

## Job Report

James R. Stevens  
Marine Biologist

Project No.: M-1-R-1 Date February 1, 1960  
Project Name: Fisheries Survey of Area M-1.  
Period Covered: February 1, 1959 to January 31, 1960. Job No. A-3

### Study of the Menhaden Fishery of Area M-1

Objectives: To make a study of the menhaden fishery to include the economic aspects of the operation, the annual catch, per cent of the catch made up by game fish, techniques used in fishing and the uses of the products.

Procedure: It was originally planned to make trips on the menhaden boats to measure catches and determine the number of game species taken, but the time required for such study prohibited this being accomplished.

The work accomplished on this job was limited to frequent visits to the plants to observe the unloading of the catches and to speak with plant personnel concerning catches and any new techniques being used.

Findings: There are at present two menhaden plants operating in Texas. One, Texas Menhaden, is located at Sabine and the other, Quinn Menhaden, is located on Highway 87 between Port Arthur and Sabine. The boats operated by these two companies work in the adjacent Gulf waters in both Texas and Louisiana.

An application for the construction of a third fish plant was made during the year, but neither the applicant's identity nor the type plant to be constructed was learned.

During visits to the plants, no game fish were observed in any of the catches being unloaded. The writer was informed by plant personnel that normally, when game fish are taken in nets, they are used as food by the crew.

In the line of new equipment, it was learned that in the 1960 fishing season Texas Menhaden will introduce the use of fishing boats with refrigerated holds. These boats will be larger than those presently in use and will allow the fishermen to stay out of port longer without fear of losing their catch to spoilage. Such boats are already in use in other states.

A graph was prepared giving total annual catches of menhaden for the years 1952 through 1959. As can be seen from this graph, 1959 was a very successful season for the menhaden fishermen. The 1959 total catch shows an increase of nearly 40 million pounds over 1958. Another graph was prepared which gives the total catches per month for the 1959 season. (See Graphs I and II)

Prepared by: James R. Stevens

Marine Biologist

Accepted by: Howard T. Lee

Date 12 September 1960

100

Graph I

Annual Menhaden Catch, 1952-1959.

by Fiscal Year

Source: Annual Reports Texas Game and Fish Commission

90

80

70

60

50

40

Landings in millions of pounds

1952

1953

1954

1955

1956

1957

1958

1959

Graph II

Monthly Menhaden Catch,  
1959 Season.

30

20

10

0

April

May

June

July

August

Sept.

Oct.

Nov.