

The Resources Agency of California
California Department of Fish and Game
Marine Resources Operations
California State Fisheries Laboratory
Terminal Island, California

Cruise Report 64-S-6
Prepared by Richard L. Poole

Vessel: N. B. Scofield

Date: September 29 to October 25, 1964

Area: Coastal waters off San Francisco from the Russian River to Point Montara.

Purpose: To determine pre-season abundance and condition of legal and sub-legal crabs in the San Francisco area for prediction of the 1963-64 season.

Operations: Sampling stations were selected randomly from the crabbing areas between Point Montara and the Russian River. Commercial crab traps were baited with squid and rockfish and allowed to fish overnight at each of the 70 stations visited. The stations are shown on the attached maps by listing the number of legal crabs per trap taken at each station.

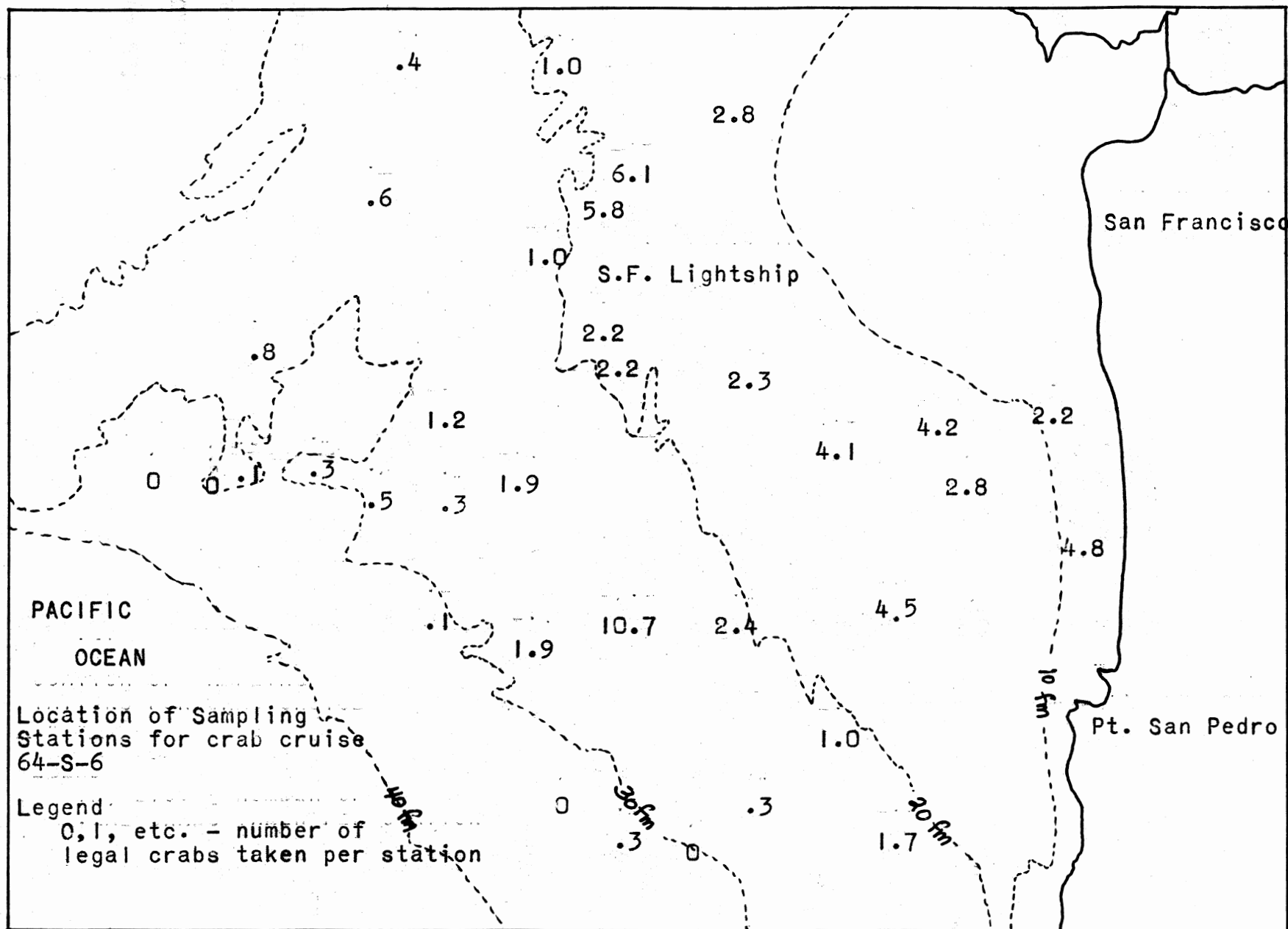
Results: In all, 3,593 crabs were taken at 70 stations in 694 traps. The catch consisted of 1,929 legal males, 1,422 sublegal males and 242 females. The average legal catch per trap of 2.78 crabs is the lowest of any pre-season cruise. In 1963, 4.3 legals per trap were taken and 4.1 in 1962. The sub-legal catch of 2.05 was also below last year's figure.

The best catch was in outer Bodega Bay in 10 fathoms of water. Fair catches were also made in Drakes Bay and off Double Point in 10 and 20 fathoms respectively. According to the survey, we believe the catch for the 1963-64 season will be 750,000 pounds, with estimates ranging from 600,000 to 900,000 pounds.

Thirty-six percent of the legal crabs were soft, much higher than in the past 3 years when around five percent were soft.

Personnel: R. B. Mitchell, Vessel Captain
R. L. Poole - Biologist
John Modin - Seasonal Aid
W. Dahlstrom - Biologist, October 16
J. Leonard - Seasonal Aid, October 16-21

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Location of Sampling Stations
for crab cruise 64-S-6

Legend
0, 1, etc., - number of legal
crabs taken per station

