

SUMMARY OF HERRING LANDING DATA COLLECTED IN TOMALES
AND BODEGA BAYS DURING 1990-91 HERRING SEASON

Prepared for
Director's Herring Advisory Committee Meeting
Belmont
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by

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Daily Landings by Bodega Bay Gillnet Fleet

03/15/91 13:54:56

DATE	POUNDS	TONS	TRIPS	LBS/TRIP	ROE COUNT
01/10/91	16887	8.44	10	1688.70	13.061
01/11/91	16189	8.09	14	1156.36	12.837
01/29/91	110143	55.07	25	4405.72	13.538
01/30/91	3856	1.93	1	3856.00	17.200
01/31/91	337	0.17	1	337.00	10.700
02/21/91	12989	6.19	10	1298.90	14.955
02/22/91	12702	6.35	11	1154.73	14.728
TOTAL	173103	86.55	72	2404.21	13.695

QUOTA = 200 TONS

CATCH = 86.55

QUOTA REMAINING = 113.45

TOMALES BAY 1990-91 SPAWNS

DATE	LOCATION	TONS SPAWNING BIOMASS
DEC 2	BED 28	TRACE (<1 TON)
JAN 8	BEDS 2, 28, 28A&B	35 TONS
JAN 27	BEDS 1A, 1B, 1C, & 28, 28A&B	353 TONS
FEB 21	BED 1A, 2	6 TONS
MAR 8	BED 1	3 TONS
		----- 397 TONS

TOTALS DAY - JANUARY 7, 1991
2-INCH MULTI-STRAND NYLON RESEARCH NET

LENGTH INTERVAL	FREQUENCY									
	UNRIPE MALE	RIPE MALE	SPENT MALE	MALE TOTAL	UNRIPE FEMALE	RIPE FEMALE	SPENT FEMALE	FFEMALE TOTAL	NO SEX	TOTAL
170 - 171	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
172 - 173	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
174 - 175	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
176 - 177	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
178 - 179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
180 - 181	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
182 - 183	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
184 - 185	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
186 - 187	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
188 - 189	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	4
190 - 191	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	5
192 - 193	0	11	0	11	0	13	0	13	0	24
194 - 195	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	7
196 - 197	0	12	0	12	0	4	0	5	0	20
198 - 199	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	7	0	14
200 - 201	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	3
202 - 203	0	9	0	9	0	10	0	10	0	19
204 - 205	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	6
206 - 207	0	4	0	4	0	3	0	3	0	7
208 - 209	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
210 - 211	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
212 - 213	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
214 - 215	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
216 - 217	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
218 - 219	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
220 - 221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
222 - 223	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	0	59	0	59	0	59	0	59	0	117
V TOTALS	0.0	50.1	0.0	50.1	0.0	19.6	0.0	19.6	0.0	100
MEAN	0.0	197.9	0.0	197.9	0.0	197.3	0.0	197.3	0.0	197.6
VARIANCE	0.0	12.1	0.0	12.1	0.0	18.0	0.0	18.0	0.0	19.9
STANDARD DEV	0.0	5.7	0.0	5.7	0.0	6.9	0.0	6.9	0.0	6.3
STANDARD ERROR	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.6

BODEGA BAY - JANUARY 11, 1991
 COMMERCIAL 2-TRCH BOROFLAMENT

LENGTH INTERVAL	FREQUENCY									TOTAL
	UNRIPE MALE	RIPE MALE	SPENT MALE	MALE TOTAL	UNRIPE FEMALE	RIPE FEMALE	SPENT FEMALE	FEMALE TOTAL	NO SEX	
160 - 161	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
162 - 163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
164 - 165	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
166 - 167	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
168 - 169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
170 - 171	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
172 - 173	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
174 - 175	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
176 - 177	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	4
178 - 179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
180 - 181	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	5
182 - 183	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	5
184 - 185	0	1	0	1	0	6	0	6	0	10
186 - 187	1	9	0	10	0	11	0	11	0	21
188 - 189	0	5	0	5	0	3	0	3	0	8
190 - 191	0	9	0	9	0	6	0	6	0	15
192 - 193	0	6	0	6	0	4	0	4	0	14
194 - 195	0	6	0	6	0	4	0	4	0	10
196 - 197	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	13
198 - 199	0	3	0	3	0	7	0	7	0	10
200 - 201	0	5	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	9
202 - 203	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	6
204 - 205	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	3
206 - 207	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
208 - 209	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	5	0	6
210 - 211	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
212 - 213	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	3
214 - 215	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
216 - 217	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
218 - 219	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
220 - 221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
222 - 223	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
224 - 225	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	1	70	0	71	0	74	0	74	0	149
S TOTALS	0.7	17.0	0.0	17.7	0.0	52.3	0.0	52.3	0.0	100
MEAN	186.0	192.1	0.0	192.0	0.0	193.3	0.0	193.3	0.0	192.7
VARIANCE	0.0	59.6	0.0	59.3	0.0	99.6	0.0	99.6	0.0	60.3
STANDARD DEV	0.0	7.7	0.0	7.7	0.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	9.0
STANDARD ERROR	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.7

PUBLIC HERRING MEETING
MARINE ROD AND GUN CLUB
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 15, 1991
7:00 P.M.

Al Petrovich, Chief of the Marine Resources Division, opened the meeting and introduced Department personnel in attendance.

Paul Reilly summarized the landings for the 1990-91 fishery. He noted that in six of the last seven years, the first fishing group reached their quota in less than three days. The even gill net group was 481 tons short of their quota, but this was somewhat offset by the high average roe counts. The round haul group was 675 tons short of their overall quota. The roe-on-kelp fishery only landed 34% (250 tons) of their total quota.

Jerry Spratt summarized the spawning information noting that the first spawn in January was the largest single spawning event ever recorded in the herring fishery (34,000 tons). There was little subsequent spawning for the remainder of the season. Approximately 86% of the season's total spawning was over by January 6. The spawning biomass estimate for the season is 51,086 tons, a decrease of about 21% from last season. This represents the first significant decline in seven years.

Jerry noted that gill net landings were dominated by 4-, 5-, and 6-year old herring, as opposed to 5-, 6-, and 7-year old herring the previous season. Round haul landings were dominated by 2- and 3-year old fish (71% of catch). Unfavorable environmental conditions (e.g., high water temperatures) contributed to poor growth and increased mortality during the past year. As a result, he expects a poor recruitment class next year. He speculated that we may be entering a period of low abundance in the near future.

Al Petrovich summarized the Department's current recommendations for changes in the re regulations for the 1991-92 herring season (attached), noting that proposals Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 10 were agreed to last year. He opened the floor to comments and recommendations.

One individual stated that he was opposed to closing the banzai area to gill net fishermen. A lengthy discussion followed on the merits and need for such a closure, including the specific boundaries of the area in question. Several individuals stated that if the area is closed, it should apply to all gear.

One individual stated that he was opposed to the use of more than two permits on a vessel during a season. He believes it provides an advantage to out-of-state fishermen.

Lt. Magnusen stated that the Department intended to leave the enforcement of federal closures up to the Coast Guard next year, which would provide wardens with more time to concentrate on enforcement of the State's herring regulations. Zeke Grader asked if that meant that violation of federal closures would not be considered a violation of the Fish and Game Code, thereby exempting fishermen from potential civil penalties for any such violation. Lt. Magnusen said yes, that would be the case.

Tim Fields suggested that proposal #11, illumination of permit numbers at night, would conflict with the Coast Guard's rules of the road for inland waters. Several other fishermen had suggested the same thing at the earlier meeting in Bodega Bay. Al responded that there may well be a problem with this suggestion and that the Department would investigate this issue further.

There was a question regarding legal fishing activities in the Oakland Estuary. It is unclear if the whole channel is closed, or only the south side. It was agreed that clarification should be sought from federal authorities.

It was suggested that opening the banzai area to gill net fishing should be tied to the round haul test boat program. If the test boat program finds 10% roe in that area, it should also be opened to gill net fishing.

Dominic Papetti stated that, in spite of the fact that an occasional fisherman catches quality roe in the banzai area, most of what is taken is "junk". In his opinion, the banzai area is a holding area and if fishermen wait, they will catch them on the beach when they are ready to spawn. He is totally against fishing in that area. He also is opposed to any round haul fishing south of the Bay Bridge (District 13) until all gill net quotas have been reached. He asked what the Department's position was regarding the wrapping and releasing of fish.

Paul Reilly responded that he agreed that the banzai area is a holding area, but he disagreed about round haul fishing in the area. Round haul fishermen have always had to fish "holding" areas and if you prohibit them from fishing the banzai area, they would not have anywhere to fish.

One individual stated that it will be difficult to observe the boundaries of the proposed banzal closure in the haze and fog typically experienced in the winter months. Consequently, he believed that enforcement should provide a written guarantee stating that unintentional violations would not be cited.

Jimmy Williams stated that he hears the same talk every year about the adverse impact of round haul vessels. However, the original herring fisheries were all conducted with round haul gear and there were no problems. In his opinion it is the use of gill nets that is affecting the resources.

There was a discussion regarding the proposal to require #7 twine size. Several people were opposed to this recommendation because it would eliminate use of multi-filament mesh.

Someone asked about the possibility of Tomales Bay permittees transferring to San Francisco Bay. Al Petrovich said that he expected a number of Tomales Bay fishermen to make such a request to the Commission. One individual suggested that if any permits are transferred to San Francisco Bay they should have their own quota. Also, he suggested eliminating the special educational herring permits (SEP) issued to the City of Oakland.

RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES
IN THE 1991-92 HERRING REGULATIONS

SEASONS

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

XH (DH) Permits: Noon on Wednesday, November 27 - Noon on Friday, December 20.

EVEN permits: Noon on Thursday, January 2 - noon on Friday, January 3; sunset on Sunday, January 5 - noon on Friday, January 10; and every other week thereafter until noon on Friday, March 13.

ODD permits: Sunset on Sunday, January 12 - noon on Friday, January 17; and every other week thereafter until noon on Friday, March 13.

Roundhaul permits: Noon on Thursday, January 2 - noon on Friday, March 13.

TOMALES-BODEGA BAY

Season closed.

HUMBOLDT BAY

Noon on Thursday, January 2 - noon on Friday, March 13.

CRESCENT CITY

Noon on Wednesday, January 15 - noon on Friday, March 28.

QUOTAS

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

(Approximately a 20% reduction in the overall quota, from 9,500 tons to 7,650 tons)

Gill net vessels = 5,088 tons

Roundhaul vessels = 2,562 tons (61.2 tons/vessel)

TOMALES-BODEGA BAYS

N/A [If 2,000 ton spawning escapement is achieved in Tomales Bay during 1991-92, then a 400 ton quota will be allowed the following season (1992-93).]

HUMBOLDT BAY-CRESCENT CITY

No change (60 tons Humboldt Bay and 30 tons Crescent City).

PROPOSALS

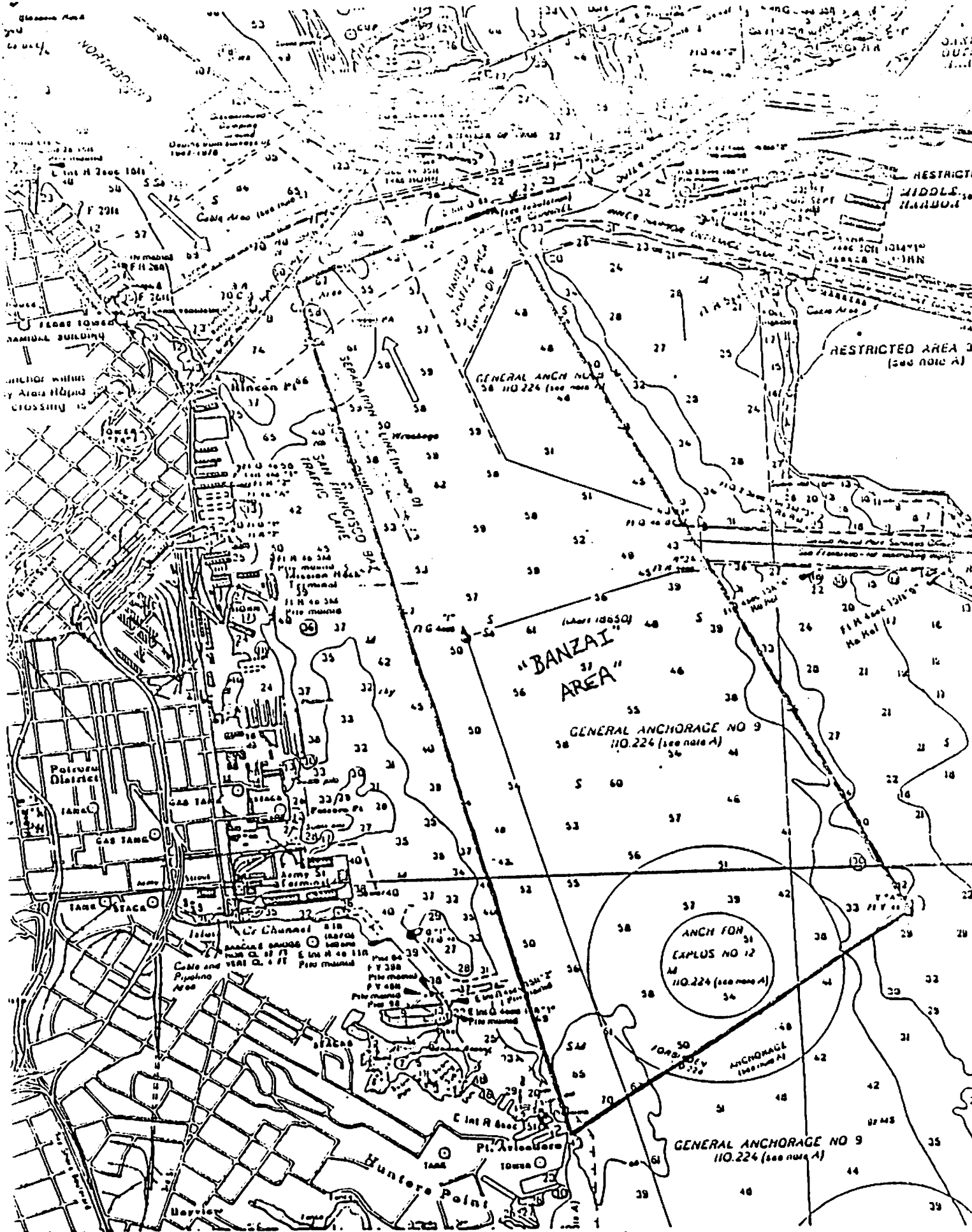
1. Change qualification criteria ("participation points") to agree with the Fish and Game Code (i.e., 5, 8 and 10 points awarded for 1, 2 and 3 years of experience, respectively).
2. Change "XH" (experimental) to "DH" (December) herring fishery.
3. Prohibit fishing within 300 feet of Pier 7, San Francisco.
4. Allow the use of more than two permits on a fishing vessel during the season.
5. Provide for the temporary in-season transfer of permits from one boat to another upon request of permittee and payment of a \$50 transfer fee.
6. Provide for the temporary in-season substitution of a permittee, for any reason, upon request of permittee and payment of a \$50 transfer fee.
7. Prohibit gill net fishing in specified waters of South San Francisco Bay (i.e., "BANZAI AREA") from November 27 through February 14 (see attached map).
8. Codify a mandatory test boat program for roundhaul vessels effective through February 14, that would: require buyer verification of roe count (10% minimum) to open fishery; once fishery is open, all fish wrapped must be retained; no night fishing (i.e., 6 p.m. - 6 a.m.); fishery to close if average daily roe content of all roundhaul landings, as determined by the Department on a daily basis, falls below 10%.
9. "Even" gill net groups to fish first in 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons.
10. Require gill net fishermen to notify Menlo Park office within 24 hours if they leave fishery prior to the quota being taken.
11. Require herring permit number to be illuminated at night so that it can be seen from a distance of at least 300 feet.
12. For the 1992-93 season gill nets required to be constructed of mesh not less than #7 size twine.

#77(L),.7

GILL NET CLOSURE IN "BANZAI" AREA

Subsection 163(f)(2)(D) is amended to read:

... Also, no gill nets shall be set or operated from November 27 through February 15 between a line drawn from the middle anchorage of the western section of the Oakland Bay Bridge (Tower C) to the easternmost point at Hunter's Point (Point Avisadero) and a line from the Y"A" buoy to the R"2" buoy (entrance to Alameda Carrier Channel) and extending 318⁰ magnetic to the Oakland Bar Channel. The northern extent of the closure will be a line drawn from Tower C, Bay Bridge, to the first Bay Channel buoy. The southern extent of the closure will be a line drawn from the Y"A" buoy to Point Avisadero. However, gill nets may be set in the aforementioned area provided that no portion of the net is set in waters deeper than 40 feet mean lower low water.



* LEGAL DESCRIPTION ON
 REAR

(GILL NET CLOSURE) - SAN FRANCISCO BAY