

Summary of the 2011-12 Pacific Herring Commercial Fisheries in San Francisco Bay



June 29, 2012
Final Report

California Department of Fish and Game
Herring Management and Research
Marine Region, 5355 Skylane Blvd. Suite B, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Review of the 2011-2012 San Francisco Bay Pacific Herring Fisheries

QUOTAS

The total fishery quota for San Francisco Bay was set at 1,920 short tons (tons) for the 2011-12 season. This was unchanged from the 2010-11 season quota, which was based on 5 percent of the 38,409 ton spawning biomass estimate for the 2009-10 season. The 1,920 ton quota equaled 3.4 percent of the biomass estimate of 57,082 tons for the 2010-11 season. The 2010-11 season estimate of 57,082 tons was well above the 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 season estimates of 10,935, 11,190, and 4,833 tons, respectively.

Gill Net Fishery

The total quota for the gill net fishery was 1,845 tons (Tables 1 and 2). This quota was split between the Odd and Even platoons based on the number of permits in each platoon, with the Odd receiving 932 tons and the Even receiving 913 tons.

Fresh Fish Market Fishery

The total fishery quota for San Francisco Bay was set at 20 tons for the 2011-12 season with a maximum daily market order allowance of 1,000 pounds.

Herring Eggs on Kelp (HEOK) Fishery

The total quota for the HEOK fishery was 12.3 tons of product, which was converted from 55 tons of whole fish from the total San Francisco Bay quota. All HEOK permittees must hold a herring permit (i.e. a regular gill net or a CH gill net). Each permittee's share of the herring quota (from the sac roe fishery) is transferred to the HEOK fishery.

SEASON DATES

Gill Net Fishery

The opening and closing dates of the gill net seasons are adjusted each year to account for annual changes in the calendar. Again this season, the DH fishery was integrated into the Odd and Even platoons. The Odd or Even gill net fisheries traditionally open on the second of January or at sunset on the first Sunday in January. This season, the opening was set at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 2, 2012. Closing was set at noon on Friday, March 9, 2012. Since 1974, the gill net fisheries have been closed each week from noon on Friday until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. This weekend closure was instituted to reduce conflicts with recreational users of the bay. Both Odd and Even platoons were closed prior to their scheduled closing dates; the Even reached its quota and the Odd ceased fishing prior to reaching its quota when the herring buyers shut down operations for the season.

Fresh Fish Market Fishery

The fresh fish market fishery season ran from November 2, 2011 to March 31, 2012. These dates were changed from the historic fresh fish market fishery season dates of November 2 through November 15 and April 1 through October 31.

HEOK Fishery

The herring eggs on kelp season began December 1, 2011, and ended March 31, 2012.

The opening and closing dates for the herring eggs on kelp fishery are not adjusted for holidays or weekends.

LANDINGS

Approximately 89 percent of the San Francisco Bay gill net quota (1,634 tons) was landed by the combined platoons during the 2011-12 commercial herring season (Table 1), with both the Even and Odd platoons close to filling their group quotas. The fresh fish market fishery made no landings. There was no fishing effort in the HEOK fishery.

TABLE 1. Herring quotas, landings, roe count, and fish count, for San Francisco Bay, 2011-2012 Season.

FISHERY	QUOTA (tons)	LANDINGS (tons)	OVER QUOTA (+) UNDER QUOTA (-)	ROE COUNT	FISH COUNT / kg
Odd gill net	932	733.6	- 198.4 tons	15.5	110.45
Even gill net	913	900.5	- 12.5 tons	14.5	109.19
TOTAL GILL NET	1,845	1,634.1	-210.9 tons (11.4% under quota)	15.1*	110.0*
Fresh fish market fishery (0 of 5 active)	20	0.0	- 20 tons (100% under quota)	NA	NA
HEOK (0 of 8 active)	55.0 (whole fish) = 12.3 tons product	0.0	- 55.0 tons (100% under quota)	NA	NA
SF BAY TOTAL	1,920	1,634.1	- 285.9 tons		

* Roe count and fish count are averages of all receipts; therefore they may not equal the sum of platoon averages.

REVIEW OF EACH FISHERY

DH (December) Gill Net Platoon

The DH herring gill net fishery was integrated into the Odd and Even fisheries, with odd numbered DH permits fishing with the Odd platoon and even numbered DH permits fishing with the Even platoon.

Even and Odd Gill Net Platoons

The Even and Odd fishery is divided into two separate platoons grouped by permit numbers that are either even or odd. Platoons rotate fishing weeks with the first platoon to fish determined by whether the season year is odd or even, thus the Even platoon was designated to fish first for the 2011-12 season.

TABLE 2. Quotas and landings for the herring **sac roe fisheries** in San Francisco Bay, 1972-73 season through 2011-12 season.

Season	Quota (tons)	Landings (tons)	Season	Quota (tons)	Landings (tons)
1972-73*	1,500	436	1992-93	5,175	5,151
1973-74*	500	1,938	1993-94	1,996	2,302
1974-75*	600	514	1994-95	4,408	4,574
1975-76*	3,000	1,719	1995-96	5,524	6,165
1976-77*	4,000	4,201	1996-97	13,543	11,496
1977-78*	5,000	4,987	1997-98	9,793	1,981
1978-79*	5,000	4,115	1998-99	2,739	2,817
1979-80*	6,000	6,430	1999-2000	5,460	3,356
1980-81*	7,250	5,811	2000-01	2,499	2,991
1981-82*	10,000	10,415	2001-02	4,128	3,287
1982-83*	10,399	9,699	2002-03	3,262	2,097
1983-84*	10,399	2,828	2003-04	2,020	1,540
1984-85*	6,500	7,740	2004-05	3,169	145
1985-86*	7,530	7,278	2005-06	4,328	744
1986-87	7,470	8,098	2006-07	4,328	292
1987-88	8,432	8,741	2007-08	1,057	687
1988-89	9,238	9,736	2008-09	1,019	507
1989-90	9,057	8,962	2009-10	0	0
1990-91	8,858	7,741	2010-11	1,845	1,727
1991-92	7,134	7,417	2011-12	1,845	1,634
Average :				5,150	4,307

* Quotas and landings prior to the 1985-86 season include HEOK and fresh fish allocation and landings.

Even Gill Net Fishery

The Even platoon fishery opened on Monday, January 2, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. and made all of their landings during the second and fourth fishing weeks of January (table 3). The quota was reached and the platoon was closed on Wednesday, January 18 at 2:00 p.m. Average roe percentage for the Even platoon landings was 14.5 percent. Fifty-three percent of the permits assigned to this platoon were not used this season.

TABLE 3. Daily landings for the **Even** gill net platoon.

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt	Fish Count	Roe Count
1/03/2012	10,610	5.31	7	1.06	N/A	14.4
1/04/2012	432,563	216.28	34	6.36	108	14.9
1/05/2012	535,150	267.58	38	7.04	111	14.6
1/06/2012	345,067	172.53	33	5.23	111	14.4
1/16/2012	2,143	1.07	2	0.54	111	12.2
1/18/2012	475,521	237.76	44	5.40	108	14.2
Totals and averages	1,801,054	900.53	156	5.77*	109*	14.5*

* Tons per receipt, fish count and roe count are averages of all receipts; therefore they may not equal the sum of daily averages.

Even Landings (tons)	Effort
Quota: 913 Catch: 900.5	23 Boats used in the Even Platoon 44 Permits fished in the Even Platoon 93* Permits assigned to the Even Platoon 53% of the Even permits were not fished this season.
Under Quota: 12.5	

* Permit count based on permits renewed as of November 09, 2011, and includes even numbered DH permits.

Odd Gill Net Fishery

The Odd platoon fishery opened on Sunday January 8, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. The Odd platoon made landings each week from the second through fifth weeks of the season and again made landings on the eighth week (Table 4). This platoon was reopened at 12:00 a.m., Thursday January 19; 10 hours after the Even platoon was closed upon reaching its quota. Although the Odd quota was not quite reached, the fleet ceased fishing and the platoon was closed on Friday, February 24 at 12:00 noon. The average roe count for all Odd platoon landings was 15.5 percent. Forty-eight percent of the permits assigned to this platoon did not make landings this season.

TABLE 4. Daily landings for the **Odd** gill net platoon.

Date	Pounds	Tons	# Receipts	Tons/Receipt	Fish Count	Roe Count
1/09/2012	4,491	2.25	6	0.37	112	11.3
1/19/2012	405,732	202.87	46	4.41	109	15.1
1/20/2012	72,448	36.22	24	1.51	110	15.2
1/25/2012	3,809	1.90	4	0.48	107	15.6
1/26/2012	10,164	5.08	6	0.85	N/A	16.3
1/30/2012	337,852	168.93	36	4.69	109	16.2
1/31/2012	610,907	305.45	44	6.94	110	15.8
2/01/2012	2,612	1.31	3	0.44	116	14.3
2/20/2012	19,200	9.60	14	0.69	114	15.9
Totals and averages	1,467,215	733.61	183	4.01*	110*	15.5*

* Tons per receipt, fish count and roe count are averages of all receipts; therefore they may not equal the sum of daily averages.

Odd Landings (tons)	Effort
Quota: 932 Catch: 733.6	23 Boats used in the Odd Platoon 43 Permits fished in the Odd Platoon 88* Permits assigned to the Odd Platoon 48% of the Odd permits were not fished this season
Under Quota: 198.4	

* Permit count based on permits renewed as of November 09, 2011, and includes odd numbered DH permits.

Fresh Fish Market Fishery

The season opened on November 2, 2011, and closed on March 31, 2012. Five permits were purchased for this season but no fish were landed.

Fresh Fish Market Fishery landings (tons)	Effort
Quota: 20 Catch: 0	0 Boats used in the fresh fish fishery 0 Permits landed fish in the fresh fish fishery 0% of the fresh fish permits were fished this season
Under Quota: 20	

Herring Eggs on Kelp (HEOK) Fishery

The season opened on December 1, 2011, and closed on March 31, 2012. Eight permits were renewed this season but there was no fishing effort, thus zero tons of HEOK product was landed (Figure 1).

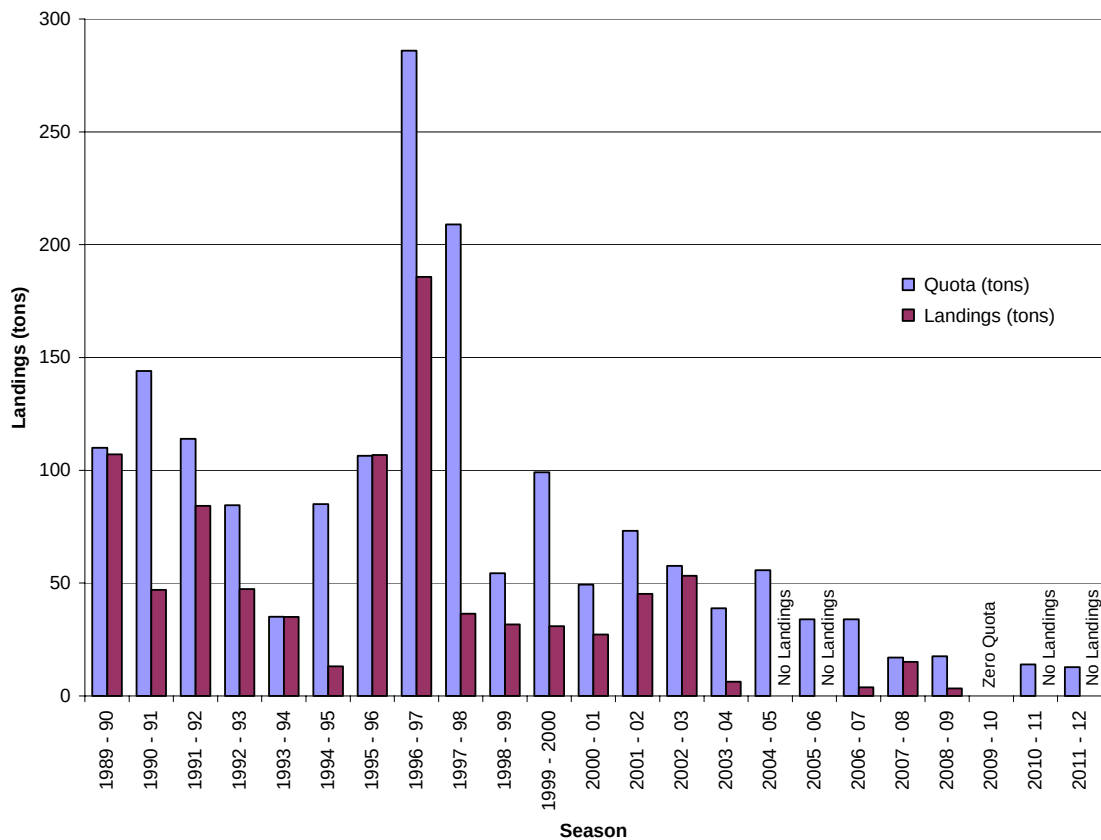


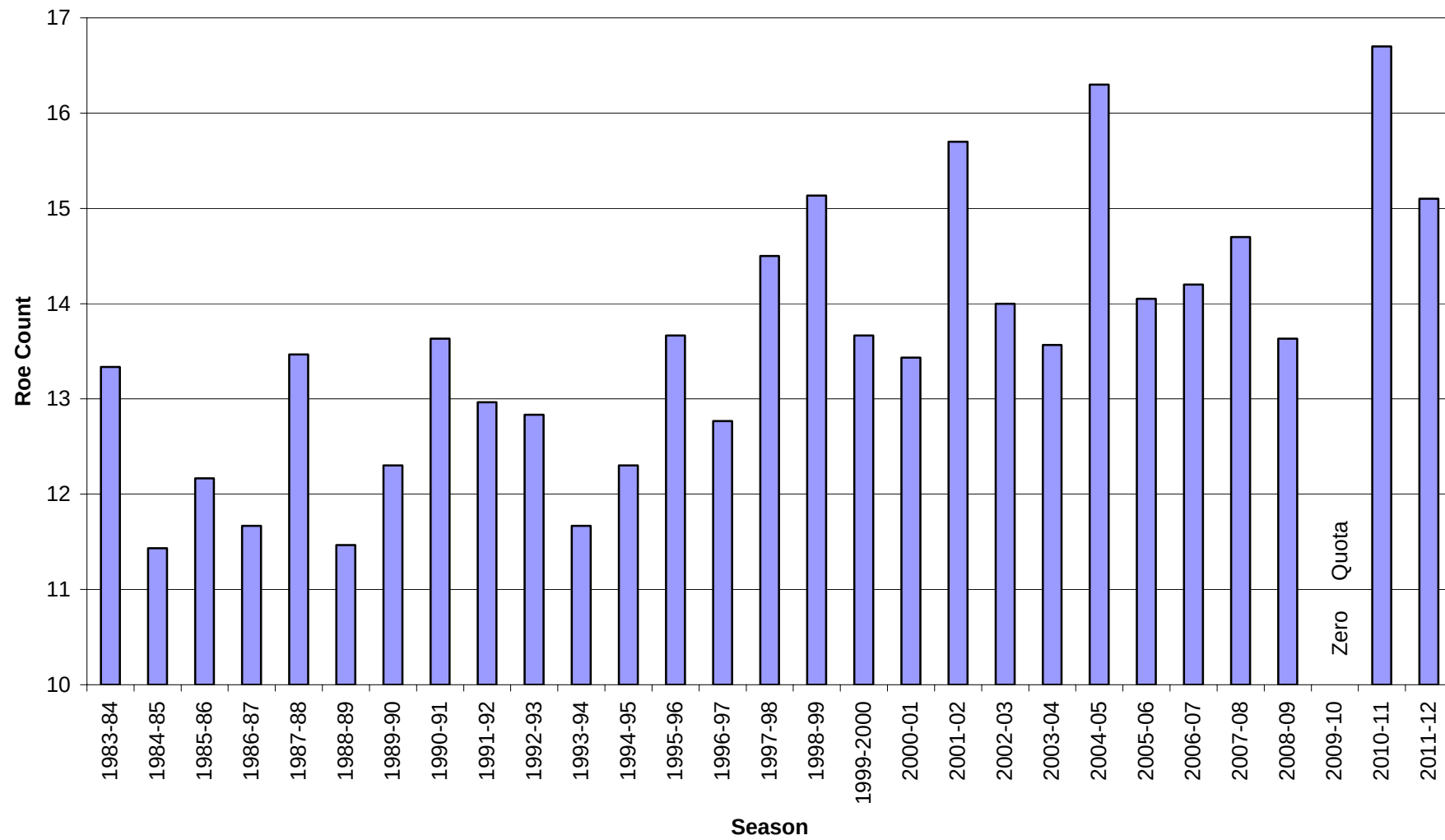
FIGURE 1. Quotas and landings for the **herring-eggs-on-kelp (HEOK)** fishery in San Francisco Bay, 1989-90 season through 2011-12 season.

HEOK Landings (tons)	Effort
Quota: 12.3	0 Boats used in the HEOK Fishery
Catch: 0	0 Permits had landings in the HEOK Fishery
Under Quota: 12.3	0% of the HEOK permits fished this season

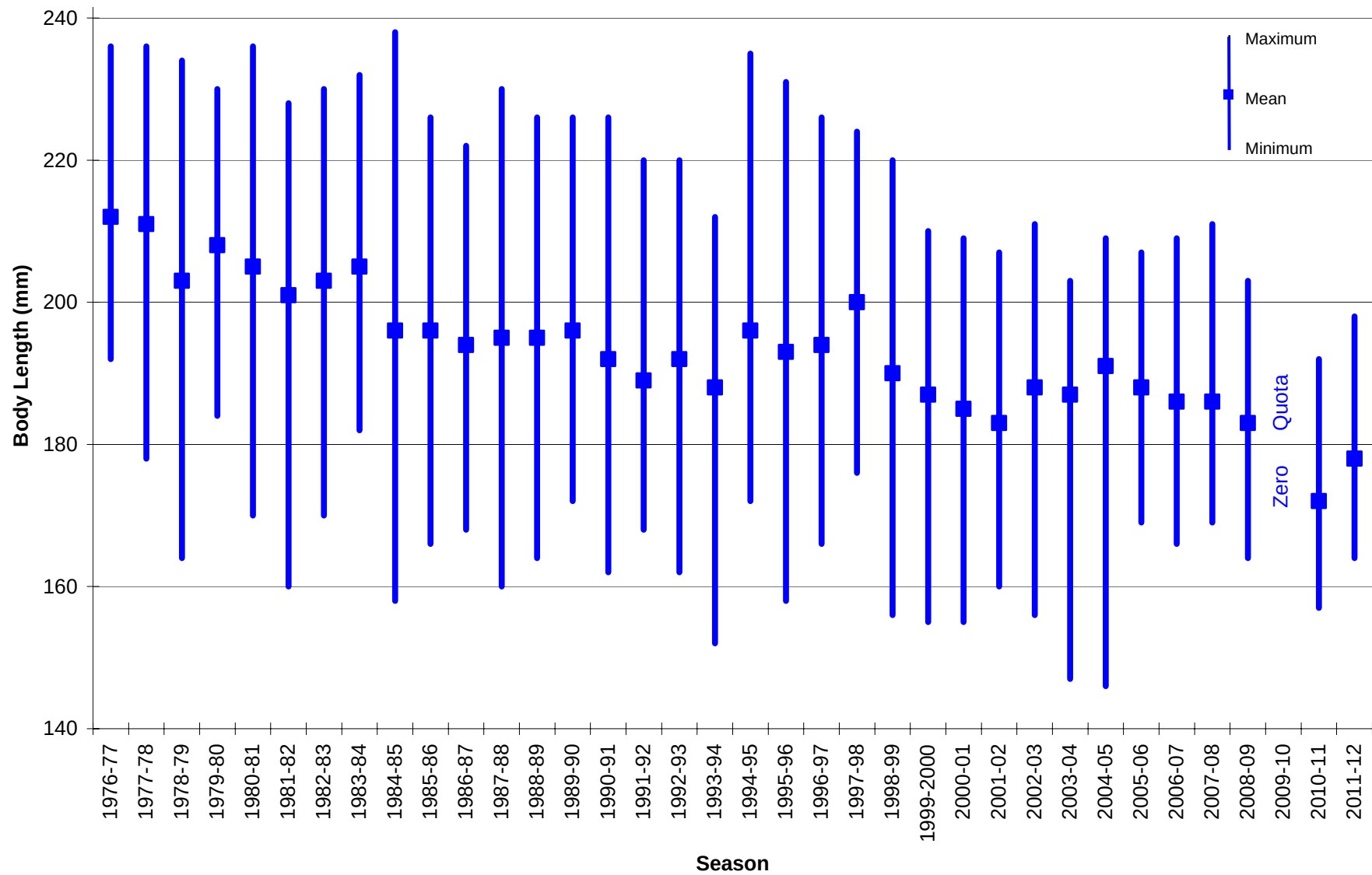
Special Education Permits

No Special Education Permits were issued for the 2011-12 season.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1. Average roe count in the San Francisco Bay gill net fisheries from 1983-84 through 2011-12 seasons.



APPENDIX 2. San Francisco Bay herring commercial minimum, mean and maximum body length from 1976-77 through 2011-12 seasons.