

INTRODUCTION

Landing bulletins provide basic catch records for amounts and values of various marine resources taken by California's commercial fisheries.

These figures are of local, national, and international significance to fishery scientists and others interested in the wise utilization and management of California's living marine and freshwater resources.

This report for 2002 is the 62nd in a series stemming from the first gathering of commercial fisheries landing data by the California Department of Fish and Game in 1916 and the subsequent first publication of these catch data in 1929 for the years 1926 and 1927.

California's fishery statistics are based on data submitted by fish dealers, processors, and operators of sportfishing Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels who submit copies of their landing records to the Department.

Credit for this publication is due largely to the cooperative efforts of the fishing industry, wholesale fish dealers, fishermen, canners, processors, and Department personnel responsible for the market receipt system who have, through their efforts, provided the most accurate statistics possible. Our appreciation is extended to this large group of people without whom this publication would not be possible.

EXPLANATION OF TABLES

Tables in this bulletin summarize statistics of the various fishery operations in California during 2002.

Statistics presented in this publication are meant to encompass all commercial landings in California, other than imports.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data concerning each commercial landing is recorded on receipts by fish dealers or processors at the time of delivery. Copies of these documents are transmitted to the Department, twice each month. For each transaction, the dealer must provide data concerning the species, weight, and price paid to the fisherman. The date of the transaction, the fisherman's name, the fishing vessel registration number, and intended use for the fish (canning, fresh, etc.) is also required. In addition, type of gear used and the area where the fish were caught is reported.

Please note that the commercial landings for kelp, as reported here, are much less than what is actually harvested and landed in California since kelp harvesters do not sell their harvest to fish dealers or processors. Kelp landing data can be obtained by contacting the California Department of Fish & Game's Marine Region in Los Alamitos.