May 15, 1968

§ August 1, 1968 through May 15, 1969

¶ August 1, 1969 through May 15, 1970

TABLE 3
Commercial Landings and Live Bait Catch of Anchovies in Tons; 1964-1970

Year	Reduction	Other Commercial	Live Bait	Total
1964.....	0	2,488	5,191	7,679
1965.....	170	2,696	6,148	9,014
1966.....	27,335	3,705	6,691	37,731
1967.....	32,349	2,455	5,387	40,191
1968.....	13,795	1,743	7,176	22,714
1969.....	65,210	2,429	5,538	73,170
1970*.....	93,805	2,186	†	95,991

* Preliminary

† Not yet available

apparent that the southern quota would be reached, the Fish and Game Commission, at the request of the reduction industry granted an augmentation of 65,000 tons in the southern area. However, on March 20, 1970, at the request of the sport fishing and live bait industries, the Commission closed the southern area within 12 miles of shore. This action, in effect, completely shut down the fishery. Early in May the Commission, again at the request of the reduction industry, modified the regulations and opened a portion of the southern area to within 6 miles of shore. A resurgence of the fishery followed this decision and the fleet had generally good success up to the May 15 closure.

Preliminary data indicate total anchovy landings for calendar 1970 were over 95,000 tons (Table 3).

Mackerel

Annual landings of both jack and Pacific mackerel declined in 1969 and again in 1970. Most of the jack mackerel catch during the 2 years was made at Cortes Bank. In 1969, fish 1 year old dominated the fishery, while both 1 and 2 year old fish predominated in 1970. Fishermen received \$75 per ton from the canneries for jack mackerel during 1969 and 1970.

Pacific mackerel landings reached an all time low in 1970 with only 311 tons being landed. No fish were

taken north of Point Conception, while Santa Catalina Island, San Clemente Island, and inshore areas off San Pedro provided most of the catch.

Most catches were mixed with jack mackerel, and the fishery was dominated by the 1968 year class during both years. A moratorium became effective in November 1970, which limited the catch to mixed loads not to exceed 15% Pacific mackerel.

Squid

Squid landings in 1969 dropped for the first time in 6 years. Squid appeared to be plentiful at traditional fishing areas, but canners had only small orders for canned squid.

Landings again were down slightly in 1970 primarily as a result of squid failing to appear in historically productive areas.—*Herbert W. Frey*