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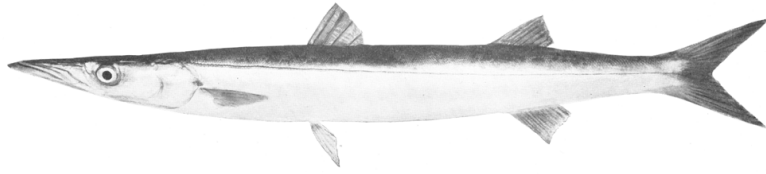
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**DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME OF CALIFORNIA
BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
FISH BULLETIN No. 37
The California Barracuda
(*Sphyraena argentea*)**



By
LIONEL A. WALFORD



The California barracuda (*Sphyraena argentea*).

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1. LIFE HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA BARRACUDA

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The study of the life history of the barracuda, of which this paper is the report, was initiated by the International Fisheries Commission (United States and Mexico). Most of the preliminary survey of the fishery and the literature was carried on under the direction of this body. The material collected during this period was kindly turned over to the California Division of Fish and Game in 1927 when the United States-Mexican convention was abrogated.

Several people have contributed in various ways to the progress of this investigation. Mr. W. L. Scofield, Director of the California State Fisheries Laboratory, was frequently consulted for advice and suggestions. Commercial fishermen and dealers generously permitted measurements of fish on the boats and in the markets. Mr. Scotti Carmen of San Pedro and Mr. A. Wagner of Long Beach made possible the collection of young fish for the growth studies. Mrs. Hilda E. Walford aided in tabulating frequency records from the original data. Dr. F. W. Weymouth of Stanford University and Dr. W. F. Thompson of the International Fisheries Commission (United States and Canada) very kindly read the manuscript and offered criticisms and suggestions. To all these people and to the staff members of the California State Fisheries Laboratory, who were helpful in many ways, the author is very grateful.

September, 1931.

1.2. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

1.2.1. Literature

Although there are at least fifteen kinds of barracuda distributed in all the warm seas of the world, the California barracuda (*Sphyrna argentea*) is the only one which may be considered of sufficient commercial importance to constitute a distinct "fishery." If one may judge by the available statistics, the barracuda of the west coast of Mexico and Central America, those of the Atlantic coast of North America, of the tropical Atlantic, of the coasts of southern Europe, of Africa, and of the seas of Asia, are to the countries which exploit them but little more than incidental additions to the usual landings of other species. It is not surprising, therefore, in the absence of economic necessity, that studies on the biology of any of these fishes have been neglected for those on more important species. Although from Aristotle down, a fairly voluminous literature exists on the nomenclature, the habitats, the voraciousness, and the food value of the various species, practically nothing has been written about the habits or the life histories. As for the California barracuda, a number of scattered notes on the distribution is all that has added to our knowledge of its biology since Girard first named the species in 1854.

1.2.2. Other Pacific Coast Species

Notwithstanding the fact that within the range of California fishing activities, there are two species of barracuda, *Sphyrna argentea* and *Sphyrna ensis*, only the former has yet reached the California markets. *Sphyrna ensis* is known to occur from the Gulf of California to Panama Bay, but possibly because of the availability of *Sphyrna argentea* farther north, possibly because of the smaller size or the inferior quality of *Sphyrna ensis*, it has not been taken by our fishermen. Although *Sphyrna argentea* is distributed from Cape San Lucas, Lower California, north to Puget Sound, it is important

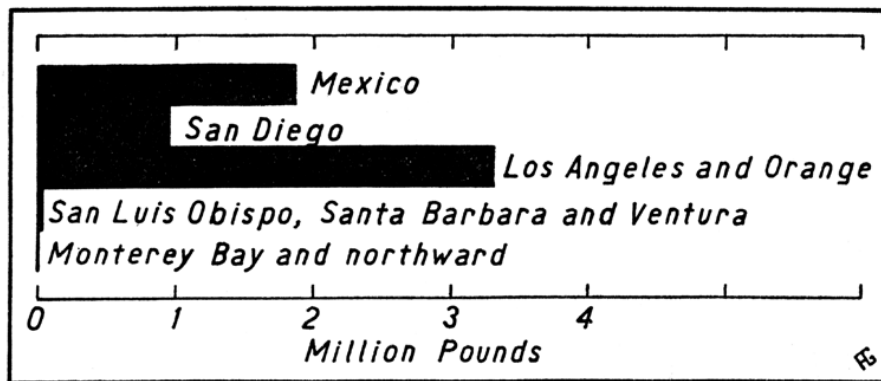


FIG. 1. Average annual catches (1925-1929) for the various fishing districts compared. The Mexican catch is delivered to San Diego and Los Angeles counties.

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commercially only south of Ventura County, California. The importance of the several barracuda fishing regions is illustrated in figure 1, a graph showing the average yearly catches by districts for the five-year period ending 1929.

1.2.3. Fishing Seasons

While the local season for barracuda lasts about six months of the year, a catch of almost two million pounds from Mexico stocks the markets during the other months. Although occasional fish are taken locally during the winter months, the first appearance of schools, marking the beginning of the local season, occurs about the middle of March. After increasing rapidly to its maximum in May, the catch drops off gradually, and in October, the fish seem to disappear. Beginning about the middle of October and continuing throughout the winter, boats go south of the international boundary line, often as far as Cape San Lucas, where they readily find schools of barracuda, which they fish as long as the California fishing grounds are not yielding. Figure 2 illustrates the seasons in California and in Mexico, with average monthly catches expressed as percentages of the average annual catches from each region for the five-year period ending 1929.

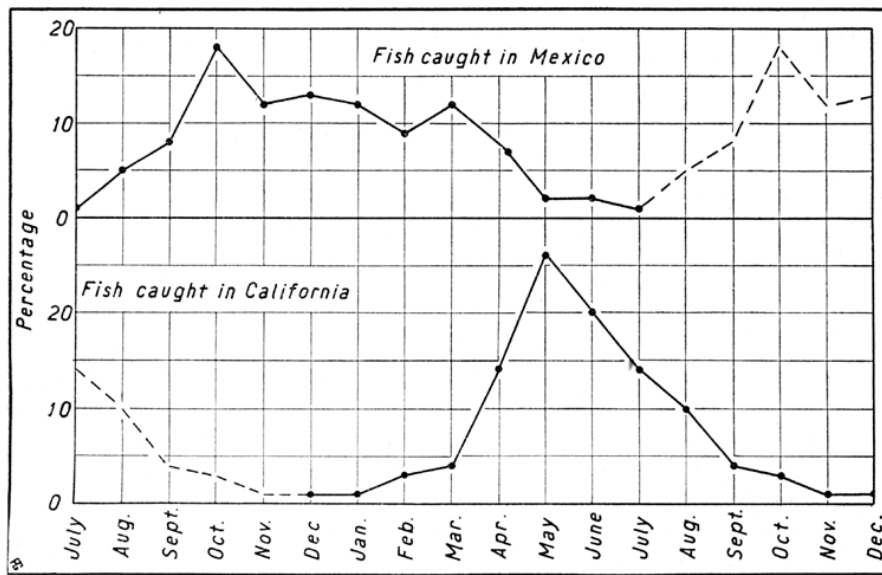


FIG. 2. Comparing the barracuda fishing season in Mexico with that in California.

FIG. 2. Comparing the barracuda fishing season in Mexico with that in California

It has been shown elsewhere (Skogsberg, 1925; Walford, 1929) that, in general, there is a definite seasonal progression from south to north in the appearance of the local fish. Figure 3 shows this progression graphically with average monthly catches by districts, expressed as percentages of the average annual catches for the five-year period ending 1929. While the majority of the fish delivered to Los Angeles early in the season, that is, March and April, are taken off Oceanside, a few catches are made off San Clemente, Santa Monica and San Pedro. In other words, the south-to-north progression is not a definite, clear-cut movement of the fishery, merely a trend. From

the middle of May, the locality of the fishing moves northward to Newport, thence to the region between Long Beach and Santa Monica, where the greatest part of the fishing for Los Angeles County is carried on. Toward the end of the season, at the end of August and in September, the Los Angeles fishermen make most of their catches north of San Pedro, from between Santa Monica and Santa Barbara. Throughout the season, fish are taken from three-fourths to eight miles, usually about three miles, away from shore. They are caught from the surface to five fathoms, usually from one and one-half to two fathoms deep.

1.2.4. Fishing Methods

There are three general types of fishing gear used to catch barracuda commercially: (1) Circle nets, that is, purse seines and other closely related nets which operate on the same principle; (2) gill nets; and (3) jigs.

1.2.4.1. Purse Seines and Allied Nets

Allied to the purse seines are the round haul or lampara, and the ring nets, all of which operate as impounding nets. That is, they are used to surround and trap schools or portions of schools by pursing the bottom of the net, in the case of the purse seine, or by hauling the ends on board until the catch is concentrated in a bag of the net, in the case of the lampara, or by a combination of the two methods in the case of the ring net. These gears have been described fully by Higgins and Holmes (1921), Skogsberg (1925), Scofield (1929), Fry (1930), and Whitehead (1931). For barracuda, the nets are from 200 to 275 fathoms long by 20 to 30 fathoms deep, and in the main body have a mesh, which, when stretched, measures 2 to 2½ inches. The boats are from 40 to 65 feet long and carry a crew of 6 to 10—usually 9—men. In this type of fishing, it is possible to locate the schools by the ripples which they make in the surface of the water, and to identify the fish in the schools by the character of these ripples. Once a school is located, it is a matter of one or more hours to put out the net, surround the school, land the catch, and restore the net to the boat.

1.2.4.2. Gill Nets

The gill net is more in the nature of a trap which is set to entangle the fish as they go by. It is a plain, curtainlike net with stretched meshes of 3# to 3¾ inches, a size large enough to permit the heads of the fish to pass through and to catch them by their gill covers when they attempt to escape. The entire net is made up of 4 to 20 similar pieces, each about 17 to 20 fathoms long and about 6 to 10 fathoms deep. Since by this method of fishing it is useless to attempt to locate the schools first, the net is put out wherever the men judge they will make a catch, such judgment usually depending on the yield of previously fished areas. The net is floated by cork buoys at a regulable depth which depends on judgment and previous experience. Barrels are used as markers to facilitate locating the nets. The gill net boats are from 25 to 40 feet long and carry a crew of 1 to 3—usually 3—men. In operation, the boats leave for the fishing grounds late in the afternoon. The nets are put out in the evening and, not being anchored, drift with the current. Two or three times during the night or sometimes not until the next morning, the nets are hauled in and the fish removed.

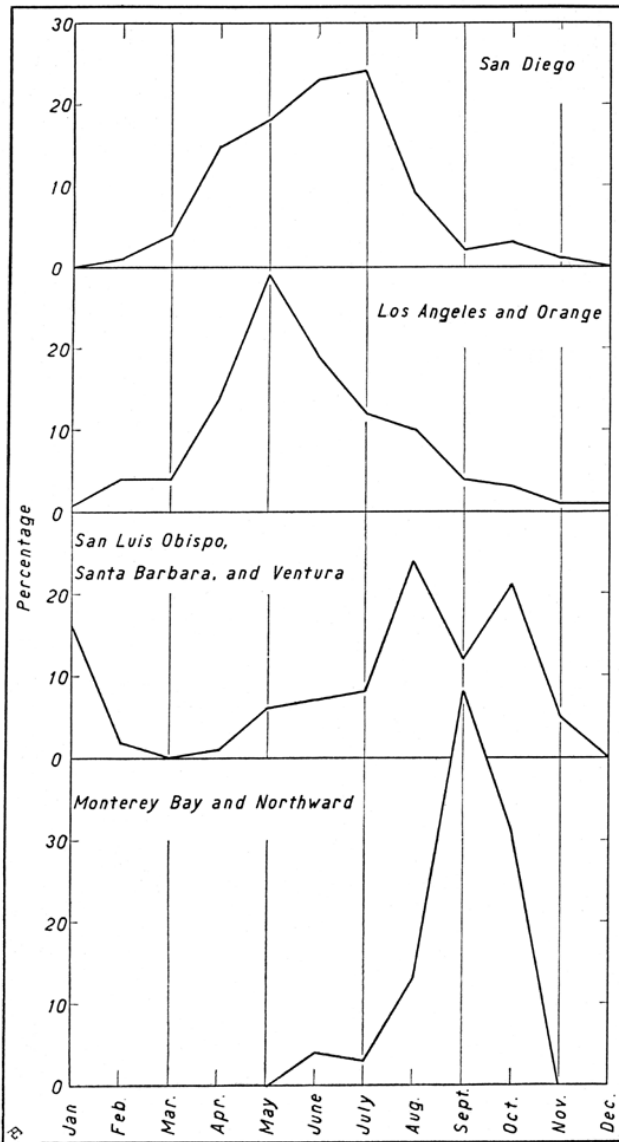


FIG. 3. Comparing the barracuda fishing seasons of the various regions in California.

FIG. 3. Comparing the barracuda fishing seasons of the various regions in California

1.2.4.3. Jigs

Jig fishing for barracuda consists in drawing a line with an artificial, barb-hooked, bone lure through the water astern of a boat moving approximately three miles an hour. In commercial fishing several lines are trolled at the same time by the following device: Poles, called outriggers, extend from each side of the boat, each with a line at its tip, and often with another near the midway point. Leaders attached to each line which can not be reached from the boat, enable the fishermen to pull individual lines in to where they can be reached without moving the outrigger. The fish are pulled in and removed from the hooks without stopping the boat. When the fishermen find a school, they troll back and forth, covering the area as thoroughly as possible as long as good catches continue to be made. Jig boats range from 17 to 40 feet long, and carry usually one man, though sometimes two or three, depending on the size of the boat. The lines are usually 15 to 20 fathoms long.

1.2.5. Commercial Sizes

Figure 4 presents graphically the sizes of fish as measured in centimeters from the tip of the lower jaw to the tip of the tail. The fish included in this graph comprised an extensive sample of the commercial catch made in 1928, in which from 100 to 300 unselected fish were measured in the various markets each working day throughout the barracuda fishing season. The boats which caught the fish, as well as their gear, were noted and the captains questioned as to the localities of the catches. The smallest length in the total sample was 53 centimeters (20.9 inches); the greatest, 108 centimeters (42.5 inches); and the most frequent, 76 centimeters (29.9 inches). Although there is no noticeable difference in the size of the fish taken at different localities near the mainland, there is evidence to substantiate the

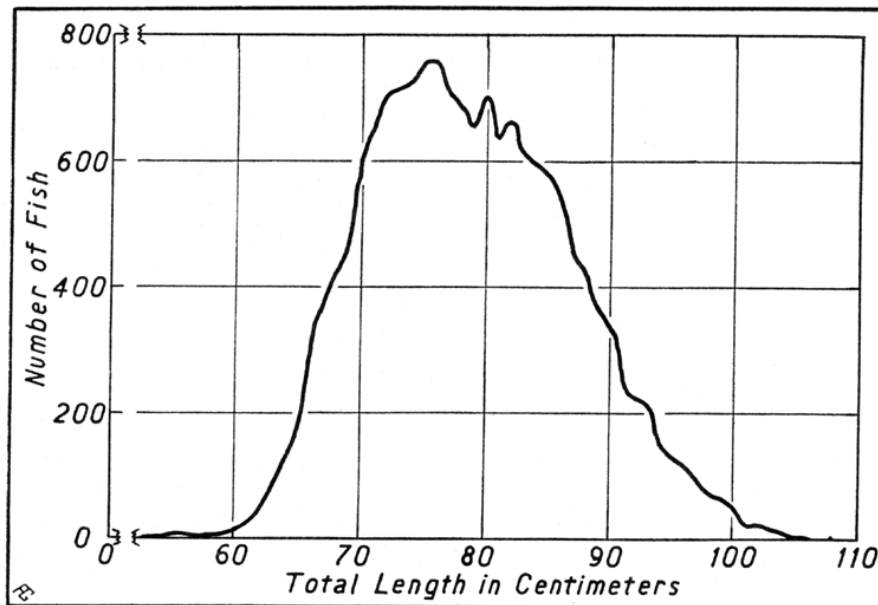


FIG. 4. The distribution of sizes of fish in the commercial catch as indicated by random sampling.

FIG. 4. The distribution of sizes of fish in the commercial catch as indicated by random sampling

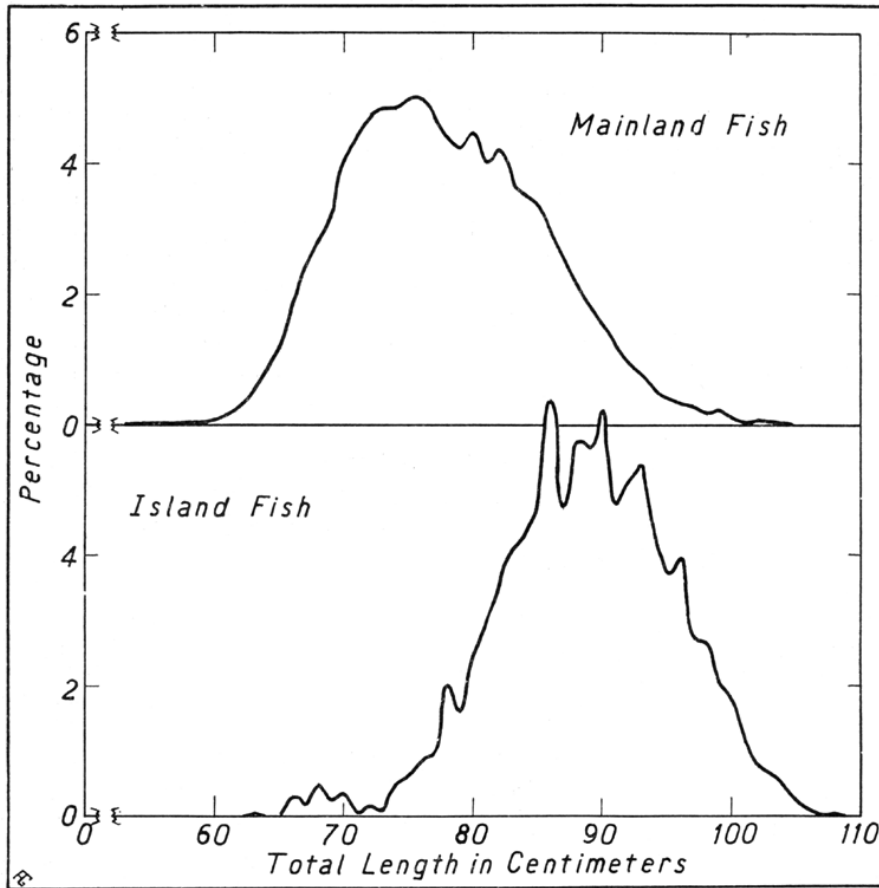


FIG 5. Comparing sizes of fish taken off the mainland with those of fish taken off the Channel Islands.

FIG. 5. Comparing sizes of fish taken off the mainland with those of off fish taken off the Channel Islands claims made by fishermen that the catches made near the Channel Islands consist of a greater proportion of larger fish than do those taken closer inshore. Figure 5, which compares the number of fish at each length in samples taken from the two localities during the same time, shows a difference of 10 centimeters between the modes.

1.2.6. History of Regulatory Measures

In 1915 the first conservation law applicable to barracuda, making the capture of fish smaller than 18 inches (about ¾-pound) illegal, was passed by the California State Legislature. In 1917, the size limit was altered from 18 inches to 3 pounds, and has remained unchanged since. In 1925, the first law regulating the method of taking barracuda was passed, prohibiting the use of purse seines and round haul nets for this purpose. In 1927, this law was amended to permit these nets to operate from August 1 to May 15. In 1929, the law was still further changed to open barracuda fishing to purse seine and round haul nets only between August 1 and April 30.

1.2.7. The Problem

The growing importance of the fish which occur both in Mexican and in United States waters and which consequently must be conserved by international action, led, in 1926, to the conclusion of a treaty between the United States and Mexico, creating an *International Fisheries Commission*. The purpose of this body was "to facilitate the labors of the corresponding authorities in conserving and developing the marine life resources in the ocean waters off certain coasts of each nation." Part of the program of the Commission was the investigation of the life history of the barracuda, and, accordingly, a preliminary study was begun. When in 1927, this treaty was abrogated and the Commission dissolved, the California Division of Fish and Game continued the barracuda investigation, with the aim of answering the following questions:

1. When do the barracuda spawn? .
2. How frequently do they spawn? .
3. At what age does first spawning take place? .
4. What is the rate of growth? .
5. What is the age composition of the catch? .
6. What does the three-pound size limit protect? .

The following discussion presents what evidence has been collected in the study of these questions and of the problems connected with them.

The data presented in this paper have been gathered entirely from specimens in the San Pedro fish markets or from special hauls made off Los Angeles County. Since this region is the focus of the barracuda fishery, the partial treatment which we have given to the problem seems adequate for general purposes.

The measurements which have been used throughout the paper are all of the greatest length of the fish, that is, from the tip of the lower jaw to the longest ray of the caudal fin. The measurements were recorded in whole centimeters, and the millimeters disregarded. For example, lengths of 24.4, 24.6, 24.9 centimeters were all called 24. As a correction, 0.5 centimeter was added to all averages used in the calculations. The special methods which have been used in the several phases of this investigation are all described under the sections dealing with these phases.

1.3. DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM

1.3.1. Spawning Season

In order to determine approximately the spawning season of the barracuda, the sexual organs of several fish were examined each working day that round (uncleaned) fish were in the markets. In 1927, these observations were made on 16,500 fish landed between June and October, and in 1928 on 18,000 fish landed between March and October. Since this work was done in several markets each day, it is probable that the catches of many boats were thus sampled, and a fair representation of the commercial catch obtained.

1.3.1.1. Description of the Gonads

1.3.1.1. Females

Because the developmental stages were clearly marked and because they were all present at one time or another during the fishing season, they were distinguished by gross observation and classified as follows:

Stage *a*: Ovary full of immature eggs only, characterizing a resting stage between spawning seasons.

Stage *b*: Ovary full of maturing eggs, that is, developing toward maturity.

Stage *c*: Ovary full of mature eggs, which are ready to be extruded.

Stage *d*: Ovary spent; again full of immature eggs only, with few maturing and mature eggs.

In stage *a*, since no eggs are visible to the naked eye, the granulation characterizing the presence of maturing eggs is absent. The ovary is pinkish in color, rather gelatinous in texture, very slender in girth. As maturity approaches, many of the eggs grow to visible size, appearing as small, yellow granules, which increase in number, and fill the gonad so full that the pinkness characterizing the immature eggs is entirely obscured. The yellow color and opacity readily identifies these eggs as being in stage *b*. On reaching maturity, stage *c*, the eggs lose their yellowness, attain a translucent grayish color, become detached, fill the lumen of the ovary, and when the belly is pressed, flow forth freely from the external opening of the gonaduct. Toward the end of the spawning season, the diameter of the ovaries decreases; the organ becomes flaccid, its color pink, and finally its appearance is the same as that of the immature fish of stage *a*. Although this last stage is classed as stage *d*, there is, to gross observation, no sharp distinction between spent fish of the end of one season and immature fish of the beginning of the next. Ovaries of group *b* net a fair price in the markets as roe as long as the eggs are yellow. As maturity approaches, however, and some of the eggs attain transparency, the gonad becomes valueless commercially.

1.3.1.1. Males

Since the minuteness of even the mature spermatozoa renders the classification of their developmental stages exceedingly difficult, only three distinctions are made for the males: stage *A*, immature; stage *B*, mature; stage *C*, spent. The testes of the immature male (stage *A*) are firm in texture, slender, and pale brownish or greenish. As the sperm mature, the gonads become white, less firm in texture, and increase in size. These characteristics render stage *B* readily recognizable. When the belly of a mature male is pressed, the milt oozes through the opening of the gonaduct. At the end of the spawning season, the testes diminish in size, become brownish or greenish as in stage *A*. Firm specimens of mature testes have a slight commercial value, being claimed by a few epicures to be of finer flavor than the roe.

1.3.1.2. Duration of the Spawning Season

1.3.1.2. Beginning of the Spawning Season

Since fish were not available during the winter months, it can only be inferred by certain evidence that spawning does not occur during this period. In the first place, it was observed in the markets during 1927 that in October, just before the fish disappeared, practically all specimens of males and females were spent. Moreover, fishermen who delivered barracuda from Mexico reported the absence of roe and milt in the fish, which were already dressed when landed. Finally, many specimens observed in the beginning of the 1928 fishing season were of stages *a* and *A*. The earliest record of maturing fish obtained in 1928 was of March 22, when the *California II* landed a large load of locally caught, cleaned fish, most of which, according to the captain, had had roe or milt in them. On March 26, about a ton of cleaned barracuda was landed, including 15 round specimens, all of which were maturing (stages *b* or *B*). Beginning April 2 and continuing throughout the fishing season, local fish were delivered round, and actual observations were possible. Since the eggs yield so much more readily to field observation than the spermatozoa do, the maturity of the former was adopted as a criterion of the spawning season. The first mature (stage *c*) females were seen by us in the markets on May 2, when 44 per cent of the females had running spawn. At no time of the year, as indicated by the field observations, are all of the females spawning at once, the relative number of spawning females changing from day to day, sometimes quite radically. The daily observations for 1928 are shown graphically in figure 10, in which the ratio of spawning females (stage *c*) to all females is represented by the solid line. There is evident in this graph no apparent periodicity or regularity in the periods of greatest spawning.

1.3.1.2. End of the Spawning Season

At the beginning of the fishing season, only 25 per cent of the adult females and 39 per cent of the adult males were immature (stages *a* and *A*), the remainder of the females being maturing (stage *b*) and the remainder of the males being mature (stage *B*). After the first two weeks of May, no more immature fish were observed. Beginning the latter part of July, spent males and females made their first appearance in the catch, increasing in numbers as the fishing season declined, attaining almost 100 per cent at the end. The last spawning female was observed in the markets on September 30. Figure 6 shows the relation

of immature females (stage *a*) and spent females (stage *d*) to all females observed in 1928, expressed in percentage. That the immature and spent stages (*A* and *C*) of the males occur at the same time as the corresponding stages in the females is evident from the following table:

TABLE 1
Occurrence of Immature and Spent Fish
 (The figures are percentages of the total number of males and females, respectively)

Date	Immature males (Stage A)	Spent males (Stage C)	Immature females (Stage a)	Spent females (stage d)
April 1-15	39	0	25	0
April 16-30	4	0	5	0
May 1-15	0	0	0	0
May 16-31	0	0	0	0
June 1-15	0	0	0	0
June 16-30	0	0	0	0
July 1-15	0	0	0	0
July 16-31	0	0	0	0
Aug. 1-15	0	1	0	1
Aug. 16-31	0	19	0	2
Sept. 1-15	no data	no data	no data	no data
Sept. 16-30	0	93	0	95

TABLE 1
 Occurrence of Immature and Spent Fish (The figures are percentages of the total number of males and females, respectively)

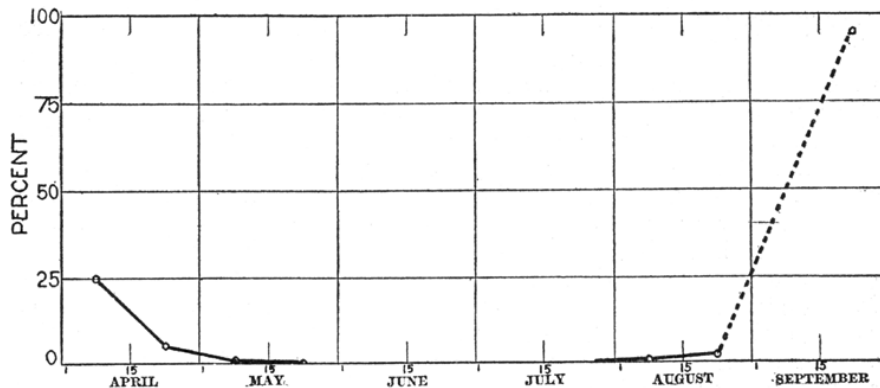


FIG. 6. The curve between April 1 and June 1 represents the relation between the immature females and all females, expressed in percentage. The curve between July 15 and September 30 shows the relation between spent females and all females, expressed in percentage.

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1.3.1.2. Limitations in the Spawning Season Data

Because of the absence in quantity of material before and after the spawning season, we can not be certain that our data give an accurate picture. It is possible that the fish are taken in large numbers only during a spawning migration. If this is true, the mature fish may tend to be selected by the fishermen, and, consequently, the percentage of immature fish may not be accurately represented. Furthermore, during the climax of this spawning migration, it is possible that the quantities landed do not adequately represent the number of fish spawning, because the fleet can not handle as high a proportion of the run then as when the fish are scarcer. If this is true, the spawning season might be more highly concentrated than the present data show.

1.3.1.3. Spawning and Fishing Seasons

The spawning season is summarized in figure 7, where the data have been grouped into half-monthly periods and the relation shown

between the number of spawning females and the total number of females, expressed in percentage. The original data, shown by the small circles, were smoothed to demonstrate the general trend of the

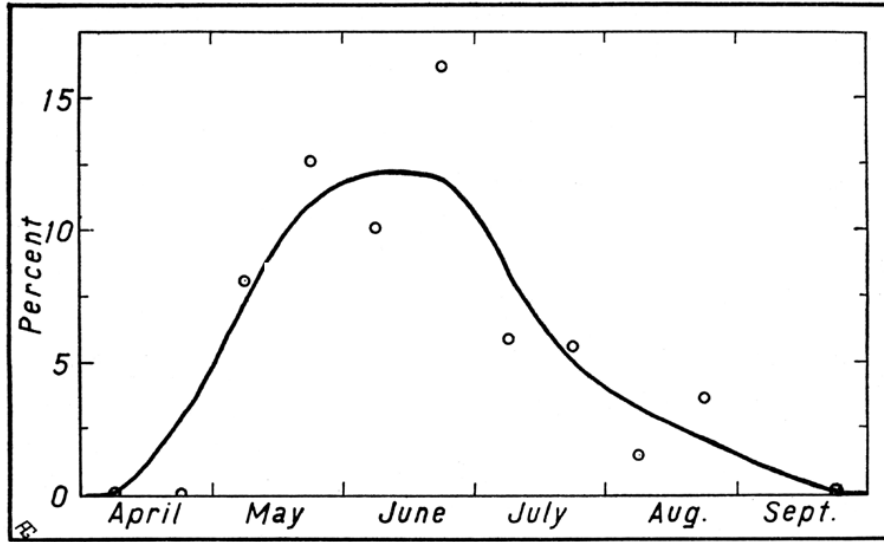


FIG. 7. Summary of the barracuda spawning season as indicated by the percentage relation between spawning females and all females. The daily observations are grouped into half-monthly periods. The original data, shown by the open circles, are smoothed to show the trend of the season.

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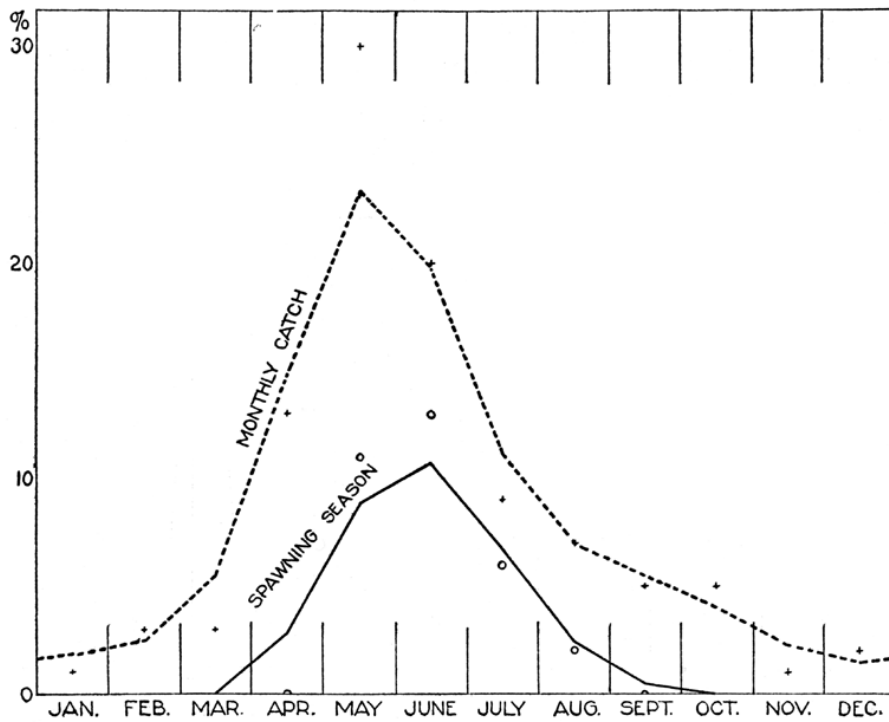


FIG. 8. Comparison between the monthly catch and the spawning season.

FIG. 8. Comparison between the monthly catch and the spawning season

season. The span of the 1928 season, as conservatively estimated in this graph, was from between April 1 and 15 to between September 15 and 30. The height of the season occurred between May 15 and July 15. In figure 8, the above data are grouped into *monthly* periods and compared to the fishing season, the original figures being smoothed to show the trends. A relationship between the spawning season and the fishing season is clearly suggested by the rises, heights and declines of both curves.

1.3.1.4. Sex Ratio and the Spawning Season

of passing interest, and possibly of some relation to the spawning season is the fact that the proportion of the number of males to the number of females fluctuates from day to day, often very sharply. During the course of the season, the sex ratio hovers around unity, with a distinct tendency for the males to preponderate. In 1928, of 18,005 fish examined during the entire summer, 55 per cent were males. In 1927, of 16,530 fish, 52 per cent were males. In 1922, of 1806 fish examined, 55 per cent were males (Skogsberg, 1925). of 9000 young barracuda of the first year class, 49.5 per cent were males, or practically a unity ratio. The cause of a preponderance of one sex during the spawning season, apparently connected with maturity, may possibly be due to spawning migrations, to different habits of the two sexes or possibly to selective fishing. An unequal sex ratio has been noticed in several other species of fish, sometimes with the males predominating, as in the true smelts (Kendall, 1926), though more frequently with the females predominating, as in the jack smelt (Clark, 1929), grunion (Clark, 1925), California sardines (unpublished records of the California State Fisheries Laboratory), or in the European plaice (Hefford, 1909). That there may be some relation between sex ratio and spawning season is suggested by a noticeable tendency for the proportion of males to vary as the proportion of spawning females. Figure 9 and Figure 10 compare the ratio of males and all fish (broken line)

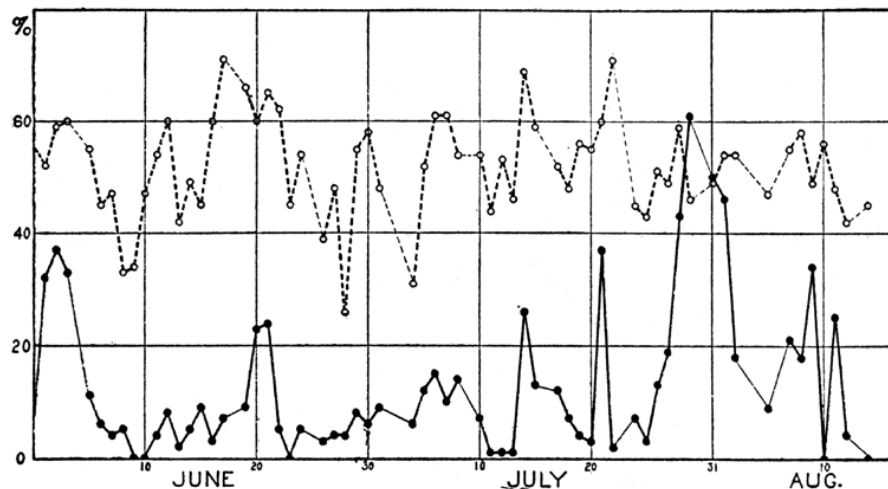


FIG. 9. Daily spawning season observations for 1927. The broken line represents the relation between the number of males and all fish, expressed in percentage. The solid line shows the relation between the number of spawning females and all females, expressed in percentage.

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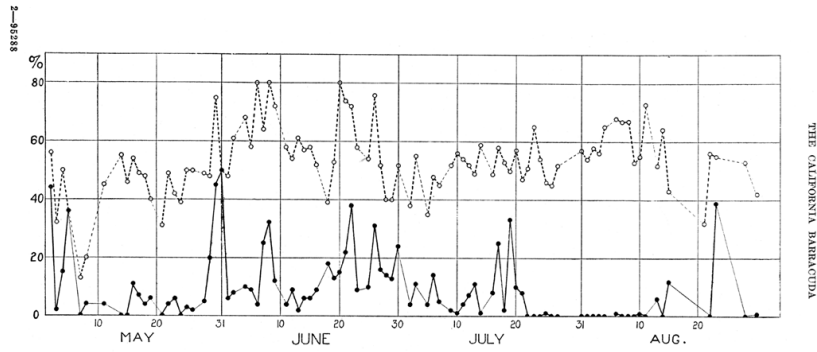


FIG. 10. Daily spawning season observations for 1928. The broken line represents the relation of the number of males to all fish. The solid line shows the relation of the number of spawning females to all females. Relations are expressed in percentage.

THE CALIFORNIA BARBAQUIDA

FIG. 10. Daily spawning season observations for 1928. The broken line represents the relation of the number of males to all fish. The solid line shows the relation of the number of spawning females to all females. Relations are expressed in percentage

with the ratio of spawning females and all females (solid line), expressed in percentage, for 1927 and 1928, respectively. In figure 11, these observations are so combined to show the ratio of the males to all fish by half-monthly periods. The tendency for a higher preponderance

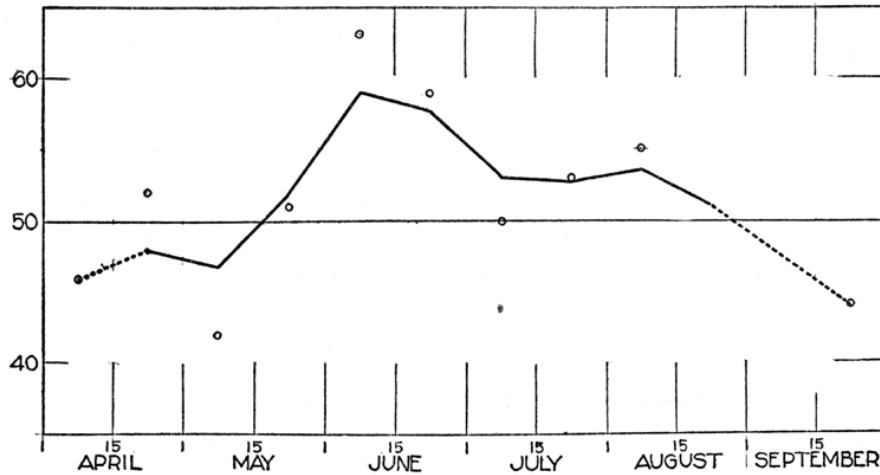


FIG. 11. Relation for 1928 of the number of males to the total number of fish, expressed in percentage. The observations are grouped in half-monthly periods and represented by the small circles. The data are smoothed to show the general trend which is represented by the heavy line.

FIG. 11. Relation for 1928 of the number of males to the total number of fish, expressed in percentage. The observations are grouped in half-monthly periods and represented by the small circles. The data are smoothed to show the general trend which is represented by the heavy line

of males to occur while the spawning season is at its height is clearly evident. Moreover, if the original data from the 1927 and 1928 seasons be combined, there is a positive coefficient of correlation between the ratio of spawning females to all females and the ratio of males to all fish of $.304 \pm .047$. Since the coefficient is more than six times the probable error, we may consider it of some significance.

1.3.1.5. Frequency of Spawning

While an extensive microscopic study of the eggs was not made, some evidence justifies the belief that each barracuda spawns more than once each season. If there were only one spawning a season, it should seem reasonable to expect (1) the presence of spent fish in the catch throughout the season, and (2) the presence of only two groups of eggs in mature fish: immature (stage *a*) and mature (stage *c*).¹ As has already been explained, immature fish and spent fish appear only at the beginning and at the end of the season, respectively. That mature ovaries contain not only the transparent eggs of stage *c* but also the opaque, yellow eggs of stage *b* is clearly evident to casual inspection. Microscopic examination of several specimens not only has verified this observation, but has revealed apparently a third group of eggs. Figure 12, contributed by Dr. Frances N. Clark, pictures the distribution of 500 egg diameters in a sample of barracuda eggs which were teased directly from a mature ovary onto a glass

¹ Several writers have interpreted three groups of eggs in fish as indicative of more than one spawning a season, for example: Clark (1925 and 1929) for the grunion and jack smelt, and Kisselevitch (1923) for the Caspian herring.

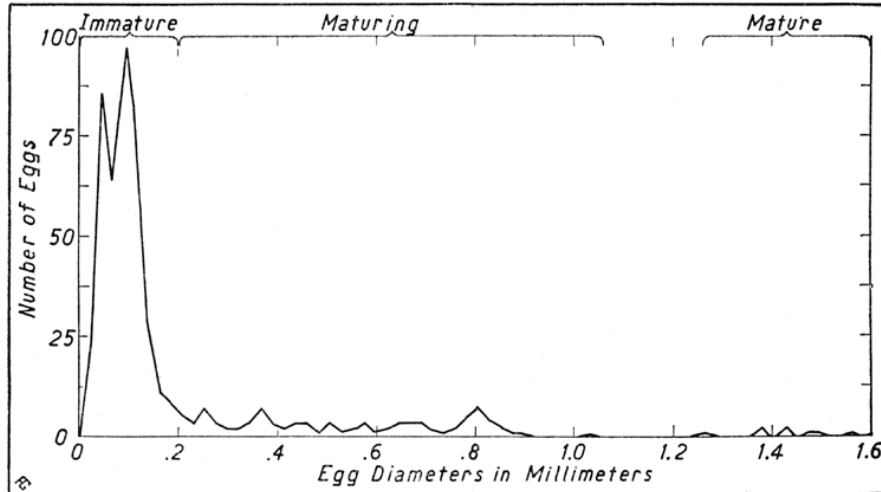


FIG. 12. Showing the size distribution of eggs from a spawning (stage c) female. By the method of sampling with which these data were collected, a fair approximation of the true proportion of the various stages is given.

FIG. 12. Showing the size distribution of eggs from a spawning (stage c) female. By the method of sampling with which these data were collected, a fair approximation of the true proportion of the various stages is given slide which was marked with columns to prevent repetition of measurements. By this method of sampling, the various sizes of eggs appear in proportions approximating those in which they occur in the ovary. The numerous group at the extreme left of the graph, from 0 to 0.2 millimeter in diameter, comprises the microscopic eggs. From 0.2 to about 1.04 millimeters are represented the opaque yellow eggs, and from about 1.24 to 1.6 millimeters the mature eggs. Because the true number of mature eggs is small as compared to the number of eggs in the intermediate group, and very slight indeed in proportion to the great quantity in the microscopic group, few measurements of mature eggs are shown in the sample graphed in figure 12. In order to demonstrate these larger groups more effectively, a sample of 1000 eggs was taken by the following method: When the gonad from which this sample was taken was placed in the formaldehyde, the walls were

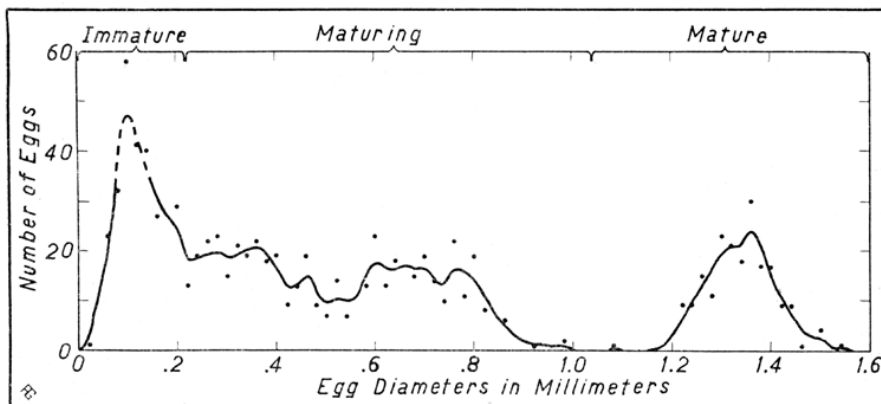


FIG. 13. Showing the size distribution of eggs from a spawning (stage c) female. In collecting the data for this figure, only a small proportion of the immature eggs was measured in order to accentuate the maturing and mature eggs. The original data, shown by the dots, are smoothed.

FIG. 13. Showing the size distribution of eggs from a spawning (stage c) female. In collecting the data for this figure, only a small proportion of the immature eggs was measured in order to accentuate the maturing and mature eggs. The original data, shown by the dots, are smoothed

ruptured and squeezed, so that the mature, many of the maturing, and some of the immature eggs were forced away from the ovary to the bottom of the jar. The sample was obtained with a pipette from various levels of the settled eggs, spread on a columned glass slide and measured. By this method of sampling, the relative numbers of mature and maturing eggs are considerably accentuated. In figure 13 where the diameter frequencies of these eggs are graphed, three chief stages of eggs are readily distinguishable: the immature group, shown in dotted lines to suggest the incompleteness of its numbers, from 0 to about 0.2 millimeter; the maturing group, which itself consists evidently of more than one group, from about 0.2 millimeter to about 1.0 millimeter; and the mature group from about 1.14 to 1.6 millimeters.

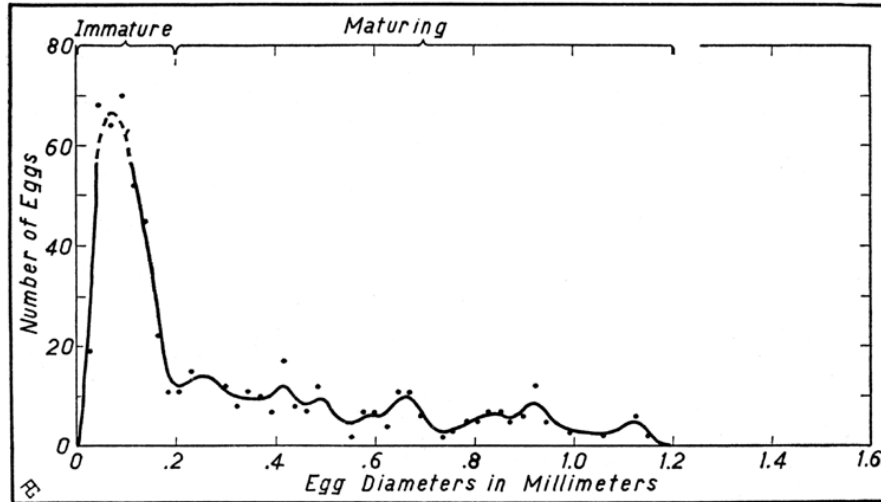


FIG. 14. Showing distribution of egg diameters in a maturing female. The original data, shown by the dots, are smoothed to show the trend.

FIG. 14. Showing distribution of egg diameters in a maturing female. The original data, shown by the dots, are smoothed to show the trend

Figure 14 shows frequencies of 650 diameter measurements from a maturing (stage *b*) specimen, the method of sampling being the same as that used for figure 12. Here there are only two chief groups distinguishable: the microscopic eggs, which appear in figures 12 and 13; and the opaque, yellow eggs, which in the other graphs form the intermediate group.

The eggs in all of these cases were measured under a compound microscope with an eyepiece micrometer which was kept in the same position. The slide on which the eggs lay was not permitted to rotate; consequently, the eggs were measured at any diameter that fell in line with the micrometer scale, thus eliminating selection of longest or shortest diameters.

Since throughout the season, the ovaries of spawning females contain opaque, yellow eggs as well as mature and immature ones, and since no spent females appear during the heights of the spawning season, it seems fair to conclude that a female spawns more than once during a season on the assumption that all eggs above 0.2 millimeter are shed in the same season.

1.3.1.6. Number of Mature Eggs Produced for One Spawning

The condition found to be true of so many fishes that the number of eggs produced by individuals of different sizes varies considerably, the larger fish producing more eggs, is true also of barracuda. Since this fact might possibly have some bearing on legislation, the number of mature eggs in eleven fish of different sizes was estimated.

To eliminate the possibility of loss of eggs by extrusion in the nets, on the boats or in the markets, ovaries which were just on the verge of spawning, that is, in which the mature eggs had not yet broken their follicles to reach the lumen, were selected. Since specimens were collected several months before the calculations were made, it was necessary to preserve them in formaldehyde. The method of calculating the number of mature eggs was as follows: The whole ovaries were removed from the formaldehyde, and after being drained of their excess moisture for several minutes, were weighed to the nearest gram. Following this procedure, a sample consisting of five small, approximately equally sized lots of eggs was taken from different parts of the ovaries of each fish, placed in a weighing bottle of known weight, and weighed to the nearest one-tenth milligram. The number of mature eggs (stage *c*) in each sample was then determined by counting; the number of eggs per gram calculated and multiplied by the weight of the entire preserved gonad. The number of mature eggs in the ovary, thus estimated, was recorded to the nearest thousand to emphasize the estimated nature of the figure. The following table, which presents the results of these egg counts, clearly shows that the number of mature eggs increases with the size of the fish.

TABLE 2
Number of Mature Eggs Produced for One Spawning

Total length (in cm.)	Age (in years)	Weight of fish (in grams)	Weight of fresh ovary (in grams)	Calculated number of mature ova (to nearest thousand)*
50	2	414	28	51,000
53	2	506	30	42,000
56	3	590	50	71,000
63	4	900	110	163,000
70	4	1,131	104	172,000
72	4	1,339	229	247,000
79	5	1,572	134	170,000
86	7	1,998	173	294,000
91	7	2,867	480	340,000
93	7	3,106	261	309,000
94	6	3,226	340	484,000

* Calculations were made from preserved ovaries.

TABLE 2
Number of Mature Eggs Produced for One Spawning

1.3.1.7. Size of Barracuda and Number of Mature Eggs Produced

In order to determine approximately the degree of relationship which exists between the number of eggs and the size of fish, coefficients of correlation (Pearson) were calculated for the relation between number of eggs and age of fish, total length of fish, and weight of fish. The results of these calculations are shown in the following table:

TABLE 3
Correlation Between Size of Barracuda and Number of Mature Eggs

Correlation (<i>r</i>) between	<i>r</i> .	<i>P</i> .	No. specimens
Age and number of mature eggs	.530	.09	11
Total length of fish and number of mature eggs	.908	less than .01	11
Weight of fish and number of mature eggs	.959	less than .01	11

TABLE 3
Correlation Between Size of Barracuda and Number of Mature Eggs

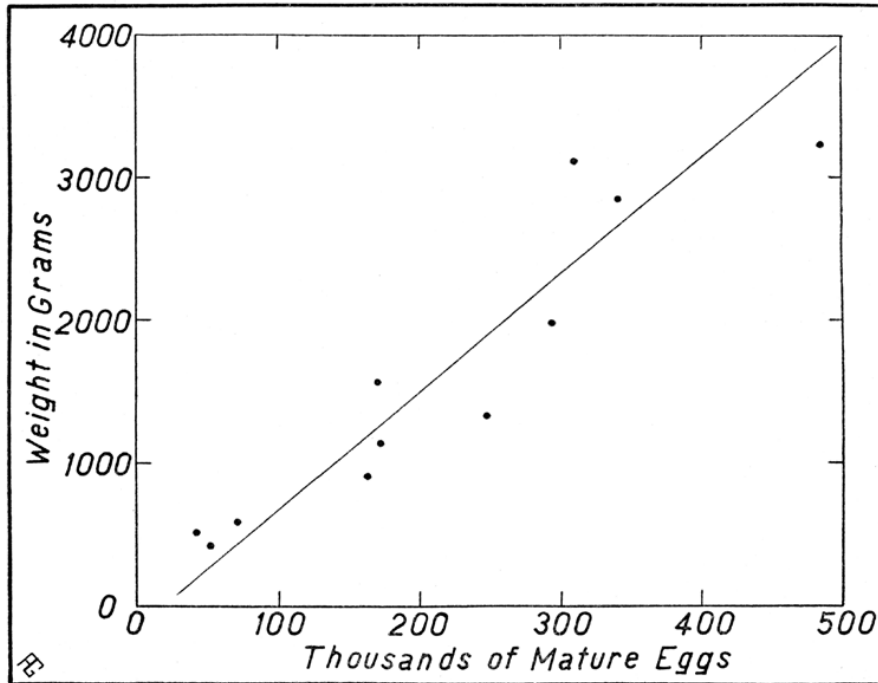


FIG. 15. Scatter diagram showing the relation between the number of mature eggs in a spawning female and the weight of the whole fish.

FIG. 15. Scatter diagram showing the relation between the number of mature eggs in a spawning female and the weight of the whole fish

From table 3, it is evident that the number of eggs produced is, of the three values considered, most closely correlated to weight and least to age. The relationship between weight and egg production is shown graphically in the scatter diagram, figure 15. Because the low number of specimens reduces the significance of r , P (Fisher, 1925, p. 157) was used as a measure of reliability. This figure, to be interpreted as the probability that chance alone would produce a similar degree of correlation, shows that only the second and third coefficients in table 3 signify. Notwithstanding the scantiness of the material, therefore, the magnitude of the higher coefficients is sufficient to emphasize the importance of the larger fish and to minimize the value of the first spawning seasons. In other words, the question of what size limit should be imposed is complicated. If 75 per cent of the females spawn in their second year and 100 per cent in their third, should protection during these two seasons of relatively slight spawning be considered sufficient to propagate the race? A study of the sizes and ages of fish in the commercial catch helps us to form an opinion in this matter.

1.3.2. Age Determination

Age determinations in the barracuda were made largely by a study of the scales. This method of deciphering the age of fishes has been used on so many species, by so many workers, and such excellent bibliographies on the subject have been published, for example, by Graham (1928) and Van Oosten (1929) that an introduction to the method seems superfluous. However, since it would be absurd to offer

the successes or failures of scale readings for any one species as a test for the validity of scale readings for any other species, it will be necessary to present in detail the evidence to support this method for barracuda.

1.3.2.1. Description of Scales and Definition of Terms

The scales of *Sphyræna argentea* are of various shapes, generally circular or oval. Their surfaces are sculptured with many concentric ridges, referred to in this paper as circuli, which are interrupted and divided into short sections by numerous radial ridges called radii. Presumably the scales, in general, grow in proportion to the growth of the fish. Thus, irregularities in the annual growth of the fish are reflected by irregularities in the annual growth of the scales, which in turn are reflected by irregularities in the appearance of the circuli and radii. The suspension of growth of the winter, together with the new growth of the spring, causes a scar, called the annulus, to be formed around the margin of the scale. It is the intention of this paper to demonstrate that these scars are yearly in occurrence and hence can be used to determine the age of the barracuda.

Exhibit *A* of the evidence to support the validity of barracuda scale readings is the demonstration of growth cessation in at least the first year class. Exhibit *B* is the actual observation and recording of the time when the annulus is formed. Exhibit *C* is a comparison between a length frequency polygon of all fish studied and length frequency polygons of the separate year classes as deciphered from scales. These exhibits are presented in the following pages.

1.3.2.2. Growth of the Young

1.3.2.2. Source of Material

The young fish which were used in this investigation were especially caught for us by two commercial fishermen. Mr. Scotti Carmen, owner of a small round haul net used for catching kingfish, smelts, salt-water perch, and other small species, took about 99 per cent of the fish; Mr. A. Wagner, operator of a small-meshed dip net off Pine Avenue Pier in Long Beach, caught about 1 per cent. These men were given permits legalizing the catch of undersized fish, and in order to eliminate selection of sizes as much as possible, were paid for very small fish by the piece and for larger fish by the pound. Mr. Carmen confined all his fishing within two miles off the shore between Newport and Santa Monica, as shown in figure 16, a distance of about 40 miles, and made most of his catches off Long Beach. Since the two sets of data revealed no disparity in size of fish, they were combined throughout our work. Altogether, 26,752 small fish were measured from June 3, 1927, to July 31, 1928.

1.3.2.2. First Appearance of 1927 Year Class

For some unaccountable reason, only a few scattered collections of small fish were obtained from October, 1926, until April, 1927, but in April, 1927, a very large number was collected. A graph, showing the numbers of fish at each length in this sample, is plotted in figure 17A. Notwithstanding the low number of fish taken previously, an observation of the sizes of these fish gave confidence to the assumption that the April sample represents the smallest fish available to the fishermen

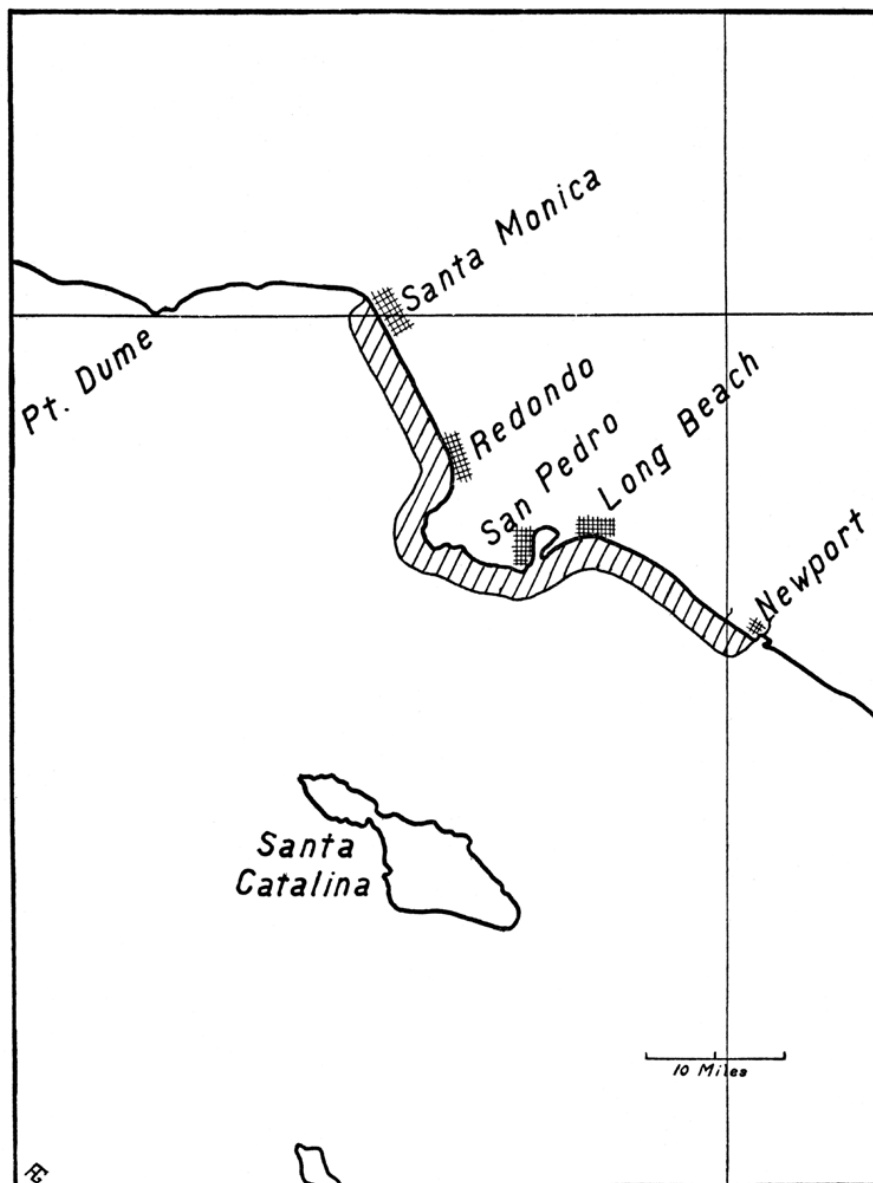


FIG. 16. The shaded area shows the regions where the small fish used in this study were obtained.

FIG. 16. The shaded area shows the regions where the small fish used in this study were obtained at that time. From June 1 to July 27, no fish smaller than 22 centimeters was taken by our fishermen. (See fig. 18.) On July 27, however, Mr. Wagner caught a number of barracuda which were decidedly smaller than any which had been taken previously that year, the measurements of which formed a distinct group among all fish measured in July. In subsequent collections, this distinct group persisted, and for a year, by means of very generous samples, it was possible to follow its growth and to observe in the scales the time when the annulus was formed.

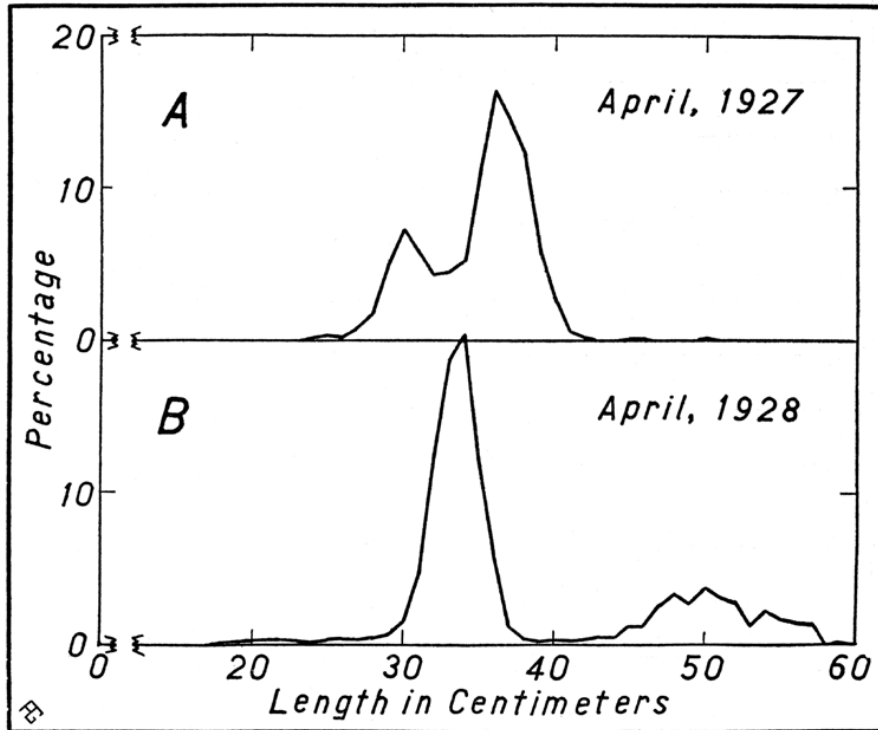


FIG. 17. Comparing the sizes of young fish taken in April, 1927, with those taken in April, 1928.

FIG. 17. Comparing the sizes of young fish taken in April, 1927, with those taken in April, 1928

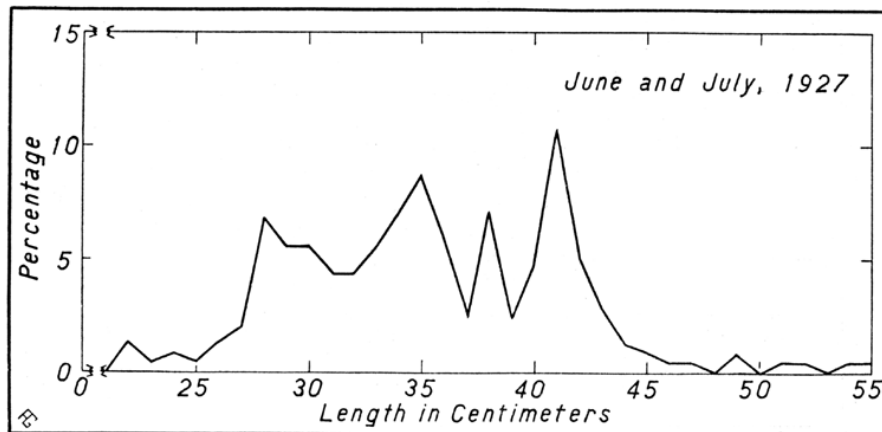


FIG. 18. Size distribution of young fish taken in June and July, 1927.

FIG. 18. Size distribution of young fish taken in June and July, 1927

1.3.2.2. Growth of the 1927 Year Class

Figure 19 shows the frequencies at each length, plotted in half-monthly periods from July 16, 1927, to July 31, 1928. The small size of fish in the group between 7 and 13 centimeters in July, 1927, the rapidity in growth of this group, the absence of an annulus on the scales, the fairly close correspondence between the April, 1928, sample and the April, 1927, sample (see fig. 17), and the appearance of a group of sizes in July, 1928, similar to what was collected

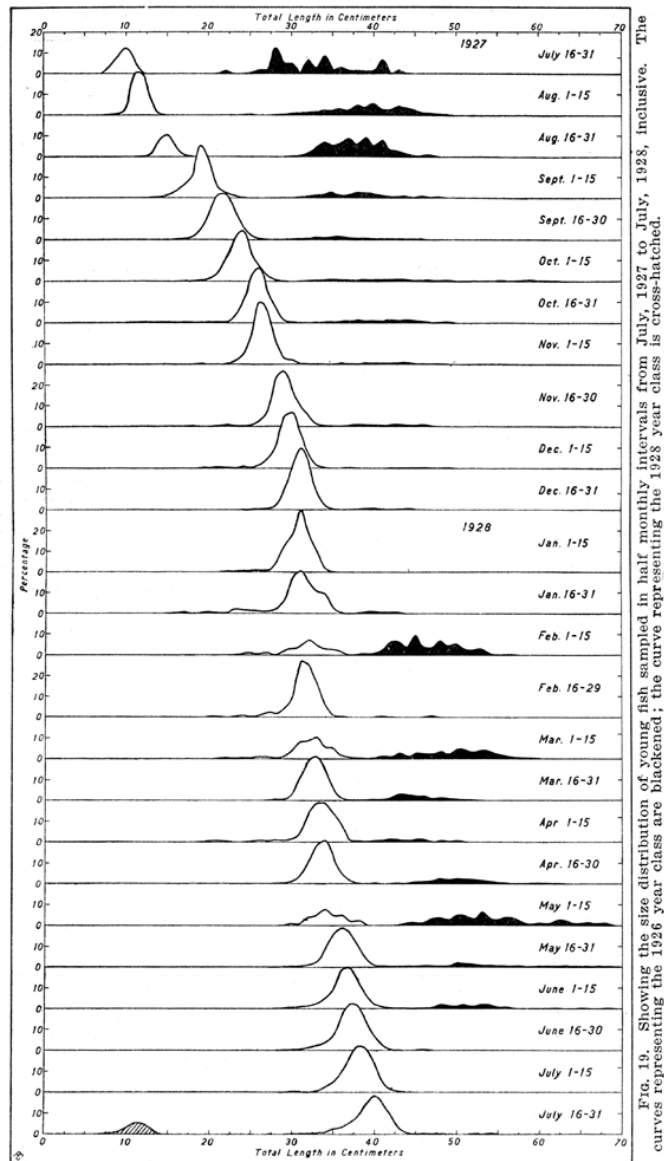


FIG. 19. Showing the size distribution of young fish sampled in half monthly intervals from July, 1927 to July, 1928, inclusive. The curves representing the 1926 year class are blackened; the curve representing the 1928 year class is cross-hatched.

FIG. 19. Showing the size distribution of young fish sampled in half monthly intervals from July, 1927 to July, 1928, inclusive. The curves representing the 1926 year class are blackened; the curve representing the 1928 year class is cross-hatched

in July, 1927, all justify accepting this distinct year class as representing the youngest in 1927. The rather noticeable skewness of the 1927 curves after December, caused by a few unusually small fish, is probably explicable by the fact that the first appearance of this year class occurs before the end of the spawning season. These smaller fish are probably the result of late spawning. The slight dispersion of all of these curves, difficult to understand in the light of the protracted spawning season, may possibly be explained by the fact that the fish were all taken from the same locality, a rather small area, whereas, the fish from which the spawning season was studied, were caught from a much greater area. The April, 1927 sample of the 1926 year class (see fig. 17A) exhibits a distinct bimodality, caused, presumably, by some peculiarity in the 1926 spawning season. The rather large number of fish involved in the sample—1441—and the fact that another smaller sample also taken in April, 1927, shows the same characteristics as figure 17A, obviate the possibility of accounting for this bimodalism as due to errors in sampling. Two arguments refute the supposition that this effect indicates the presence of two age groups: (1) the scale readings placed all these fish in the 1926 year class, and (2) similar bimodalism does not obtain in any of the frequency polygons of measurements taken of small fish during 1928.

1.3.2.2. Growth of the 1926 Year Class

Aside from the smooth continuity of the modes in the 1927 year class, the most striking feature of figure 19 is the retardation in growth between about December and March, and the resumption in growth after March. This phenomenon is shown more conspicuously in figure 20, in which the average lengths of the 1927 year class are plotted by half-monthly periods. This slackening of growth, already demonstrated for so many species of animals, is the usually accepted cause for the formation of

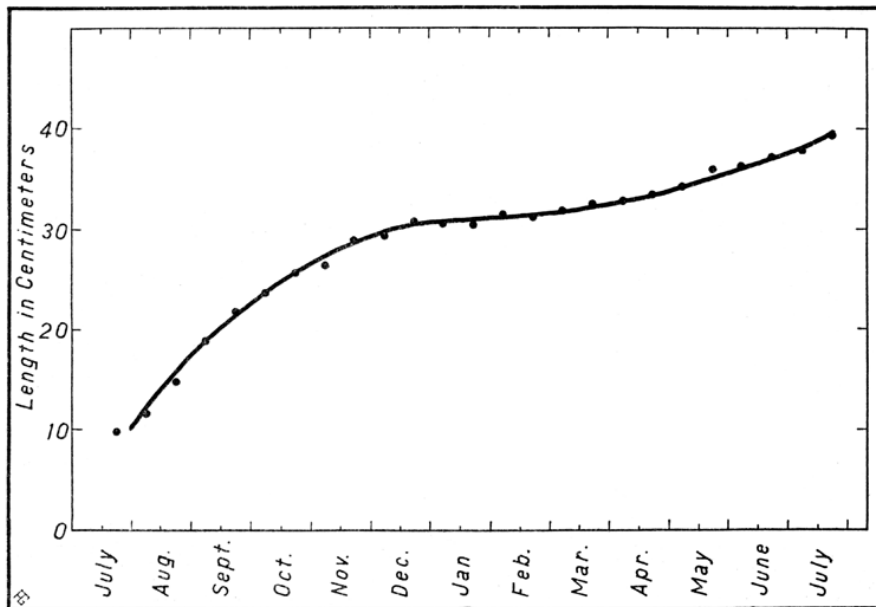


FIG. 20. Showing the first year's growth of the barracuda. The dots represent the average total lengths, the solid line the trend.

FIG. 20. Showing the first year's growth of the barracuda. The dots represent the average total lengths, the solid line the trend

an annulus in scales, and therefore is an important link in our chain of evidence. Unfortunately, since the fishing of Messrs. Carmen and Wagner failed to net sufficient specimens of the two and three year old fish to form a basis for detailed growth studies of these classes, we are unable to demonstrate cyclical changes in growth beyond the first year. The measurements of young fish larger than the 1927 year class were grouped into bimonthly periods and plotted in figure 21. Although, because of small numbers of specimens, these curves are

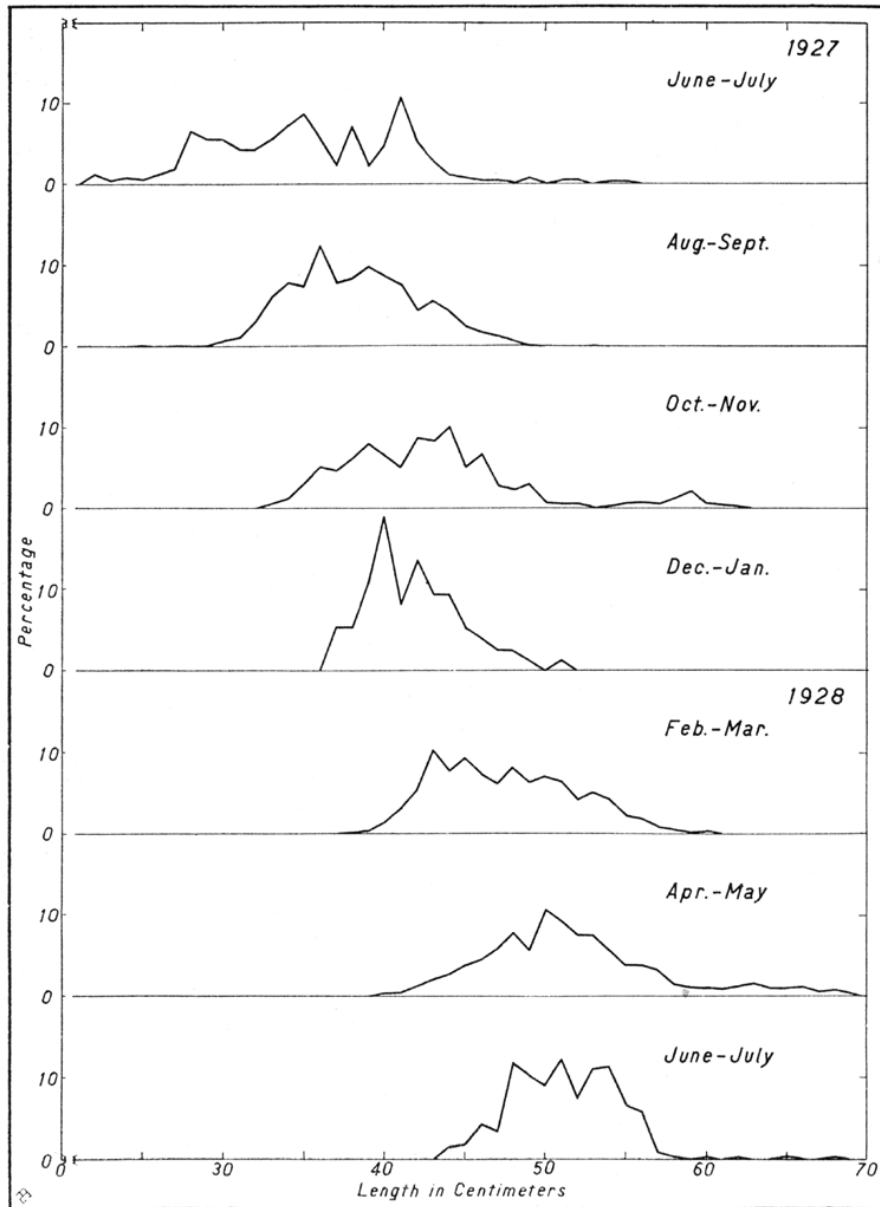


FIG. 21. Showing the size distribution of second year fish, in bimonthly periods from June, 1927, to July, 1928, inclusive.

FIG. 21. Showing the size distribution of second year fish, in bimonthly periods from June, 1927, to July, 1928, inclusive

exceedingly irregular, they are, according to the scale readings, with the exception of the October-November curve and the April-May curve, all of the 1926 year class. The two curves mentioned above contain a few specimens of the 1925 year class, indicated by the two low modes to the right of the dominant modes.

1.3.2.3. Time of Formation of the Annulus

1.3.2.3. Young Fish

Although the annulus is presumed to be caused by a resumption following a slowing down of growth, it does not become manifest until some time after growth has recommenced. In other words, if the annulus is due to slackened growth, the actual registration of the annulus on the scale occurs some time before our observations detect its presence. To determine the approximate time when the first annulus is formed, scales of 2,359 fish of the 1927 year class taken during the year ending July, 1928, were used. In addition to these, 152 scales of 1926 year class fish taken during July, 1927, were used. The results of these studies are shown in the solid line of figure 22, in which the data have been smoothed by eye to show the trend. It is to be observed that no annulus appeared before the week of May 6–12 in 1928; that annuli appeared on 50 per cent of the scales during the week of May 27–June 2, and on 100 per cent of the scales after the week of July 1–7. The total period covered during which the annuli became evident was nine weeks. As we have already seen (fig. 20), slackening in growth occurred during the winter, from about December 15 to about March 15, the period preceding annulus formation in the scales of the young fish.

1.3.2.3. Older Fish

Because of the limitations of the fishing season, scale studies of large fish are restricted to the fishing months—April to September. Since the 1928 scale collection of market fish does not extend beyond July 7, 265 scales from the 1927 collection taken August 12 and September 9 were used. In order to find approximately the time of formation of the annulus in these scales, we indicated, while recording each scale reading, whether there was an annulus close to the margin of the scale or whether there was a considerable space between the margin and the last annulus. Because the annuli which are formed after about the fifth year are very close to each other, all fish older than five years were excluded from this study. The results of these observations are shown graphically in the broken line in figure 22. Before the week of April 22–28, none of the scales registered an annulus near the margin; between June 24 and July

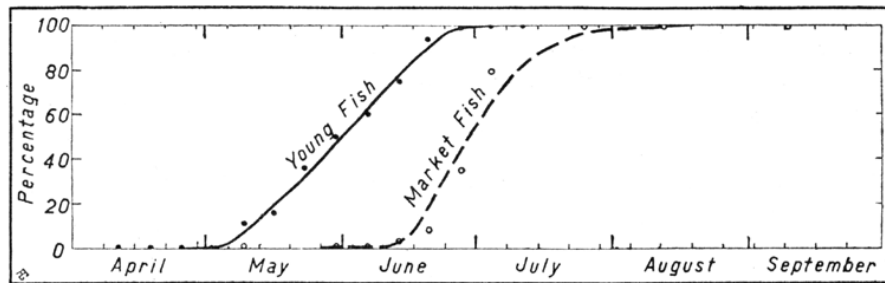


FIG. 22. Showing the time when the annulus becomes visible in the scales. The original observations, shown by solid dots for the young fish and by open circles for the market fish, are smoothed to show the trend.

FIG. 22. Showing the time when the annulus becomes visible in the scales. The original observations, shown by solid dots for the young fish and by open circles for the market fish, are smoothed to show the trend

7, the percentage increased from 35 to 79; on August 12, 1927, 100 per cent of the scales showed an annulus. Notwithstanding the incompleteness of the 1928 material, the trend of the curve moved rapidly toward 100 per cent. The difference between the time when the annulus is formed in small and large fish may be explained by the slower growth in the large fish, which presumably delays the exposure of the annulus. The formation of annuli on the scales of the fish sampled, during a definite period of the year—the spring—not at haphazard times throughout the year, and the fact that finally 100 per cent of the scales registered an annulus near the margin, constitute strong arguments in support of the premise that these marks are yearly in occurrence.

1.3.2.4. Scale Readings

1.3.2.4. Methods

During the period from April 1 to July 8, 1928, scales were collected from 5000 market fish and from 2208 young fish. After the length and sex of each fish had been recorded, several scales were removed from the region under the pectoral fin, or if necessary, from other parts of the body, and placed in an envelope. Although an extensive preliminary survey had evidenced that all legible scales on a given fish register the same number of annuli, it was found that scales from some parts of the body are more distinctly marked than those from others. The scales in the anterior part of the body are round, but those situated farther back are oval and more difficult to decipher. Not only are the scales under the pectoral fin of the round type, but, being free from dark pigment, they need less cleaning. Five or six scales from each envelope were mounted in water on a glass slide and examined under a compound microscope without reference to the size of the fish. Ages were recorded as the number of winters completed, the area between annuli being considered indicative of summer and autumn growth and winter quiescence. For the purpose of this study, March 31 was arbitrarily designated the last day of winter. Thus, a scale which registered no annulus but showed the growth of the previous summer and autumn, was recorded as belonging to the 0 year class prior to April 1, to the I year class on and after that date. A scale showing one annulus beyond which was an area of growth, was recorded as belonging to the I year class before and to the II year class on and after April 1. While the spaces between the first five annuli were sufficiently wide for reasonably consistent and accurate counting, those beyond six became too narrow, and the year marks too crowded, to justify any attempt at trustworthy age determination beyond six years.

After all the scales had been interpreted, the number of fish at each length within each separate age class was recorded and graphed. These graphs (length frequency polygons) were then all superimposed upon a length frequency polygon of all the fish combined. (See fig. 23) The 0, I and II year classes correspond completely with modes in the total fish curve. Because of considerable overlapping beyond the II year class, complete correspondence is not possible, and no attempt is made to prove the readings of the older classes by this method. Nevertheless, reflections in the modes of the IV and V year classes are suggested in the total curve. The skewness in the I year class is due to the method of sampling, in which a few of the smaller individuals were

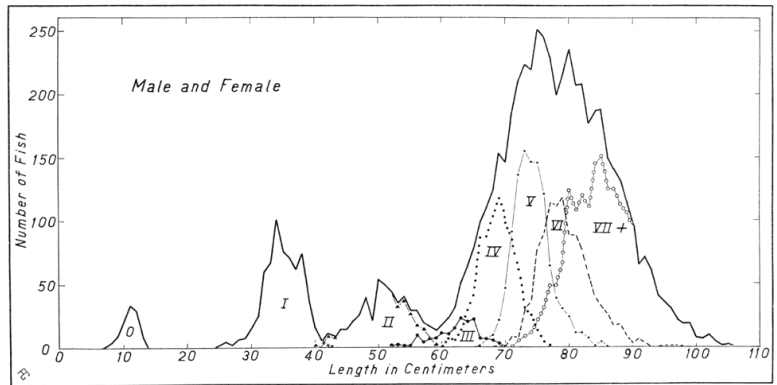


FIG. 23. Comparing the size distribution of all fish sampled (represented by the solid line) with that of each age class as determined by scales (represented by the broken lines, dots, etc.). Where the two lines coincide, only the solid line is used.

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FIG. 23. Comparing the size distribution of all fish sampled (represented by the solid line) with that of each age class as determined by scales (represented by the broken lines, dots, etc.). Where the two lines coincide, only the solid line is used

deliberately chosen for scale studies. Since the second year fish were nearly all part of the special collections of young fish, the skewness in the II year class curve is doubtless due to a selection by the fishermen against the larger sizes. The suppression of year class III is due to two causes: First, the legal size limit falling at about 72 centimeters, beyond the upper limit of the three-year-olds, necessitated a repression by the commercial fishermen. Second, the III year class, falling in the upper part of the size range of *small* fish, was probably excluded by the special fishermen. While the curves of the next two year classes, the fours, which fall mostly below, and the fives, which fall mostly above the three-pound limit, are reasonably symmetrical, the curve of the sixes is noticeably skewed. This obliquity, due, no doubt, to inaccuracies in scale readings and to the difficulty of distinguishing ages older than six, further justifies not using readings beyond six. Separate graphs for males and females, shown in figure 24, indicate no particular peculiarities except an inexplicable mode in the older-than-six curve of the females.

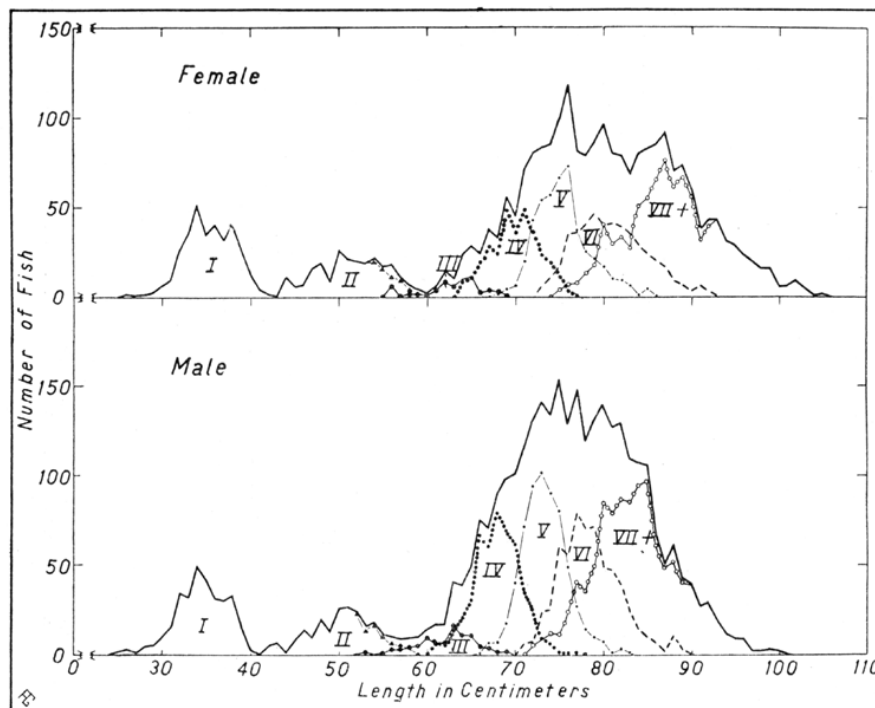


FIG. 24. Comparing for each sex the size distribution of all fish sampled (represented by the solid line) with that of each age class as determined by scales (represented by the broken lines, dots, etc.). Where the two lines coincide, only the solid line is used.

FIG. 24. Comparing for each sex the size distribution of all fish sampled (represented by the solid line) with that of each age class as determined by scales (represented by the broken lines, dots, etc.). Where the two lines coincide, only the solid line is used

1.3.2.5. Consistency in Scale Readings

In order to measure the percentage of scales which, by reason of their indefiniteness, admit of uncertainty in age determinations, and to evaluate the ability of one to read the scales consistently, two tests were made. First, three months after all the age studies had been completed, 200 unselected scales, representative of all sizes, were again aged, and under a different magnification than had been used before. When these

second readings were compared with the first, it was found that 179, or 89.5 per cent, were the same. All of the one-, two- and three-year-old readings in both sets of data agreed. A few inconsistencies occurred between the four- and five-year-olds, a few more between the fives and sixes, and most between the sixes and older-than-sixes. In other words, the greatest error in the barracuda scale readings occurred in the older fish.

The second test was to submit a series of 32 scales to another person to interpret. Dr. Frances N. Clark, who kindly made this test, with no previous experience with barracuda scales, agreed with the author's readings in 21, or 66 per cent, of the cases. In a second reading by Dr. Clark, this percentage increased to 88. While these tests do not prove the validity of the age readings, they do assure that the annuli on barracuda scales can be counted with a fair degree of consistency.

1.3.2.6. Annual Growth

It is possible, by means of the scale readings, to trace approximately the growth of the barracuda for six years of its life, but because of the limitations in the availability of material imposed by the fishing season, growth studies sufficiently detailed to reveal cyclical changes beyond the first year were prevented. The solid line in figure 25 shows the average total lengths of each year class, for both sexes combined, for the period April 1 to July 7, 1928, and the dotted line plus and minus three times the standard deviation. Growth in the

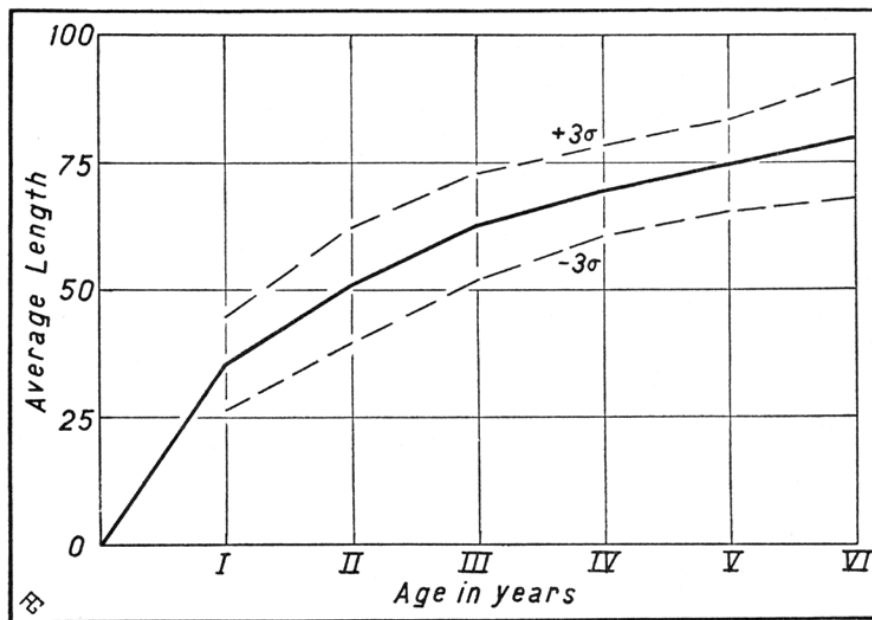


FIG. 25. Showing the growth of the barracuda for six years. The solid line connects the average lengths, the dotted lines plus and minus three times the standard deviation. Lengths are in centimeters.

FIG. 25. Showing the growth of the barracuda for six years. The solid line connects the average lengths, the dotted lines plus and minus three times the standard deviation. Lengths are in centimeters barracuda, as has been shown for many other species of fishes, is rapid during the first year, and decreases gradually during succeeding years. In figure 26 normal probability curves for each sex have been constructed from the original data, which are shown by the open circles

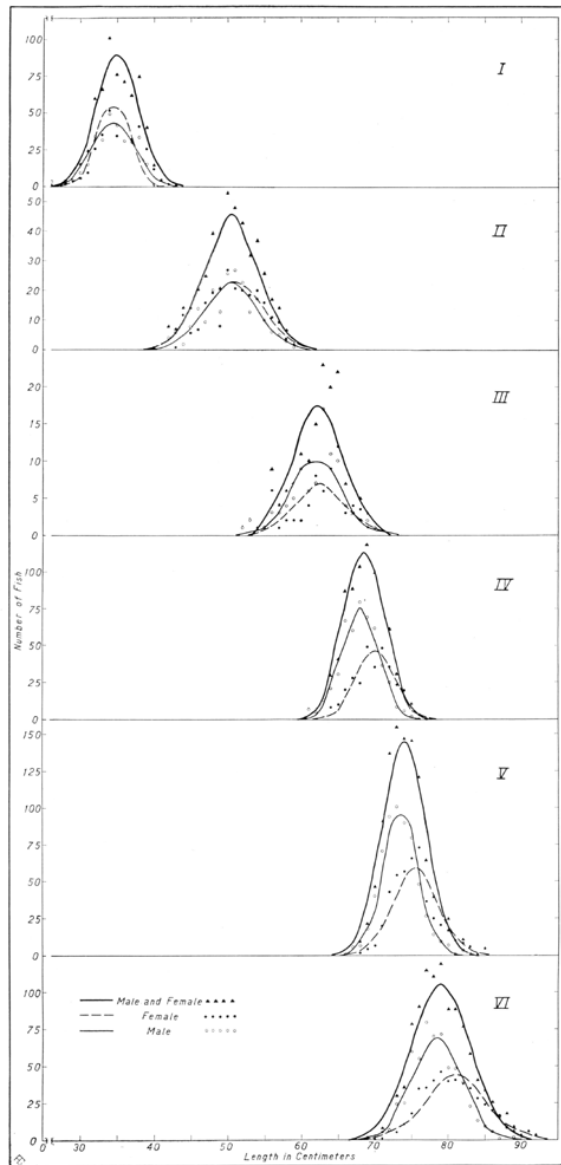


FIG. 26. Normal size distributions of total fish, of males and of females, at each age class as determined by scales. The original figures are indicated by the symbols shown in the lower left hand corner of the chart.

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FIG. 26. Normal size distributions of total fish, of males and of females, at each age class as determined by scales. The original figures are indicated by the symbols shown in the lower left hand corner of the chart

for the males and by closed circles for the females. No significant difference in size between the sexes is noticeable until the fourth year, when the females appear to be about 3 per cent larger. That this dimorphism becomes slightly greater in the oldest fish is indicated by a difference of 5 centimeters between the largest males and the largest females in the older-than-six curve.

1.3.2.6. Maximum Age

Although, as it has already been explained, age readings beyond six years were not included in this investigation, scales of a few older fish were fairly legible. No fish that was aged seemed to have attained more than eleven years. The largest fish that was collected, 105 centimeters long, registered only 11 rings. If these estimations are correct, the barracuda can not be considered to be a long-lived species, as compared with such fish as the northern halibut, which lives to be at least eighteen years old (Thompson, 1914), or as the European herring, which attains at least twenty years (Lea, 1930).

1.3.3. Age and Size at First Spawning

In determining the age and size at first spawning, both the fish which were sampled in the markets and the small fish that were especially caught for the barracuda investigation, were used. The gonads of all fish measured throughout the year were examined and their condition recorded. Since none of the smaller fish showed signs of maturity before or after the spawning season of the adult fish, yet since there was a possibility of their having a shorter spawning season, only fish taken during the heights of the adult spawning season, that is, from May 15 to July 25, were considered. For the females, the presence of ovaries of the group *b* class, that is, full of maturing eggs, was considered sufficient evidence that spawning would be accomplished during the same season. For the males, the whiteness and enlargement of the gonads characteristic of maturity was the criterion.

Figure 27 shows graphically for both sexes the percentage of mature fish among those of each length, plotted by centimeters. Both sets of data are smoothed by eye to show the trends. Figure 28 presents the number of mature fish at each age, as determined by scale readings. Comparison of this graph with the year class frequency

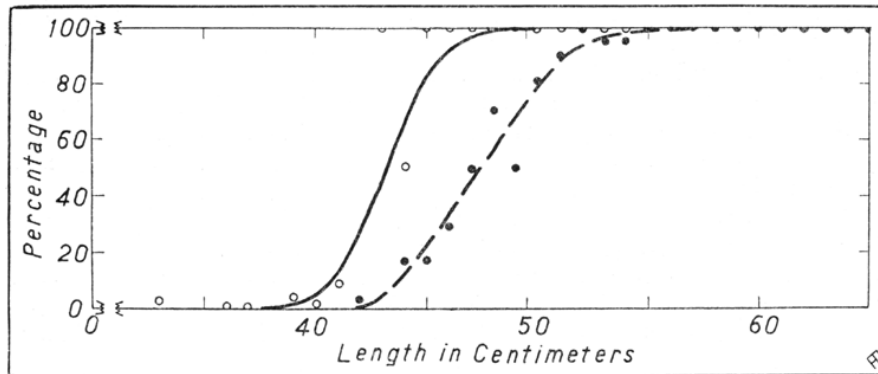


FIG. 27. Showing the size when first maturity occurs. The open circles represent the percentage of males, and the black dots the percentage of females, which mature at the indicated lengths. The solid line for the males, the broken line for the females show the trends.

FIG. 27. Showing the size when first maturity occurs. The open circles represent the percentage of males, and the black dots the percentage of females, which mature at the indicated lengths. The solid line for the males, the broken line for the females show the trends

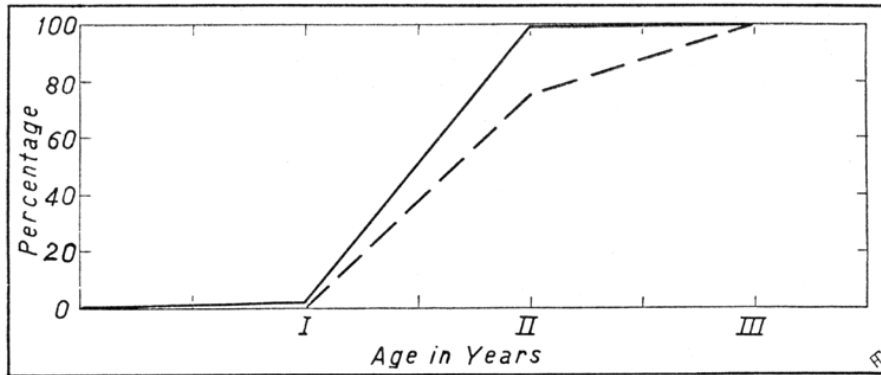


FIG. 28. Showing the age when first maturity occurs. The solid line represents the percentage of males, and the broken line the percentage of females which mature at the indicated ages.

FIG. 28. Showing the age when first maturity occurs. The solid line represents the percentage of males, and the broken line the percentage of females which mature at the indicated ages

curves of figure 23 shows that maturity, at least in the females, is evidently dependent on size rather than on age. For example, 29 per cent of the two-year-old females are mature at 46 centimeters, 50 per cent at 49 centimeters, 100 per cent at 55 centimeters. Spawning of the males at an earlier age and smaller size than of the females, as shown in both figures, is a condition which has been noted for many species of fish. Tables 4 and 5 detail the data which were available in this study.

1.3.4. Growth in Weight

In order to effect a more complete picture of the growth of the barracuda and to provide a suitable basis for judgment of the present three-pound size limit, a study of the relation between the length and the weight was made, on the basis of measurements and weights (in grams), of 575 individuals. Since all sizes were not available at the same time, it was necessary to use small fish collected from August 1, 1927, to July 1, 1928, but the market sizes were all taken during June, 1928.

1.3.4.1. Methods

The data thus obtained were treated by the usual methods employed in these studies, the formula $W = KL^x$ being used, in which W is the weight, K a constant, L the length, and x the power expressing the relation between increases in weight and length. The natural numbers were changed to logarithms, and the latter fitted with a straight line by the method of averages (Lipka, 1918, p. 126). Because the line of regression of weight on length may differ from that of length on weight, as is common in ordinary linear correlation, a single curve for predicting weight from length and length from weight might lead to difficulty. Theoretically, the two curves should be drawn separately, unless the two are close enough to render the difference negligible for ordinary purposes. However, for barracuda, the two regressions, plotted on a logarithmic scale in figure 29, are so close, that it is justifiable to use one curve in this paper.

Assuming that the form and specific gravity of a fish does not change, the weight may be expected to increase as the cube of the length, or, stated symbolically, $W = KL^3$. Although this relationship

TABLE 4
Age at First Spawning of Barracuda

Age in years	Total number females	Number mature females	Per cent mature females	Total number males	Number mature males	Per cent mature males
1	3,067	0	0	3,115	49	1.6
2	193	146	75.6	153	152	99.3
3	43	43	100.0	54	54	100.0

TABLE 4
Age at First Spawning of Barracuda

TABLE 5
Size at First Spawning of Barracuda, May 15 to July 25

Total length in centimeters	Females			Males		
	Total number	Number mature	Per cent mature	Total number	Number mature	Per cent mature
33				63	1	2
34				177	0	0
35				307	0	0
36				552	4	1
37				624	6	1
38				583	8	1
39	401	0	0	408	15	4
40	242	0	0	332	5	1
41	122	0	0	104	9	9
42	52	0	0	33	1	3
43	15	0	0	6	6	100
44	12	2	17	2	1	50
45	6	1	17	8	8	100
46	7	2	29	14	14	100
47	16	8	50	9	9	100
48	19	13	70	20	20	100
49	8	4	50	13	13	100
50	27	22	81	26	26	100
51	21	19	90	27	27	100
52	20	20	100	23	23	100
53	19	18	95	13	13	100
54	20	19	95	17	17	100
55	16	16	100	10	10	100
56	11	11	100	6	6	100
57	9	9	100	5	5	100
58	3	3	100	3	3	100
59	1	1	100	3	3	100
60	5	5	100	5	5	100
61	11	11	100	11	11	100
62	10	10	100	10	10	100
63	24	24	100	24	24	100
64	28	28	100			
65	38	38	100			
66	71	71	100			
67	68	68	100			
68	88	88	100			
69	96	96	100			
70	101	101	100			

TABLE 5
Size at First Spawning of Barracuda, May 15 to July 25

has been found to obtain in many animals, for example in the edible crab (Weymouth, 1918, p. Q86), a higher or lower exponent than the cube has been found for many species, for instance, in the Pismo clam (Weymouth, 1923, p. 66) and in the California sardine (Clark, 1928, p. 10). In other words, at the various lengths, the ratio [*weight/length*³] is in some animals not constant, but decreases with increase in length, or vice versa. In the barracuda, the value of *x* was found for the average weight at each length to be 2.983; for the average length at each weight 2.973—figures close enough to 3 to be demonstrative of but slight changes in configuration with increase of size. The value of

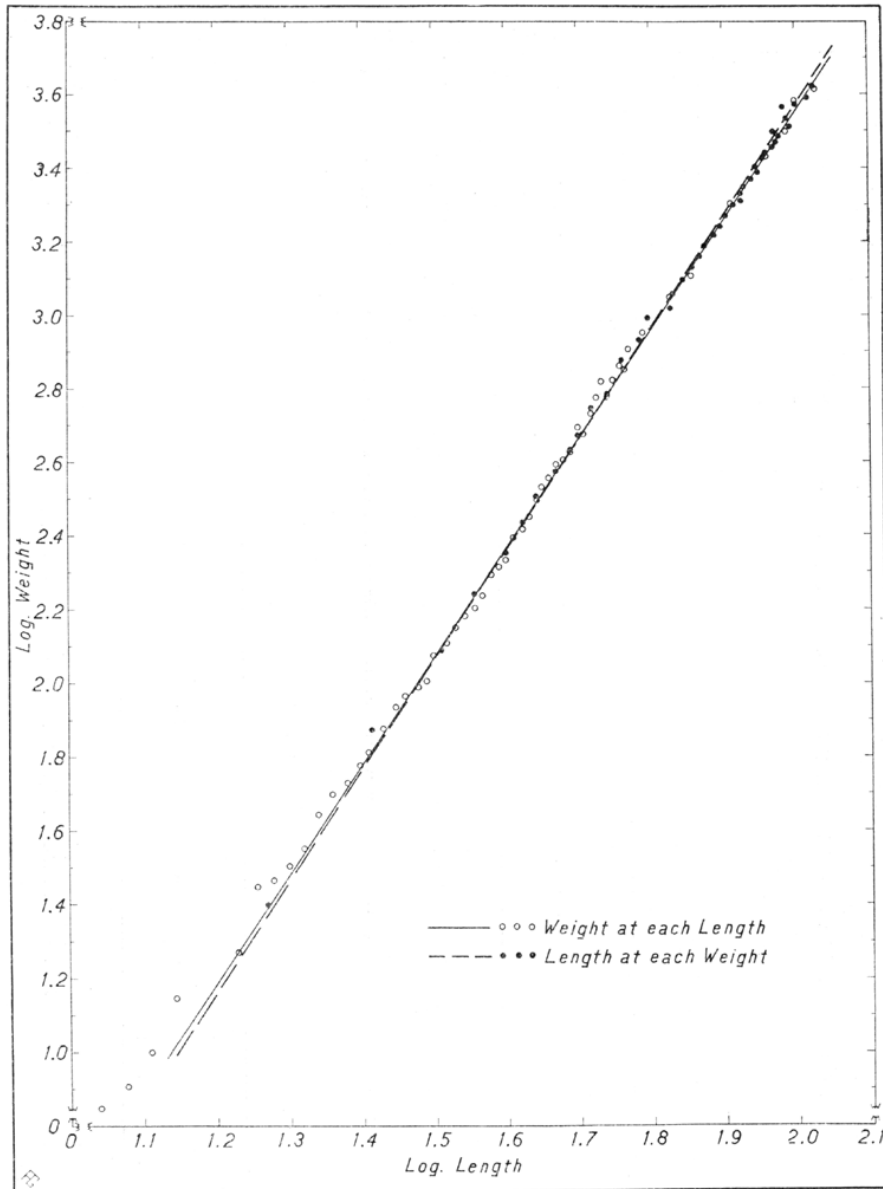


FIG. 29. Average weight at each length (solid line, open circles) compared with average length at each weight (broken line, black dots). The data are plotted on a logarithmic scale and fitted by the method of averages.

FIG. 29. Average weight at each length (solid line, open circles) compared with average length at each weight (broken line, black dots). The data are plotted on a logarithmic scale and fitted by the method of averages. K for the average weight at each length was .003962, thus making the formula for obtaining the weight in grams when the length is known, $W = .003962 L^{2.983}$. Figure 30 presents the weights (vertical lines) plotted against the lengths (horizontal lines) fitted with a curve constructed from the above formula. It is to be observed that at certain places on the curve, notably between 50 and 60 centimeters, and between 70 and 90, the original data digress more or less from the fitted curve, thus revealing complications in the rule. Apparently the value of

x changes during life, possibly at maturity (around 50 centimeters) and with advanced age, possibly seasonally. That the value of K changes seasonally has been demonstrated for other fishes, for example for the California sardine (Clark, 1928).

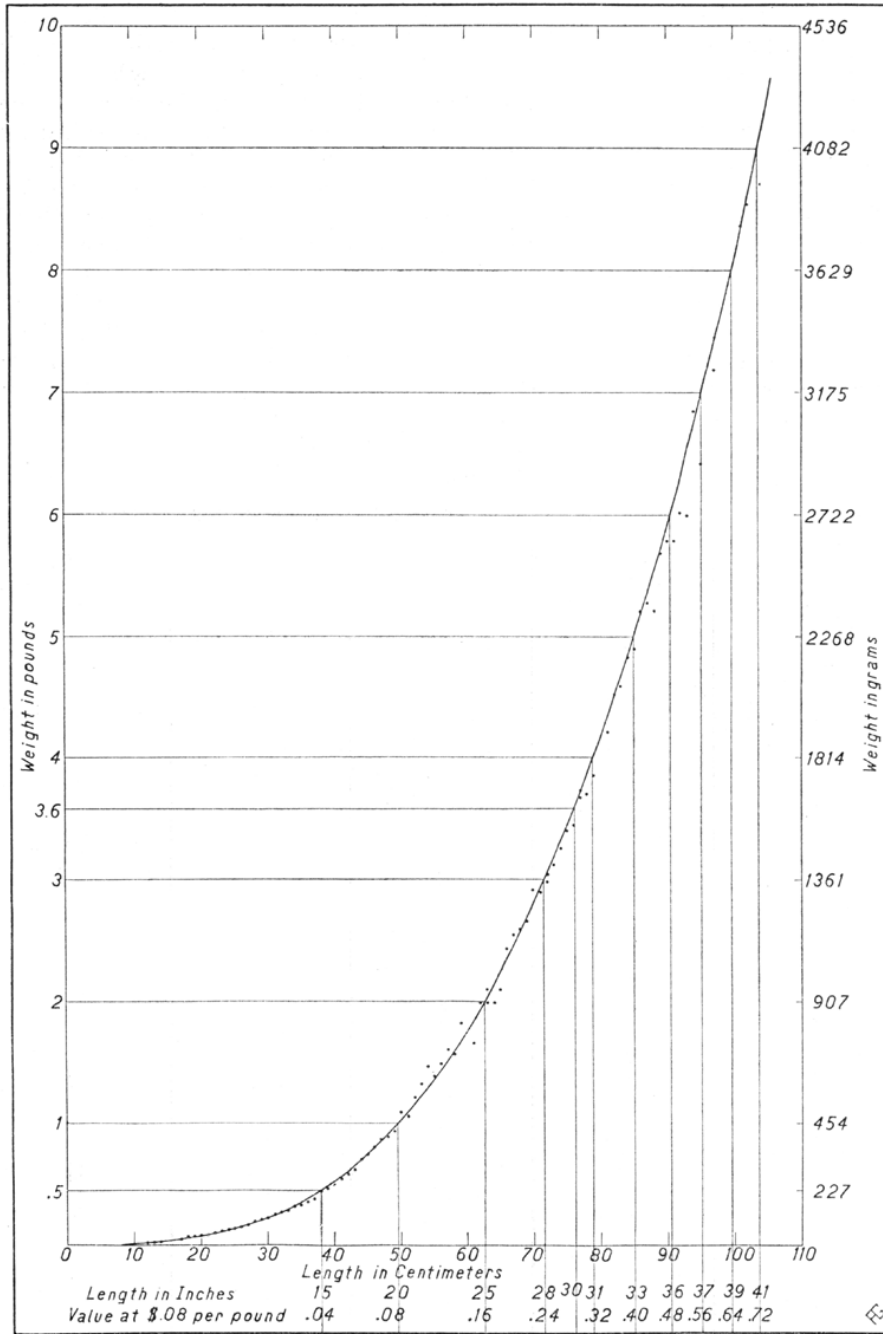


FIG. 30. Showing the calculated weight at each length and the value at eight cents per pound. The original observations, indicated by the black dots, are fitted by the method of averages.

FIG. 30. Showing the calculated weight at each length and the value at eight cents per pound. The original observations, indicated by the black dots, are fitted by the method of averages

1.3.4.2. Economic Bearing of Growth in Weight

Figure 30 also shows the weights in pounds and grams, the lengths in feet and centimeters, as well as the value of the fish in terms of 8 cents a pound, an arbitrary, roughly representative figure. The same data are presented in table 6. The salient revelations of figure 30 which are of interest economically are these: While growth in length proceeds rapidly at first, more slowly later, growth in weight, on the contrary, is relatively slow at first, rapid later. Since the value of the fish in terms of dollars and cents is directly dependent on weight, only indirectly dependent on length, the importance of the larger fish is of interest not only to conservationists, but of economic concern to the fish dealers. Table 7 gives the calculated weight for the average length of each year class, the value at 8 cents a pound, and the annual percentage increase in value per fish. Notwithstanding the fact that the subject is considerably complicated by the factor of mortality, it is obvious that up to a certain point, for maintaining a relatively high size limit, the fishermen are paid not only by the knowledge that they are helping to provide for the perpetuation of the supply, but by actual higher monetary returns for their efforts.

TABLE 6

A Table of Weights and Lengths of Barracuda Calculated from the Formula $W = .003962 L^2$.⁸³

Total length in centimeters	Total length in inches	Calculated weight in grams	Calculated weight in pounds	Value at 8 cents per pound
11.0	4.3	5		
13.0	5.1	8		
14.0	5.5	10		
17.0	6.7	19		
19.0	7.5	26		
21.0	8.3	35		
23.0	9.1	46		
25.0	9.8	59		
27.0	10.6	74		
29.0	11.4	91		
31.0	12.2	111		
33.0	13.0	134		
35.0	13.8	160		
37.0	14.6	188		
39.4	15.5	227	.5	.04
41.0	16.1	256		
43.0	16.9	295		
45.0	17.7	338		
47.0	18.5	385		
49.7	19.6	454	1.0	.08
51.0	20.1	491		
53.0	20.9	551		
55.0	21.7	615		
56.9	22.4	680	1.5	.12
57.0	22.4	684		
59.0	23.2	758		
62.7	24.7	907	2.0	.16
67.5	26.6	1,134	2.5	.20
71.8	28.3	1,361	3.0	.24
75.6	29.8	1,588	3.5	.28
79.1	31.4	1,814	4.0	.32
82.2	32.4	2,041	4.5	.36
85.2	33.5	2,268	5.0	.40
88.0	34.6	2,495	5.5	.44
90.6	35.7	2,722	6.0	.48
93.0	36.6	2,948	6.5	.52
95.4	37.6	3,175	7.0	.56
97.6	38.4	3,402	7.5	.60
99.8	39.3	3,629	8.0	.64
101.8	40.1	3,856	8.5	.68
103.8	40.8	4,082	9.0	.72
105.7	41.6	4,309	9.5	.76

TABLE 6

A Table of Weights and Lengths of Barracuda Calculated from the Formula $W = .003962 L^2$.⁸³

TABLE 7
Annual Increase in Value of Barracuda

Year class	Average total length in centimeters	Weight in pounds	Value in cents (at 8 cents per pound)	Annual percentage increase in value
1	35.39	.36	.03	
2	51.08	1.08	.09	200
3	62.82	2.02	.16	78
4	69.26	2.78	.22	38
5	74.71	3.37	.27	23
6	79.92	4.14	.33	22

TABLE 7
Annual Increase in Value of Barracuda

1.3.5. What Does the Three-Pound Limit Protect?

The foregoing discussion on the growth of the barracuda presents a reasonable basis for evaluating the protection afforded by the three-pound size limit. While the calculated length of the three-pound fish is 71.8 centimeters, or 28.3 inches, there is a variation in the actual measurements about this figure, some fish being larger, others smaller than 71.8 centimeters. Nevertheless, most measurements occur near the calculated value, others fall less near, but none occurs very far away. In other words, with each calculated weight as a median, the actual lengths can be arranged in normal probability curves. Figure 31 illustrates

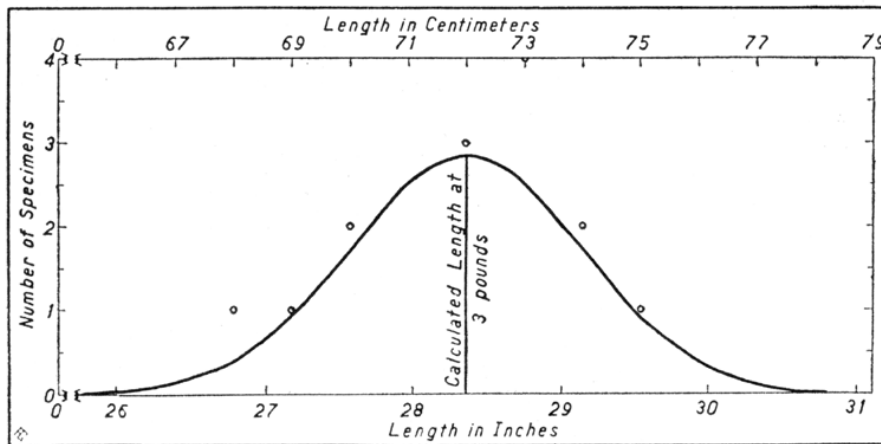


FIG. 31. Showing the normal distribution of lengths at three pounds.

FIG. 31. Showing the normal distribution of lengths at three pounds

this premise with a probability curve of the lengths which occur from 1304 to 1417 grams (2.875 and 3.124 pounds). The average deviation of the actual lengths from the calculated lengths of 66 to 78 centimeters was $2.057 \pm .026$ centimeters or $.810 \pm .0102$ inches. In spite of these biological variations, since there are theoretically as many three-pound fish that are longer as there are that are shorter than 28.3 inches, it is justifiable to use this length, without regard to variations, in our study.

If the three-pound limit operated with exactitude, there should be in the markets a rather abrupt drop in the numbers of fish shorter than 28.3 inches. Such a precise operation of the law, however, would have to presuppose many conditions which do not exist. In the first place, as willing as fishermen may be to cooperate in the enforcement of this law, certain conditions prevent their knowing when they are not strictly observing it. Since no fishing boat carries scales, fishermen must trust to their judgment in separating the legal from the illegal sized fish.

When the fish reach the markets, they are packed by the fishermen into boxes, which are then hauled ashore and weighed. Soon after the fish are delivered into the markets, they are removed from the boxes, thrown on to the butchers' tables, cleaned and washed. Since during the heights of the season, many hundreds of fish must be cleaned daily, and since barracuda spoil rather readily while not on ice, and soften with much handling, speed is an essential qualification of the butchers. To weigh each fish individually would lessen the speed considerably, increase the handling, and the expense of handling, would make the law very unpopular, and probably lead to an economic loss. Consequently the marketmen as well as the fishermen must depend upon personal judgment in distinguishing illegal sized fish. As for the law enforcement machinery of the California Division of Fish and Game, additional complicating factors obtain. Is a man's catch to be seized, for example, because in a box of fish there happens to be two or three specimens that are 2.9 pounds? The prevalence of borderline cases such as this requires the continual judgment of the officers. Furthermore, to maintain a staff of officers to weigh and approve each fish individually would not only hasten the spoilage of the fish, but would be a clumsy, inept enforcement of the letter of the law. The officers make seizures and arrests in cases where there has been obvious intention of breaking the law, or where the number of borderline or small sizes is more than incidental.

In view of the foregoing facts, it is not surprising that some percentage of the commercial catch consists of under-sized fish. During the entire 1928 season, measurements were taken of the fish which were observed for condition of maturity. These fish were measured on the tables during the cleaning, without regard to size. Since this work was carried on in all markets, the catches of many of the boats were sampled, and the total data should be a fair representation of the entire commercial

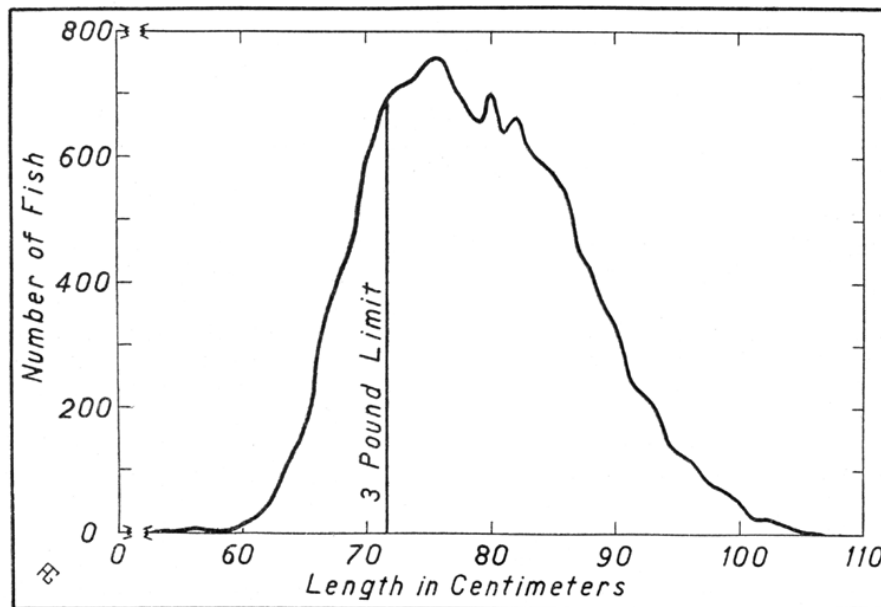


FIG. 32. Size distribution of fish taken in the markets, showing the proportion of illegal sized fish that occurs in the commercial catch.

FIG. 32. Size distribution of fish taken in the markets, showing the proportion of illegal sized fish that occurs in the commercial catch

catch. Figure 32 presents graphically the number of fish at each length, a total of 16,367 specimens. It can be calculated from these data, that 16 per cent of the fish sold in the markets in 1928 were undersized. While the figures presented are for one year only, the presence of a not inconsiderable proportion of small fish was observed in 1927 and again in 1930. Table 8, in which the numbers of fish sampled and the amounts and percentages of undersized fish are tabulated by gears and by location of catches, shows that apparently only the catches made off the mainland contain undersized fish; those made off the islands contain practically none.

TABLE 8
Undersized Fish by Gears and by Districts

<i>Gear</i>	<i>Mainland Fish</i>			<i>Island Fish</i>		
	<i>Number specimens</i>	<i>Number undersized</i>	<i>Per cent undersized</i>	<i>Number specimens</i>	<i>Number undersized</i>	<i>Per cent undersized</i>
Gill nets -----	10,351	1,420	13.72	--	--	--
Circle nets -----	1,922	511	26.59	1,249	23	1.84
Jigs -----	2,650	702	26.49	195	4	2.05
Totals -----	14,923	2,633	17.64	1,444	27	1.87

TABLE 8
Undersized Fish by Gears and by Districts

In spite of the relatively low numbers in the sample of fish taken by the circle nets and jigs, the close observance given to the fishery in 1928, and the rather extensive field work, lends assurance to the belief that these figures are a fair representation of the proportions of barracuda fishing carried on by the different types of gears, and that these samples are reasonably representative of the catches. The evidence at hand, then, not only gives some degree of support to the contention that circle net boats land a greater proportion of undersized fish than do the gill net boats, but also shows a like tendency on the part of the jig boats.

By comparing now figure 32 with figure 23, some idea of the real protective value of the three-pound limit may be gained. All of the one-year-old fish are protected, practically all of the two and most of the three. Theoretically most of the four and some of the five are protected, but in actual practice, none of the five, and if we may judge by the symmetrical, almost "bell-shaped" curve of the four-year-olds, the four-year fish are little, if at all, restricted from the commercial catch.

Since 75 per cent of the females spawn in the second year, and 100 per cent in the third, it is evident that 100 per cent of the fish are protected during at least one spawning season, less than 75 per cent during two, possibly a small percentage during three. However, the relation between the size of fish and number of mature eggs produced makes clear that the first spawning season, and perhaps even the second, should not be depended upon to maintain the species. Whether the three-pound limit has given adequate protection to the barracuda, it is not possible to say in the light of present knowledge. The decrease in total catch since 1925 may possibly be explained by the suppression of the purse seine rather than by a depletion of the population. An investigation and analysis of the statistics of the barracuda catch should give a more adequate basis for judgment. In any case, it is certain that if a size limit is to operate efficiently, it should be stated in terms of length rather than weight, so that the fishermen on the fishing

grounds can have a more convenient and practicable method of distinguishing illegal sized fish than is afforded by scales. Furthermore, the above evidence argues that when it is decided what size limit is desired, a higher figure than this limit should be designated as legal in order to make allowance for the proportion of undersized fish which gets into the catch.

1.4. SUMMARY

- 1. Practically nothing has been written on the biology of any of the barracudas of the world.**
- 2. The only species of barracuda which reaches California markets, *Sphyrna argentea*, occurs from Cape San Lucas north to Puget Sound, but is taken in important numbers only south of Ventura County.**
- 3. Catches are made in California from March until October, mostly in May, and in Mexico for delivery into California, from October until March.**
- 4. There is a tendency for catches to be made farther north as the season progresses.**
- 5. The commercial catch comprises fish from about 53 to about 108 centimeters.**
- 6. Evidence is presented to show that fish from the Channel Islands are larger than those taken near the mainland.**
- 7. There are three types of fishing gear used to catch barracuda: gill nets, circle nets and jigs.**
- 8. At present (January, 1931), three pounds is the minimum size legally permitted to be taken.**
- 9. The material for this study was gathered from the San Pedro fish markets and in special hauls which were made between Newport and Santa Monica.**
- 10. Evidence is presented to show that:**
 - a. Barracuda spawn between April and September, a period concurring rather closely with the fishing season.**
 - b. Only a small proportion of the females spawns at the same time, the relative number fluctuating throughout the season.**
 - c. There is a tendency for the relative number of males to fluctuate as the relative number of spawning females.**
 - d. Individual fish spawn more than once each season.**
 - e. The number of mature eggs produced varies, the large fish producing more eggs than do the smaller.**
 - f. During the first year, there is a slackening in growth between December and March.**
 - g. Annuli were observed to form on the scales of first year fish between the beginning of May and the end of June, and on the scales of older fish between the beginning of June and the beginning of August.**

- h. Age may be interpreted from the scales with reasonable accuracy up to the seventh year.
- i. Growth proceeds at about the same rate for both sexes until the fourth year, when the females appear to be about 3 percent larger than the males.
- j. Barracuda attain an age of at least 11 years.
- k. Of the females, 75 percent spawn in the second year, 100 percent in the third; of the males, a small percentage spawn in the first year, 100 percent in the second.
- l. Spawning, at least in the females, and in the region studied, is more closely related to size than to age.
- m. The usual length-weight relationship was found to obtain, that is, $W=KL^x$, value of x being in these data 2.983.
- n. As the present three-pound limit operates, only the first three year classes are protected from commercial fishing.

1.5. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A statistical analysis should be made on the catch records of the California barracuda, in order to learn the present condition of the population.

2. The present size limit of three pounds should be changed to not less than thirty inches.

1.6. LITERATURE CITED

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1.7. PLATE I

1—Barracuda scale of a year class 0 specimen taken in August, 1927, showing no annulus. (Magnified about 85 diameters.)

2—Scale of a year class I specimen taken in April, 1928, showing no annulus. (Magnified about 60 diameters.)

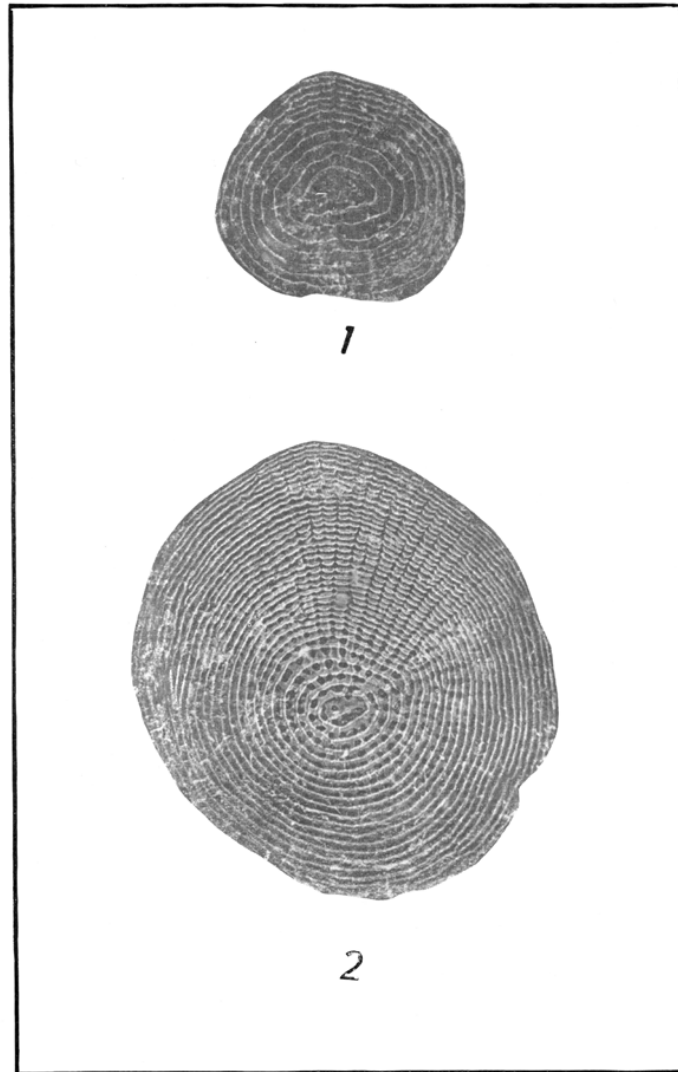


PLATE I

1.8. PLATE II

3—Scale from a year class I specimen, showing 1 annulus.

4—Scale from a year class II specimen, showing 2 annuli.

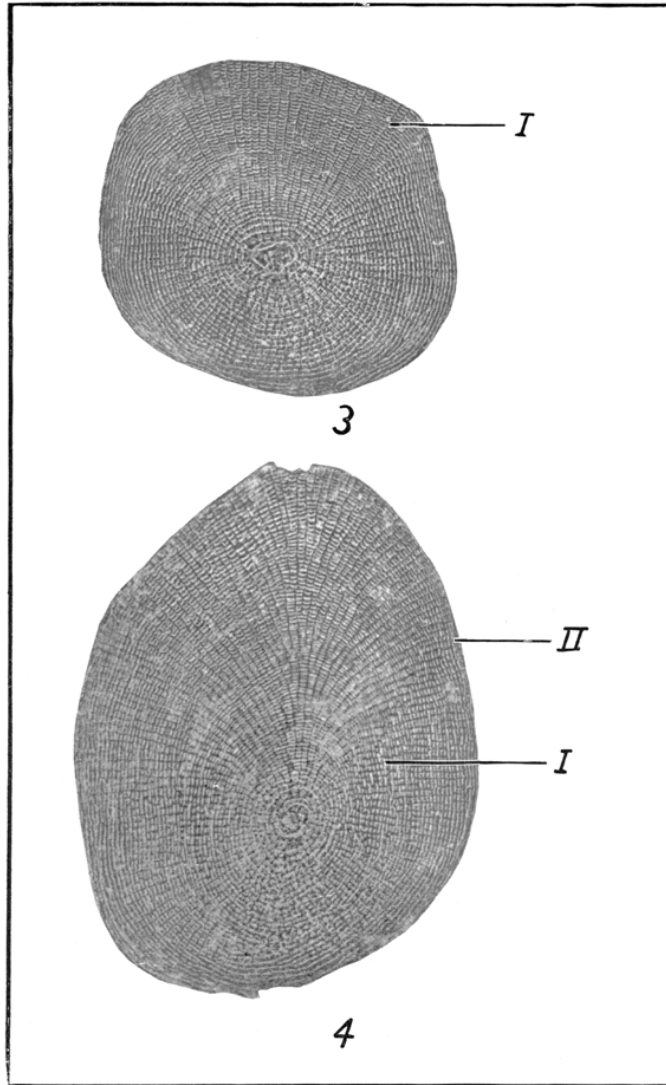


PLATE II

1.9. PLATE III

Scale of a year class III specimen, showing 3 annuli.

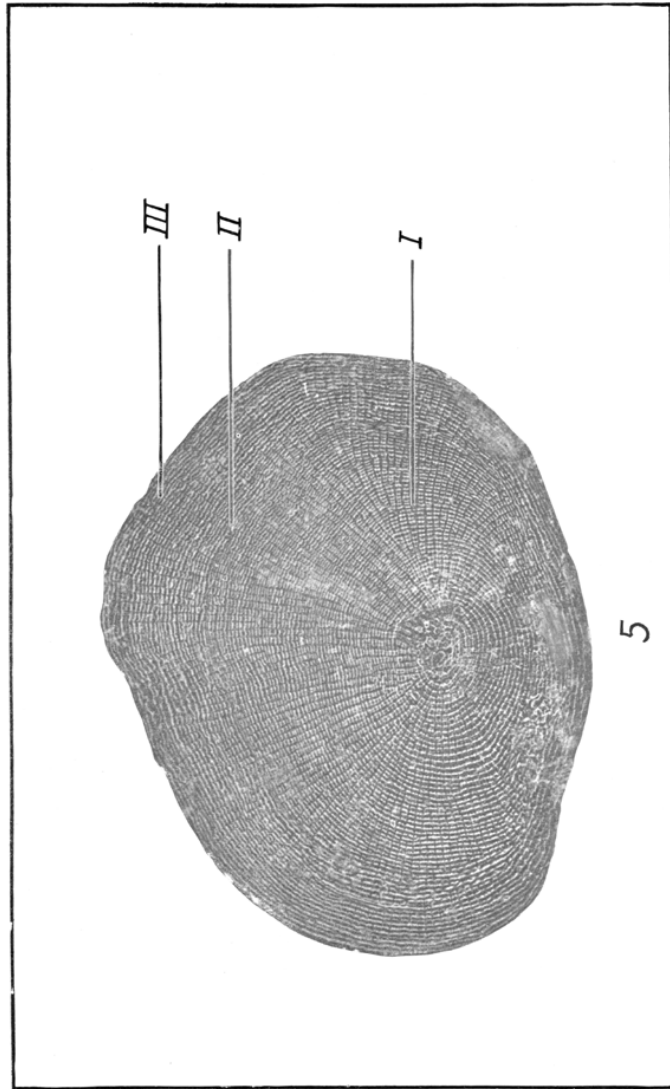
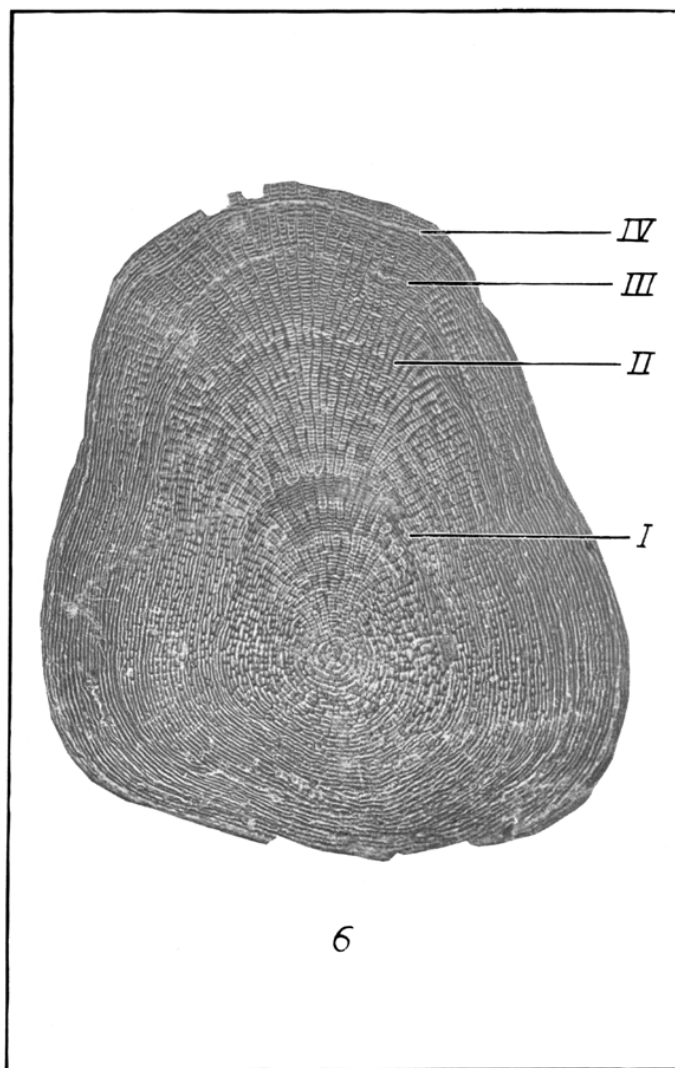


PLATE III

1.10. PLATE IV

Scale of a year class IV specimen, showing 4 annuli.



Insert 2—95288

PLATE IV

1.11. PLATE V

Scale of a year class V specimen, showing 5 annuli.

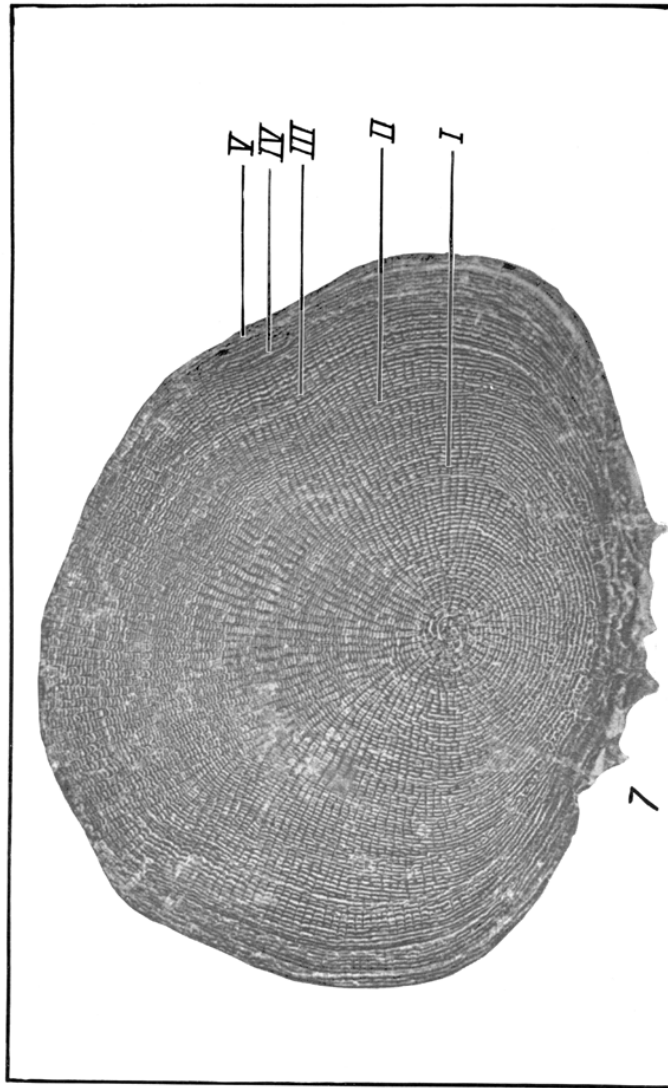
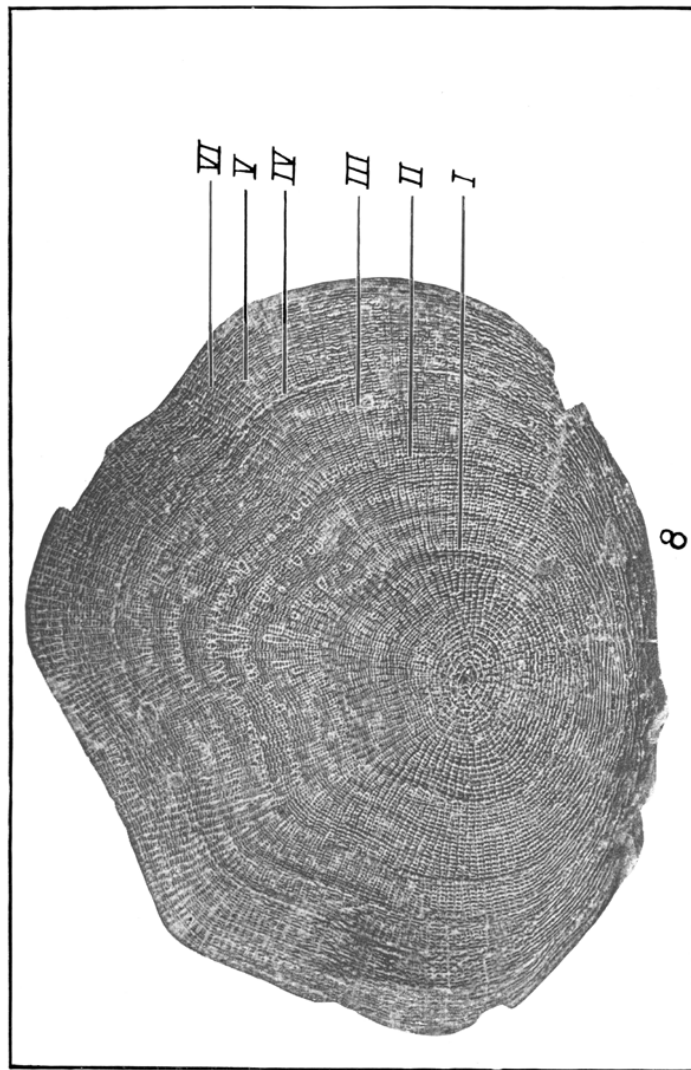


PLATE V

1.12. PLATE VI

Scale from a specimen older than 6 years, showing at least 6 annuli.



Insert 3—95288

PLATE VI

TABLE 9
Daily Spawning Observations, 1928

Date	Total number females	Females			Total number males	Males	
		Number immature (Stage a)	Number mature (Stage c)	Number spent (Stage d)		Number immature (Stage A)	Number spent (Stage C)
April 2	6	1			1		
April 10	19	15			29	1	
April 13	58	5			34	24	
April 16	45	13			37	4	
April 17	38	6			37	10	
April 23	102	1			104	2	
April 25	37	1			36		
April 26	15				16		
April 27	33				45		
April 28	134				167		
May 2	27		12		34		
May 3	45		1		21		
May 4	104		27		153		
May 5	84		30		45		
May 7	100				15		
May 8	159	1	4		41		
May 11	273		7		249		
May 14	103				127		
May 15	46				40		
May 16	100		11		117		
May 17	101		7		97		
May 18	100		4		92		
May 19	111		7		73		
May 21	25				11		
May 22	100	1	4		96		
May 23	106		6		77		
May 24	100				63		
May 25	81		3		80		
May 26	100		3		98		
May 28	100		5		96		
May 29	81		16		75		
May 30	100		45		305		
May 31	107		54		107		
June 1	100		6		94		
June 2	138		11		216		
June 4	61		6		131		
June 5	86		7		120		
June 6	27		1		119		
June 7	100		25		180		
June 8	44		14		172		
June 9	62		8		156		
June 11	86		4		113		
June 12	53		5		63		
June 13	52		1		81		
June 14	60		4		81		
June 15	101		6		139		
June 16	102		9		109		
June 18	100		18		63		
June 19	100		13		111		
June 20	52		8		230		
June 21	65		14		183		
June 22	65		24		168		
June 23	100		9		140		
June 25	100		10		119		
June 26	55		17		179		
June 27	100		16		109		
June 28	104		15		68		
June 29	101		13		67		
June 30	45		11		48		
July 2	50		2		31		
July 3	63		7		76		
July 5	108		4		60		
July 6	100		14		92		
July 7	100		5		83		
July 9	100		2		110		
July 10	100		1		126		
July 11	100		7		117		
July 12	100		7		107		
July 13	63		7		60		
July 14	77		1		112		
July 16	100		8		97		
July 17	100		25		137		
July 18	58		1		65		
July 19	21		7		21		
July 20	76		8		101		

TABLE 9
Daily Spawning Observations, 1928

TABLE 9—Continued
Daily Spawning Observations, 1928

Date	Total number females	Females			Total number males	Males	
		Number immature (Stage a)	Number mature (Stage c)	Number spent (Stage d)		Number immature (Stage A)	Number spent (Stage C)
July 21	52		4		45		
July 22	35				36		
July 23	51				94		
July 24	100		1		116		
July 25	102				88		
July 26	100				82		
July 27	65				70		
July 31	100				130		
Aug. 1	100				116		
Aug. 2	100				138		
Aug. 3	100				125		
Aug. 4	42				77		1
Aug. 6	100		1		208		
Aug. 7	100				200		
Aug. 8	100				201		
Aug. 9	33				37		
Aug. 10	82		1		99		
Aug. 11	20				59		
Aug. 13	99		6	5	110		11
Aug. 14	75				134		
Aug. 15	67		8		51		
Aug. 21	21			1	10		2
Aug. 22	100			6	129		32
Aug. 23	38		11	1	47		
Aug. 28	95				108		15
Aug. 30	100		1		72		21
Sept. 19	100			95	80		74

TABLE 9
Daily Spawning Observations, 1928

TABLE 10
Average Total Lengths of Year Class 1927 by Half-Monthly Periods, Showing the First Year's Growth

Period	Average Total length (cm.)	Standard deviation	Standard error (+ or -)	Number of specimens
July 16-31, 1927	10.2	.94	.222	18
Aug. 1-15, 1927	12.1	.86	.037	545
Aug. 16-31, 1927	15.3	.95	.072	174
Sept. 1-15, 1927	19.5	1.58	.069	522
Sept. 16-30, 1927	22.1	1.60	.039	1,726
Oct. 1-15, 1927	24.2	1.58	.046	1,195
Oct. 16-31, 1927	26.2	1.55	.041	1,435
Nov. 1-15, 1927	26.9	1.41	.054	691
Nov. 16-30, 1927	29.4	1.58	.049	1,033
Dec. 1-15, 1927	29.8	1.91	.068	767
Dec. 16-31, 1927	31.4	1.42	.034	1,699
Jan. 1-15, 1928	31.1	1.80	.112	258
Jan. 16-31, 1928	31.0	3.06	.191	257
Feb. 1-15, 1928	32.0	2.71	.277	96
Feb. 16-29, 1928	31.7	2.07	.128	263
Mar. 1-15, 1928	32.3	2.95	.136	474
Mar. 16-31, 1928	33.1	1.55	.043	1,298
April 1-15, 1928	33.4	2.89	.119	587
April 16-30, 1928	34.0	1.52	.041	1,400
May 1-15, 1928	34.6	2.05	.175	137
May 16-31, 1928	36.5	1.85	.055	1,099
June 1-15, 1928	36.9	2.11	.065	1,057
June 16-30, 1928	37.6	2.02	.040	2,501
July 1-15, 1928	38.4	1.97	.056	1,250
July 16-31, 1928	39.9	3.41	.151	511

TABLE 10
Average Total Lengths of Year Class 1927 by Half-Monthly Periods, Showing the First Year's Growth

TABLE 11
Time of Annulus Formation—Year Class I

Date	Number examined	Number with annuli	Per cent with annuli
1928 (Year class 1927)			
July 24-30.....	18	0	0
July 31-Aug. 6.....	50	0	0
Aug. 7-13.....	42	0	0
Aug. 14-20.....	15	0	0
Aug. 21-27.....	20	0	0
Aug. 28-Sept. 3.....	24	0	0
Sept. 4-10.....	10	0	0
Sept. 11-17.....	50	0	0
Sept. 18-24.....	25	0	0
Sept. 25-Oct. 1.....	30	0	0
Oct. 2-8.....	20	0	0
Oct. 9-15.....	20	0	0
Oct. 16-22.....	25	0	0
Oct. 23-29.....	50	0	0
Oct. 30-Nov. 5.....	35	0	0
Nov. 6-12.....	8	0	0
Nov. 13-19.....	23	0	0
Nov. 20-26.....	40	0	0
Nov. 27-Dec. 3.....	46	0	0
Dec. 4-10.....	40	0	0
Dec. 11-17.....	45	0	0
Dec. 18-24.....	30	0	0
Dec. 25-31.....	39	0	0
Jan. 1-7.....	20	0	0
Jan. 8-14.....	35	0	0
Jan. 15-21.....	20	0	0
Jan. 22-28.....	22	0	0
Jan. 29-Feb. 4.....	28	0	0
Feb. 5-11.....	42	0	0
Feb. 12-18.....	50	0	0
Feb. 19-25.....	50	0	0
Feb. 26-Mar. 3.....	50	0	0
Mar. 4-10.....	50	0	0
Mar. 11-17.....	75	0	0
Mar. 18-24.....	25	0	0
Mar. 25-31.....	76	0	0
April 1-7.....	100	0	0
April 8-14.....	26	0	0
April 15-21.....	14	0	0
April 22-28.....	64	7	11
April 29-May 5.....	77	12	16
May 6-12.....	33	19	36
May 13-19.....	133	66	50
May 20-26.....	35	21	60
May 27-June 2.....	60	45	75
June 3-9.....	115	108	94
June 10-16.....	81	80	99
June 17-23.....	55	55	100
June 24-30.....	55	55	100
July 1-7.....	81	81	100
July 8-14.....	81	81	100
July 15-21.....	81	81	100
July 22-28.....	81	81	100
1927 (Year class 1926)			
July 1-7.....	152	152	100
Total.....	2,359		

TABLE 11
Time of Annulus Formation—Year Class I

TABLE 12
Time of Annulus Formation—Market Sizes

Date	Number examined	Number with annuli	Per cent with annuli
1928			
April 1-7	5	0	0
April 8-14	69	0	0
April 15-21	81	0	0
April 22-28	182	2	1
April 29-May 5	21	0	0
May 6-12	264	2	1
May 13-19	180	0	0
May 20-26			
May 27-June 2	153	1	1
June 3-9	241	2	1
June 10-16	217	6	3
June 17-23	256	20	8
June 24-30	293	104	35
July 1-7	184	146	79
1927			
Aug. 12	175	175	100
Sept. 9	90	90	100

TABLE 12
Time of Annulus Formation—Market Sizes

TABLE 13
Average Length at Each Age Class

Age class	Males		Females		Total fish	
	Mean total length (cm.)	Standard error (+ or -)	Mean total length (cm.)	Standard error (+ or -)	Mean total length (cm.)	Standard error (+ or -)
0					11.49	.118
I	34.95	.161	34.43	.134	35.39	.113
II	50.85	.250	50.79	.262	51.08	.182
III	62.53	.369	62.72	.439	62.82	.284
IV	68.49	.117	69.96	.152	69.26	.100
V	73.85	.103	75.37	.144	74.71	.091
VI	78.85	.141	80.78	.199	79.92	.123

TABLE 13
Average Length at Each Age Class

TABLE 14
Total Lengths of Barracuda, the Ages of Which Were Determined from Scales, April 1—July 8, 1928

Total length (cm.)	Year classes														
	0	I		II		III		IV		V		VI		VII +	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
8	3														
9	8														
10	20														
11	33														
12	28														
13	8														
14															
15															
16															
17															
18															
19															
20															
21															
22															
23															
24															
25		2													
26		5	1												
27		1	1												
28		4	2												
29		4	3												
30		9	6												
31		15	9												
32		24	20												
33		32	35												
34		49	52												
35		42	34												
36		31	40												
37		30	32												
38		33	41												
39		15	25												
40		2	12		1										
41			4												
42			2	4	4										
43			1	6	1										
44				2	12										
45				8	6										
46				14	7										
47				9	16										
48				20	16										
49				13	8										
50				26	27										

DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME

TABLE 14
Total Lengths of Barracuda, the Ages of Which Were Determined from Scales, April 1—July 8, 1928

TABLE 15
 Comparison of the Lengths of Barracuda from the Channel Islands and from the Mainland
 Samples taken during 1928

Total length (cm.)	Frequency	
	Island fish	Mainland fish
53		1
54		3
55		4
56		8
57		5
58		6
59		8
60		15
61		25
62		47
63	1	81
64		126
65		176
66	5	278
67	3	366
68	8	417
69	4	471
70	6	596
71	1	654
72	3	704
73	2	716
74	8	716
75	10	745
76	13	744
77	15	689
78	33	649
79	26	627
80	40	663
81	47	592
82	57	607
83	66	544
84	69	524
85	77	501
86	103	439
87	76	373
88	93	330
89	91	275
90	100	236
91	77	177
92	83	139
93	87	121
94	69	82
95	60	68
96	64	54
97	44	40
98	47	27
99	33	35
100	29	22
101	20	1
102	12	12
103	11	7
104	8	4
105	4	
106	2	
107	1	
108	1	
Totals	1,608	14,759

TABLE 15
 Comparison of the Lengths of Barracuda from the Channel Islands and from the Mainland

TABLE 16
Frequency Table—Total Lengths of Fish Taken in Special Hauls in 1927-1928

Total length (cm.)	1927												1928														
	July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		July		
	15-31	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-30	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-30	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-29	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-30	1-15	15-31	1-15	15-30	1-15	15-31		
1																											
2																											
3																											
4																											
5																											
6																											
7																											
8	2	1																									2
9	5	4																									4
10	7	36																									36
11	4	208																									208
12		216	2																								216
13		28	10	1	2																						10
14		54	2	1																							54
15		20	11																								20
16		33	25	2																							33
17			45	4	1																						45
18			78	33	1																						78
19			173	105	8	1	1	1	1	3																	173
20			124	266	22	1				2																	124
21			39	416	55	2				1	4	1															39
22	1		15	419	158	6	1			3	1	1															15
23			9	234	284	59	13	1	3	2	1	6	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	3						9
24				127	354	177	38	2	8	1	2	5	2	4	2	4	2	3	11	3							
25				46	193	372	108	7	3	1	2	5	3	1	4												46
26	1			11	96	449	221	54	15	3	2	4	2	3	11	3											11
27	1	1			33	247	187	83	42	12	2	3	3	5	6	9	4	5	1								1
28	7	1			9	119	85	257	95	45	13	6	5	5	9	9	2	1	2								7
29	3	1			1	17	21	287	195	180	35	18	6	13	16	13	6	11	1	2							3
30	3	7	2		1	3	16	187	208	285	47	48	11	29	39	60	13	26	4	6							3
31		11	3	1	2			2	103	132	254	78	50	14	73	78	185	30	74	4	8						11
32	4	14	13	1	6			49	47	372	46	39	21	68	82	323	93	213	17	17							4
33	1	19	39	19	25	2		1	8	5	135	25	27	13	45	95	347	123	341	21	38						1
34	5	23	48	13	19	7	3		1	1	32	4	26	9	14	49	237	122	381	32	128						5
35	1	22	35	17	26	10	4				5		6	7	2	47	144	89	213	19	213	121	183	65	15	1	
36	2	33	46	10	27	9	11	4																			2
37	1	24	57	11	13	8	13	1			3	1				6	1	6	39	8	229	258	355	229	35	1	

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TABLE 16
Frequency Table—Total Lengths of Fish Taken in Special Hauls in 1927-1928

TABLE 16—Continued
Frequency Table—Total Lengths of Fish Taken in Special Hauls in 1927-1928

Total length (cm.)	1927												1928													
	July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		July	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31
38	1	48	38	18	8	6	17	1	5	3	1	1	1	3	1	4	7	9	102	170	545	273	54			
39	1	40	62	17	12	10	16	5	6	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	51	78	331	259	99			
40	1	59	34	14	10	6	15	4	6	2	1	11	3	3	3	9	5	8	12	23	173	189	114			
41	4	31	33	9	11	8	11	3	9	1	3	2	8	1	11	11	4	8	6	12	66	62	92			
42	1	23	22	6	9	10	22	4	5	2	5	1	2	19	9	27	19	2	1	4	4	8	13	36		
43	1	44	18	4	9	11	21	4	3	1	4	2	18	25	59	9	8	1	3	3	4	5	17	4		
44	1	35	12	4	7	14	24	6	3	1	7	2	28	22	45	7	8	6	6	4	1	3	1	4		
45	1	25	6	2	1	2	15	1	5	1	3	1	28	22	45	10	10	6	5	4	1	3	1	4		
46	1	11	4	7	3	7	14	1	9	2	1	1	11	21	41	8	24	4	10	8	3	1	2			
47	1	12	5	3	2	5	4	2	1	1	1	2	11	2	26	22	35	15	9	9	1	1	2			
48	1	5	3	2	1	9	7	1	1	1	2	20	13	28	20	2	37	11	8	23	1	1	2			
49	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	16	7	1	44	9	6	53	22	28	22	1	1			
50	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	7	8	1	41	14	1	44	21	27	29	1	1			
51	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	38	13	1	38	13	18	18	1	1			
52	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	7	1	8	13	15	15	1	1			
53	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	37	4	32	28	15	27	1	1			
54	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	34	3	1	21	18	18	1	1			
55	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	12	13	13	13	15	1	1	2			
56	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	4	1	13	12	13	15	1	1			
57	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	1	1	8	18	12	14	1	1			
58	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	1	4	15	11	2	1			
59	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	6	8	1	6	1	1			
60	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	3	1	1			
61	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	4	3	4	1	1			
62	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
63	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
64	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
65	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
66	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
67	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
68	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
69	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
71	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
72	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			

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TABLE 16
Frequency Table—Total Lengths of Fish Taken in Special Hauls in 1927-1928

2. II
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BARRACUDAS

2.1. INTRODUCTION

Although this list is by no means a complete bibliography to the Sphyraenidae, it does contain most of the important articles published to date (September, 1931) that refer to this family or its members. The libraries consulted in making this compilation were those of the California State Fisheries Laboratory, the University of California, and of Stanford University. Each of the publications listed is in at least one of these libraries. All were examined by the author, and, since the importance of articles depends so much upon the needs of the individual no evaluation is made of any entry.

2.2. AUTHORS' LIST OF TITLES

2.2.1. A

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2.2.21. Y

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NOTE.—Entries marked with an asterisk (*) are illustrated. The abbreviation *S.* refers to the generic name *Sphyræna*.

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Panama (East Coast)	-
Meek and Hildebrand, 1923.	*
Parasites on—	-
Linton, 1908.1, 1910.	*
Wilson, 1905, 1911.	*
Porto Rico	-
Evermann and Marsh, 1902.	*
Fowler, 1904.1.	*
Sumatra	-
Fowler and Bean, 1927.	*
Tortugas	-
Jordan, 1904.	*
Jordan and Thompson, 1905.	*
S. BECUNE (BECUNA)	-
Description	-
Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.	*
Guichenot, 1853.	*
Storer, 1846.	*
Poison from eating	-
Tybring, 1886.	*
West Indies	-
Moreau de Jonnés, 1819.	*
S. BOLCENSIS (Fossil Form)	-
Eocene of Monte Bolca	-
Eastman, 1911.	*
General	-
Agassiz, 1843.*	*
Pictet, 1854.	*
Woodward, 1901.	*
Zittel, 1890.	*
S. BOREALIS	-
Aquaria	-
Bean, 1897.	*
Atlantic coast (America)	-
Breder, 1929.*	*
Nichols and Breder, 1927.	*
Bermuda	-
Bean, 1906.	*
Cape Cod to Florida	-
Gill, 1873.	*
Carolina	-
Coles, 1910.	*
Jordan, 1886.1.	*
Smith, 1907.*	*
Yarrow, 1877.	*

Description	-
Jordan and Evermann, 1896.2.	*
Meek and Newland, 1884.	*
Storer, 1846.	*
Distribution	-
Jordan and Evermann, 1896.1.	*
Jordan, Evermann and Clark, 1930.	*
First described	-
De Kay, 1842.	*
Florida	-
Evermann and Kendall, 1900.	*
Goode and Bean, 1880.	*
Food	-
Linton, 1901, 1905.	*
Maryland	-
Hildebrand and Schroeder, 1928.*	*
Massachusetts	-
Smith, 1898.	*
Sumner, Osburn and Cole, 1913.	*
Natural history	-
Goode, 1879.	*
New Jersey	-
Abbott, 1868.	*
Bean, 1889.	*
Fowler, 1905.*, 1920.1.	*
New York	-
Bean, 1903.	*
Breder, 1925.	*
De Kay, 1842.	*
Latham, 1919.	*
Panama	-
Meek and Hildebrand, 1923.	*
Parasites on—	-
Linton, 1901, 1905.	*
Same as S. spet	-
Goode, 1884.*	*
Jordan and Gilbert, 1878.	*
Same as S. sphyraena	-
Collett, 1896.	*
Jordan, 1884.1.	*
Scales	-
Cockerell, 1914.*	*
West Indies	-
Fowler, 1904.1.	*
S. BRACHYGNATHOS [BRACHYGNATHUS]	-
Description	-
Günther, 1860.	*
Indian Archipelago	-
Bleeker, 1854.2.	*
Indo-Australian Archipelago	-
Weber and Beaufort, 1922.	*
S. CHRYSOTAENIA.	-
First described, Red Sea	-
Klunzinger, 1884.	*
S. COMMERSONII	-
Africa, south	-
Barnard, 1925.	*
Gilchrist and Thompson, 1909.	*
Australia	-
Macleay, 1882.	*
Saville-Kent, 1893.	*
Description	-
Günther, 1860.	*
Dutch East Indies	-
Weber, 1913.	*
Fiji	-
Whitley, 1927.	*
Fins (Anatomy)	-
Bridge, 1896.	*
First described	-
Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.	*
Hawaii	-
Fowler, 1922.	*
Jenkins, O. P., 1904.	*
Jordan and Snyder, 1907.	*
Snyder, 1904.	*
India	-
Day, 1888, 1889.	*
Indian Archipelago	-
Bleeker, 1854.2.	*
Malay	-
Maxwell, 1921.	*
Oceania	-
Fowler, 1901.	*
Philippine Islands	-
Jordan and Richardson, 1908.	*
Riu-Kiu Islands	-
Snyder, 1912.2.	*
Same as S. plicata	-
Weber and Beaufort, 1921.	*
S. DENTATUS	-
Saville-Kent, 1893.	*
S. DUBIA	-
Africa, west	-
Pellegrin, 1914.	*
Liberia	-
Steindachner, 1895.	*
S. DUSSUMIERI	-
Description	-
Günther, 1860.	*
S. ENNIS	-
Description	-
Jordan and Evermann, 1896.2.	*
Meek and Newland, 1884.	*
Distribution	-
Jordan and Evermann, 1896.1.	*
Jordan, Evermann and Clark, 1930.	*
Gulf of California	-
Gilbert and Starks, 1904.	*
Magdalena Bay	-
California Fish and Game, 1923.	*

Mexico (West Coast)	*
Jordan and Gilbert, 1882.1.	+
Panama (Pacific)	*
Fowler, 1904.1.	+
Gilbert and Starks, 1904.	+
Meek and Hildebrand, 1923.	+
S. FLAVICAUDA	-
Description	*
Günther, 1860.	+
First described, Abyssinia	+
Rüppell, 1835.*	+
S. FORSTERI	-
Australia	+
Macleay, 1882	+
Saville-Kent, 1893.	+
Description	+
Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.	+
Günther, 1860, 1877.*	+
Fiji	+
Kendall and Goldsborough, 1911.	+
Whitley, 1927.	+
Formosa	*
Jordan and Evermann, 1903.	+
Jordan and Richardson, 1912.	+
Indian Archipelago	+
Bleeker, 1854.2.	+
Indo-Australian Archipelago	+
Weber and Beaufort, 1922.	+
Indo-China	+
Chabanaud, 1926.	+
Gruvel, 1925.	+
Oceania	+
Fowler, 1928.	+
Samoa	*
Jordan, 1927.	+
Jordan and Seale, 1906.	+
S. GOODINGI	-
First described, Marquesas Island	+
Seale, 1906.	+
S. GRACILIS (Extinct Species)	*
Agassiz, 1843.*	+
Pictet, 1854.	+
Zittel, 1890.	+
S. GRANDISQUAMIS	-
First described, Port Jackson, Australia	+
Steindachner, 1866.	+
Samoa	+
Jordan and Seale, 1906.	+
S. GUACHANCHO [GUACHANCHE]	-
Africa	+
Boulenger, 1901.	+
Africa, west	*
Regan, 1915.	+
Atlantic coast (America)	+
Breder, 1929.*	+
Metzelaar, 1919.	+
Costa Rica	+
Fowler, 1917.1, 1917.2.	+
Cuba	+
Guichenot, 1853.	+
Nichols, 1912.	+
Description	+
Storer, 1846.	+
Distribution	+
Jordan, Evermann and Clark, 1930.	+
First described	+
Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.	+
Florida	+
Evermann and Kendall, 1900.	+
Goode and Bean, 1880.	+
Henshall, 1895.	+
Gulf of Mexico	*
Goode and Bean, 1883.	+
Haiti	+
Beebe and Tee-Van, 1928.	+
Jamaica	+
Jordan and Rutter, 1897.	+
Maryland	*
Hildebrand and Schroeder, 1928.	+
Massachusetts	+
Smith, 1898.	+
Sumner, Osburn and Cole, 1913.	+
New York	*
Bean, 1903.	+
Panama (Atlantic)	+
Borodin, 1928.	+
Fowler, 1917.1, 1917.2.	+
Meek and Hildebrand, 1923.	+
Porto Rico	+
Evermann and Marsh, 1902.	+
West Indies	*
Jordan, 1886.2.	+
Metzelaar, 1919.	+
S. GUAGUANCHE [GUAGUANCHO]	+
Cuba	+
Poey, 1858, 1868.	+
Description	+
Jordan and Evermann, 1896.2.	+
Jordan and Gilbert, 1882.2.	+
Meek and Newland, 1884.	+
Distribution	+
Jordan and Evermann, 1896.1.	+
West Indies	+
Jordan, 1890.1.	+
S. GÜNTHERI	*
First described, Colon	+
Haly, 1875	+
S. HELLERI	*
First described, Hawaii	+
Jenkins, O. P., 1901.	+

Hawaii	*
Fowler, 1922.	
Jordan and Evermann, 1905.* 1926.	
Jordan and Jordan, 1922.	
Jordan and Snyder, 1907.	
Samoa	+
Jordan and Seale, 1906.	
S. IDIASTES	*
First described	
Heller and Snodgrass, 1903.	+
Galapagos	+
Snodgrass and Heller, 1905.	
Peru	+
Evermann and Radcliffe, 1917.	
Nichols and Murphy, 1922.	
S. INTERMEDIA (Fossil Form)	*
Description	
Woodward, 1901.	+
S. JAPONICA	*
Description	
Bloch and Schneider, 1801.	+
Günther, 1860.	
First described	
Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.	+
Formosa	+
Jordan and Evermann, 1903.	
Jordan and Richardson, 1912.	
Indo-Australian Archipelago	+
Weber and Beaufort, 1922.	
Japan	+
Bleeker, 1854.1.*	
Jordan and Hubbs, 1925.	
Jordan and Snyder, 1901.	
Jordan, Tanaka and Snyder, 1913.	
Satsuma, Osami and Hinga, 1890.*	
Smith and Pope, 1907.	
Snyder, 1912.1.	
Temminck and Schlegel, 1850.	
Johnston Island (Oceania)	+
Fowler and Bull, 1925.	
Natal	+
Fowler, 1929.	
Oceania	+
Fowler, 1928.	
S. JELLO	*
Africa, south	+
Barnard, 1925.	
Gilchrist and Thompson, 1908.	
Ceylon	+
Jordan and Starks, 1917.	
Cochin China	+
Pétilot, 1911.	
Description	
Günther, 1860.	+
Pellegrin, 1900.	
Weber, 1913.	
Distribution	
Jordan, Tanaka and Snyder, 1913.	+
Dutch East Indies	+
Weber, 1913.	
First described	
Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.	+
Formosa	+
Jordan and Evermann, 1903.	
Jordan and Richardson, 1912.	
Hong Kong	+
Seale, 1914.	
India	+
Day, 1865, 1888, 1889.	
Hornell, 1917.	
Indian Archipelago	+
Bleeker, 1854.2.	
Indo-Australian Archipelago	+
Weber and Beaufort, 1922.	
Indo-China	+
Chabanand, 1926.	
Liberia	+
Buttkofer, 1890.	
Madras	+
Madras Fisheries Bureau, 1915.	
Malay	+
Cantor, 1850.	
Duncker, 1904.	
Green, 1927.	
Maxwell, 1921.	
Oceania	+
Fowler, 1928.	
Philippine Islands	+
Evermann and Seale, 1907.	
Jordan and Richardson, 1908.	
Jordan and Seale, 1905.2, 1907.	
Red Sea	+
Klunzinger, 1870, 1884.	
S. KENIE. See S. QENIE	*
S. LANGSAR	*
Australia	+
Macleay, 1882.	
Saville-Kent, 1893.	
Ceylon	+
Jordan and Starks, 1917.	
Description	
Günther, 1860.	+
Dutch East Indies	+
Weber, 1913.	
Formosa	+
Jordan and Richardson, 1912.	
Indian Archipelago	+
Bleeker, 1854.2.	
Indo-Australian Archipelago	+
Weber and Beaufort, 1922.	
Oceania	+
Fowler, 1928.	
Philippine Islands	+
Evermann and Seale, 1907.	
Fowler, 1918.	

S. LUCASANA *
 Lower California +
 Gill, 1863.
S. MAJOR (Fossil Form) +
 Leidy, 1856.
Phosphate beds of South Carolina +
 Leidy, 1877.
S. MAXIMA (Fossil Form) +
 Pictet, 1854.
 Zittel, 1890.
S. MEGALOLEPIS +
 Samoa
 Jordan and Seale, 1906.
S. NATALENSIS +
First described
 Bonde, 1924.*
S. NIGRIPPINNIS +
China
 Reeves, 1927.
Description
 Günther, 1860.
Japan
 Jordan, Tanaka and Snyder, 1913.
 Satsuma, Osami and Huga, 1890.*
 Snyder, 1912.1.
 Temminck and Schlegel, 1850.*
S. NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE +
Australia
 Macleay, 1882.
 McCulloch, 1922.*
 Roughley, 1916.
 Saville-Kent, 1893.
 Stead, 1906.
 Tension-Woods, 1882.
 Waite, 1921, 1923.*
Description
 Günther, 1860.
Fiji
 Whitey, 1927.
Malay
 Maxwell, 1921.
Tasmania
 Lord, 1927.
S. OBUSATA +
Abrolhos Islands
 Alexander, 1922.
Africa, south
 Barnard, 1925.
 Bonde, 1924.
Australia
 Alexander, 1922.
 Macleay, 1882.
 McCulloch, 1922.*
 Ogilby, 1915.
 Saville-Kent, 1893.
 Tension-Woods, 1882.*
 Waite, 1921, 1923.*
Caroline Islands
 Kendall and Goldsborough, 1911.
China
 Reeves, 1927.
 Seale, 1914.
Description
 Günther, 1860, 1877.*
Dutch East Indies
 Weber, 1913.
Fiji Islands
 Kendall and Goldsborough, 1911.
 Whitey, 1927.
Fin Mueselature
 Grenholm, 1923.*
First described
 Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829
Osam
 Seale, 1903.
Hong Kong
 Seale, 1914.
India
 Day, 1888,* 1889.*
 Hornell, 1917.
Indian Archipelago
 Bleeker, 1854.2.
Indo-Australian Archipelago
 Weber and Beaufort, 1922.
Indo-China
 Gravel, 1925.*
Japan
 Satsuma, Osami and Huga, 1890.*
 Temminck and Schlegel, 1850.*
Korea
 Jordan and Metz, 1913.
 Mori, 1928.
Madagascar
 Sauvage, 1891.
Malay
 Cantor, 1850.
 Duncker, 1904.
 Green, 1927.
 Maxwell, 1921.
Natural history
 Ogilby, 1915.
New Hebrides
 Seale, 1906.
New Zealand
 Hutton, 1904.
 Phillipps, 1927.
Oceania
 Fowler, 1928.
Philippine Islands
 Evermann and Seale, 1907.
 Jordan and Seale, 1907.
 Seale and Bean, 1908.
 Smith and Seale, 1906.

Red Sea
 Künzinger, 1870, 1884. +
Samoa
 Jordan, 1927.
 Jordan and Seale, 1906.
Rio-Kiu Islands
 Snyder, 1912.2. +
S. PICUDA
Bermuda
 Goode, 1876.
British America
 Richardson, 1836.
Carolina
 Jordan and Gilbert, 1883.
Cuba
 Nichols, 1912.
 Poey, 1858, 1868.
Description
 Günther, 1860.
 Jordan and Gilbert, 1882.2.
 Meek and Newland, 1884.
 Pellegrin, 1900.
 Poey, 1863.2.
First described
 Bloch and Schneider, 1801.*
Florida
 Goode, 1880.
 Henshall, 1895.
 Jordan, 1884.2, 1885.
General
 Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.
 Goode, 1884.*
Gulf of Mexico
 Goode and Bean, 1879, 1883.
Identification from Parra
 Poey, 1863.1.
Indo-Australian Archipelago
 Weber and Beaufort, 1922.
New Jersey
 Bean, 1889.*
Oceania
 Fowler, 1925.
Poison from eating
 Pellegrin, 1900.
Scales of—
 Cockerell, 1914.
Same as S. commersoni
 Weber and Beaufort, 1921.
Tropical Atlantic
 Metzelaar, 1919.
 Murphy, 1914.
West Indies
 Gundlach, 1881.
 Jordan, 1886.2.
 Metzelaar, 1919.
Yucatan
 Bean, 1890.
S. PICUDILLA +
Bahamas
 Nichols, 1921.
Bermuda
 Bean, 1906.
Brazil
 Jordan, 1890.2.
Cuba
 Poey, 1858, 1868.
Description
 Fowler, 1904.1.
 Jordan and Evermann, 1896.2.
 Meek and Newland, 1884.
Distribution
 Jordan and Evermann, 1896.1.
 Jordan, Evermann and Clark, 1930.
Haiti
 Beebe and Tee-Van, 1928.
Jamaica
 Borodin, 1928.
Panama
 Meek and Hildebrand, 1923.
Porto Rico
 Evermann and Marsh, 1902.
West Indies
 Fowler, 1931.
 Jordan, 1886.2.
 Metzelaar, 1919.
S. PINGUIS +
China
 Reeves, 1927.
Distribution
 Jordan, Tanaka and Snyder, 1913.
Japan
 Jordan and Habbe, 1925.
 Jordan and Thompson, 1914.
 Snyder, 1912.1. +
S. PLUMERI +
 Bloch and Schneider, 1801.
S. PUTNAMIAE +
China
 Reeves, 1927.
First described
 Jordan and Seale, 1905.1. +
S. QENIE (KENIE) +
First described, Red Sea
 Künzinger, 1870, 1884.
Oceania
 Fowler, 1928.
Samoa
 Jordan and Seale, 1906.
S. RAGHAVA +
First described, India
 Chaudhuri, 1917.*

S. SNODGRASSI +
 First described, Hawaii
 Jenkins, O. P., 1901.
Hawaii
 Bryan, 1915.
 Jenkins, O. P., 1901, 1904.
 Jordan and Evermann, 1905,* 1926.
 Jordan and Jordan, 1922.
 Jordan and Snyder, 1907.
Samoa
 Jordan and Seale, 1906.
Tahiti
 Fowler, 1904.1.
S. SPECIOSA (Fossil Form) +
Miocene
 Cope, 1867.
New Jersey
 Leidy, 1857.
S. SPET +
Bermuda
 Goode, 1876.
Carolina
 Jordan and Gilbert, 1878.
Corseca
 Caraffa, 1929.*
Description
 Jordan and Gilbert, 1882.2.
 Lacépède, 1804, 1832.
Depth (in relation to length)
 Houssay, 1912.
France
 Guérin-Gamivet, 1912.
 Moreau, 1881.
Italy
 Bonaparte, 1841.*
 D'Ancona, 1926.
Libya
 Sella, 1912.
Mediterranean
 Cuvier, 1829.
 Fage, 1907.
Spain
 Pardo, 1919.
Turkey
 Ninni, 1923.
S. SPHYRAENA +
Africa, west
 Fowler, 1920.2.
Atlantic coast (America)
 Breder, 1929.
 Jordan, 1884.1.
Bermuda
 Barbour, 1905.
 Bean, 1906.
Canary Islands
 Jordan and Gunn, 1898.
Description
 Jordan and Evermann, 1896.2.
 Meek and Newland, 1884.
Distribution
 Jordan and Evermann, 1896.1.
 Jordan, Evermann and Clark, 1930.
Italy
 Faccioli, 1911.
Mediterranean
 Fage, 1911.
 Garcia, 1921.
Parasites on
 Linton, 1908.2.
Portugal
 Seabra, 1911.
Spain
 Buen, F., 1919, 1922.1.
 Garcia, 1921.
 Lió, 1923.
 Lozano, 1919.
Turkey
 Dévedjian, 1926.*
West Indies
 Jordan, 1886.2.
Young of—
 Collett, 1896.
S. STRENUA +
First described, Australia
 De Vis, 1884.
S. SUESSI +
 Woodward, 1901.
S. TOME +
First described
 Fowler, 1904.1.*
S. TOXEUMA +
Borneo
 Seale, 1910.
First described, Sumatra
 Fowler, 1904.2.*
S. TYROLENSIS (Fossil Form) +
 Zittel, 1890.
S. VIRIDENSIS +
First described
 Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.

S. VULGARIS +
 Adriatic Sea
 Faber, 1883.
Africa, south
 Barnard, 1925.
Africa, west
 Pellegrin, 1914.
Azores
 Capello, 1883.
Description
 Cuvier, 1834.*
 Günther, 1860.
First described
 Cuvier and Valenciennes, 1829.
Florida
 Goode and Bean, 1880.
General
 Lydekker, 1901.*
 Pellegrin, 1900.
 Sauvage, 1865.
Mediterranean
 Levi-Moreno, 1912.
St. Jago
 Günther, 1880.1.
Spain
 Borja, 1921.
S. WAITII +
Australia
 McCulloch, 1922.
First described, Queensland
 Ogilby, 1908.
SPHYRAENIDAE (Family Only) +
Compared to Saurodontidae
 Cope, 1870.
Description
 Boulenger, 1910.
 Ulrey and Greeley, 1924.
Distribution
 Meek, 1916.
Relationship
 Günther, 1880.2.
SPHYRAENODUS +
London clay
 Agassiz, 1845.
Sphyaenodus silvianus of Miocene of New Jersey
 Cope, 1875.
SPHÖERINA (SPHAERINA)
 Jordan, 1923.
 Swainson, 1839.
STATISTICS
California
 Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, 1929 +
 California Fish and Game, 1914 +
 Jordan, 1887.
 Scofield, W. L., 1925.
 Smith, 1895.
 Thompson, 1922.
 Wallford, 1929.1.
 Wilcox, 1895.
Italy
 D'Ancona, 1926.
Japan
 Japan, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 1926.
Madras
 Madras Fisheries Department, 1930.
 Nayudu, 1921.
Turkey
 Devedjian, 1926.
United States
 Townsend, 1899.
 U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1911.
 U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, 1873 +
SUMATRA
 Fowler, 1904.2.
 Fowler and Bean, 1927.
SWIMMING. See LOCOMOTION

2.3.19. T

TAHITI -
 Fowler, 1901, 1904.1. -
TASMANIA -
 Lord, 1927. -
TORTUGAS -
 Jordan, 1904. -
 Jordan and Thompson, 1905. -
TURKEY -
 Devedjian, 1926. -
 Ninni, 1923. -

2.3.20. U

UI (South Sea Islands) -
 Brencbley, 1873. -
UMBLA (Genus) -
 Jordan, 1923. -
 Jordan and Evermann, 1917. -
UMBLA MENOR -
 Catesby, 1750.* -

2.3.21. V

VORACIOUSNESS -
 Du Tertre, 1667. -
 Forbin, 1924. -
 Gudge, 1918. -
 Gudge and Breder, 1928.* -
 Labat, 1724. -
 Mowbray, 1922.1, 1922.2. -
 Rochefort, 1666. -

2.3.22. W

WASHINGTON (State)

Habbs, 1928.
Kincaid, 1919.

WEST INDIES (See also under Individual islands)

General

Du Tertre, 1667.
Ferguson, 1821.
Forbin, 1924.*
Fowler, 1904.1, 1931.
Gundlach, 1881.
Jordan, 1886.2, 1890.1.
Metzelaar, 1919.

2.3.23. Y

YUCATAN

Beem, 1890.

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BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
FISH BULLETINS**

- * No. 1. Report on Fish Conditions. 1913; 48 pp., 3 figs. Contains:
 The Abalone Industry in California. By Charles Lincoln Edwards.
 The Towing of Salmon and Steelhead Fry from Sacramento to the Sea in a "Live Car." By N. B. Scofield.
 The Problem of the Spiny Lobster. By Bennet M. Allen.
 Investigation of the Clams of California. By Harold Heath.
 Investigation of the Life History of the Edible Crab (Cancer magister). By F. W. Weymouth.
 A General Report on a Quinmat Salmon Investigation Carried on During the Spring and Summer of 1911. By N. B. Scofield.
 Trout and Black Bass Planting and Transplanting in the San Joaquin
 and Southern Sierra Districts. By A. D. Ferguson.
- * No. 2. The Scientific Investigation of Marine Fisheries as Related to the Work of the Fish and Game Commission in Southern California. By Will F. Thompson. 1919; 27 pp., 4 figs.
- * No. 3. The Spawning of the Grunion (*Leuresthes tenuis*). By Will F. Thompson, assisted by Julia Bell Thompson. July 15, 1919; 29 pp., 9 figs.
- * No. 4. The Edible Clams, Mussels and Scallops of California. By Frank W. Weymouth. Jan. 10, 1921; 74 pp., 19 pls., 26 figs.
- * No. 5. A Key to the Families of Marine Fishes of the West Coast. By Edwin C. Starks. March 3, 1921; 16 pp., 4 figs.
- * No. 6. A History of California Shore Whaling. By Edwin C. Starks. October, 1922; 38 pp., 22 figs.
- * No. 7. The Life History and Growth of the Pismo Clam. By Frank W. Weymouth. 1923; 120 pp., 15 figs., 18 graphs.
- * No. 8. Racial and Seasonal Variation in the Pacific Herring, California Sardine and California Anchovy. By Carl L. Hubbs. February, 1925; 23 pp., 4 pls.
- * No. 9. Preliminary Investigation of the Purse Seine Industry of Southern California. By Tage Skogsberg. 1925; 95 pp., 23 figs.
- * No. 10. The Life History of *Leuresthes tenuis*, an Atherine Fish with Tide Controlled Spawning Habits. By Frances N. Clark. October, 1925; 51 pp., 6 graphs, 7 pls.
- No. 11. The California Sardine. By the Staff of the California State Fisheries Laboratory. 1926; 221 pp., 74 figs.
 Thompson, Will F. The California Sardine and the Study of the Available Supply.
 Sette, Oscar Elton. Sampling the California Sardine: A Study of the Adequacy of Various Systems at Monterey.
 Higgins, Elmer. A Study of Fluctuations in the Sardine Fishery at San Pedro.
 Thompson, Will F. Errors in the Method of Sampling Used in the Study of the California Sardine.
 Scofield, W. L. The Sardine at Monterey: Dominant Size Classes and their Progression, 1919-1923.
- No. 12. The Weight-Length Relationship of the California Sardine (*Sardina caerulea*) at San Pedro. By Frances N. Clark. 1928; 58 pp., 11 figs.
- No. 13. The Seasonal Average Length Trends at Monterey of the California Sardine (*Sardina caerulea*). By Carroll B. Andrews. 1928; 13 pp., 6 figs.
- * No. 14. Report on the Seals and Sea Lions of California. By Paul Bonnot. 1928; 61 pp., 38 figs.

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- * No. 15. The Commercial Fish Catch of California for the years 1926 and 1927. By the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. 1929; 94 pp., 52 figs.
- No. 16. The Life-History of the California Jack Smelt, *Atherinopsis californiensis*. By Frances N. Clark. 1929; 22 pp., 12 figs.
- * No. 17. Sacramento-San Joaquin Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) Fishery of California. By G. H. Clark. 1929; 73 pp., 32 figs.
- No. 18. The Pismo Clam: Further Studies of its Life-History and Depletion. By William C. Herrington. 1930; 67 pp., 16 figs.
- No. 19. Sardine Fishing Methods at Monterey, California. By W. L. Scofield, 1929; 61 pp., 27 figs.
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