

The system of individual fishing-boat returns has for the first time enabled a fairly comprehensive and precise statement to be made regarding the fishing operations from the South Island fishing ports, such as is summarized below :—

Port.	Method of Fishing.	Percentage (by Weight) caught by each Method.	Principal Kinds of Fish caught by each Method (in order of Quantity).
Pictou	Lines	93·9	Groper, blue cod, hake.
	Set-nets	6·1	Butterfish, moki.
Blenheim	Trawl	97·4	Flat fish, tarakihi, moki.
	Set-nets	1·4	Moki, butterfish, tarakihi.
	Lines	1·2	Groper, blue cod, snapper.
Kaikoura	Lines	95·3	Groper, ling, trumpeter.
	Set-nets	3·6	Butterfish.
	Trawl	1·1	Sole.
Lyttelton	Trawl	70·1	Tarakihi, ling, elephant-fish.
	Danish seine	19·1	Elephant-fish, gurnard, sole.
	Seine-net	7·8	Whiting, flounder, red cod.
	Lines	3·0	Red cod, ling, groper.
Akaroa	Trawl	83·3	Sole, elephant-fish, gurnard.
	Lines	15·9	Groper, ling.
	Seine-net	0·8	Flounder.
Timaru	Lines	61·8	Groper, ling.
	Danish seine	28·9	Gurnard, sole, red cod.
	Trawl	9·3	Flounder, red cod.
Oamaru	Lines	97·4	Groper, red cod, blue cod, ling.
	Set-nets	2·4	Moki, butterfish.
	Trawl	0·2	Sole, flounder.
Meeraki	Lines	98·3	Groper, blue cod, ling.
	Set-nets	1·7	Moki, butterfish.
Port Chalmers	Trawl	48·6	Sole, red cod.
	Lines	42·5	Groper, ling.
	Seine-nets and set-nets	8·9	Flounder, red cod.
Taieri Mouth	Trawl	76·9	Sole, flounder.
	Lines	23·1	Groper, blue cod, red cod.
Nuggets	Trawl	78·2	Sole, flounder.
	Lines	21·8	Groper, barracouta.
Owaka	Lines	66·7	Groper, blue cod.
	Nets (seine)	33·3	Flounder.
Waikawa	Trawl	65·7	Sole, flounder.
	Lines	33·9	Groper, blue cod.
	Nets (seine)	0·4	Flounder.
Invercargill	Nets	87·9	Flounder, "herring."
	Lines	12·1	Blue cod.
Bluff	Lines	84·6	Blue cod, groper.
	Nets	15·4	Flounder, butterfish, moki.
Stewart Island	Lines	96·7	Blue cod, groper, trumpeter.
	Set-nets	3·3	Butterfish, moki.
Riverton district	Lines	98·0	Blue cod, groper.
	Seine-nets	2·0	Flounder.
Greymouth	Trawl	86·9	Sole.
	Lines	11·0	Groper.
	Seine-nets	2·1	Mixed flat fish.
Westport	Trawl	74·6	Sole, flounder.
	Lines	25·2	Groper.
	Seine-nets	0·2	Mixed flat fish.
Motueka	Lines	96·0	Snapper, blue cod, groper.
	Seine-nets	4·0	Flounder.
Nelson	Lines	67·4	Snapper, groper, blue cod.
	Danish seine	31·2	Flounder, sole, gurnard.
	Seine-nets	1·4	Snapper, flounder.

For details of the fishing-vessels engaged and the total quantities and kinds of fish caught, reference may be made to Tables I, II, and IIIA. Precise comparison with the conditions of the previous year is not possible, for reasons already mentioned. The general impression obtainable from various reports is that the local trawling-grounds off Canterbury and Otago are not as productive as formerly. The groper fishery, though yielding good supplies to long-liners on occasions, requires more effort than formerly to produce the same results. The blue-cod season for Stewart Island was below average and was much affected by bad weather.

STATISTICS.

Reference has already been made to this subject. In previous reports I have called attention to their fundamental necessity as a basis for fishery administration. Future reports, as they approach nearer to the ideal of what fishery reports should be, will consist to an increasing degree of information based on statistical data—viz., a record of the quantities of fish of various kinds produced by certain methods of fishing expressed so as to show the relationship between the yield of the fishery and the amount and kind of effort that has been used to produce it. This will involve a complete recasting of the form of this report such as has not been possible for this year, but which it is hoped will be possible for next year's report.