

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BUREAU OF MARINE FISHERIES - H V N.B.SCOFIELD
Cruise Report

- Cruise:** Cruise 5 of the N.B.SCOFIELD for 1952. 52-S-5
Sailed: August 6, 1952 from Los Angeles Harbor
Returned: September 11, 1952 to Los Angeles Harbor
- Locality:** The continental shelf area from Avila, California, to Neah Bay, Washington.
- Purpose:** To test the effect of various sized trawling mesh and its relation to the size of bottom fish retained. This work was done jointly by the states of Washington, Oregon, and California under the auspices of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission. This was noteworthy in that it was an excellent example of actual physical cooperation between the states of Oregon, Washington, and California in the solution of mutual problems affecting the three states.
- Results:** The N.B.SCOFIELD was delivered from a shipyard a week prior to the beginning of this trip with a new 1600 fathom trawl winch installation. This equipment and the associated components were given a sea trial August 8 and 9 off Avila and Point Montara, California. All cable was spooled off both drums in deep water and was re-spooled under strain to tighten the cable properly upon the drums. This activity took the better part of two days. After the preliminary shake-down of the winch and a new Dandyline trawling set-up, the first series of trawling operations were established off Eureka. Eighteen bottom stations were occupied there in search of dover sole and black cod. A gross catch of 25,000 pounds of fish was taken of which 8,075 pounds were dover; 4,945 fish were measured from this series; and 564 black cod were examined, taken from these same stations.

After completion of the dover work off northern California, operations were shifted to Oregon. The scene of operations was to have been off Newport; however, a very heavy storm off the central Oregon and Washington coast precluded any dragging activity in this region. The storm forced the vessel to seek shelter in Neah Bay until the weather abated and then dragging work was initiated off the northern Washington coast. In this region off James Island, Washington, 10 consecutive stations were occupied. A gross catch of over 35,000 pounds were taken in this series, of which 1,637 petrale sole, 4,229 English sole, and 1,712 black cod were measured.

At the termination of this series of drags, rosefish experiments were attempted off the Columbia River; however, weather and lack of fish on the grounds made this portion of the trip unsuccessful with only 132 rosefish and 40 black cod being taken, with a gross catch of 2600 pounds of fish. Some of these fish were brought into Astoria for the Seaside Aquarium, and material for fin clip study was obtained, as

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well. Two wolf eels taken off the northern Washington coast were transported to Steinhardt Aquarium in San Francisco.

An attempt was made to explore the deep water area off the Morro Bay-Avila region during the latter part of the trip. However, rough weather made it impossible to drag in the areas anticipated. Two drags were made in San Luis Obispo Bay to survey species composition in this region. The exploratory work ended at the termination of the drags in San Luis Obispo Bay.

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