

THE PHILIPPINE FISH MEASURING BOARD

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TWO TEXT FIGURES

The International Training Center on the Methodology and Techniques of Research on Mackerel (*Rastrelliger*) was held from 20 October to 28 November 1958 under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Government of Thailand at Bangkok. In collecting data for length composition study several measuring boards were used. One of the handicaps encountered in field work was the necessity of assigning at least two individual workers in the sampling process, one who reads and sounds off the length of fish and another who records the measurement. When time is limited, this method is likely to cause errors.

An attempt to get nearly accurate data with the least effort is submitted by one of the participants to the *Rastrelliger* Training Center for consideration as a standard equipment for measuring length of fish. A single worker can do the work of two individuals with a higher degree of accuracy in a shorter time.

This measuring board, the Philippine Fish Measuring Board, is designed to measure fish not exceeding 30 cm. A similar board for measuring longer fish can be constructed on the same principle.

DESCRIPTION

The measuring board has five parts, as follows:

(1) Main board—To this is attached a ruler, almost at center, with its right section calibrated to 0.5 centimeter. The board is $30.0 \times 9.0 \times 1.5$ cm.

(2) Divider—This is the thin piece of board attached to the calibrated side of the main board. It protects the tally sheet from getting wet and dirty when measuring.

(3) Tally sheet board—This board, $30.0 \times 10.0 \times 1.5$ cm. is hinged to the main board so that it can be folded backward. This makes the measuring board handy.

Place the fish with its lateral side on the calibrated section of the main board and the anterior tip close to the inner side of the handle or the zero (0) mark of the main board. The reading of the length of the fish in any manner desired by the worker is recorded on the tally sheet exactly on the corresponding space provided for. Measurements of 100 specimens can be done in less than 10 minutes with ease by a single worker.

Other data as date, place, name of species, etc. may be indicated on the right hand margin of the tally sheet.

ILLUSTRATIONS

TEXT FIGURES

- FIG. 1. Philippine Fish Measuring Board.
2. Sample tally sheet.