

4. PRODUCTIVE STRUCTURE OF THE CHILEAN FISHERIES SECTOR⁵

4.1 Fishing Fleet

Chile's fishing fleet can be separated into two main categories, the industrial/commercial fleet and the artisanal/independent fleet. Of the total 8,117 boats registered, 962 belong to the industrial group, while the remaining 7,155 fall under the jurisdiction of the artisanal fishermen. Artisanal landings, which are extracted from the coastal waters of Chile, are targeted for direct human consumption. Industrial landings, in contrast are primarily used for export purposes.

4.1.1 Industrial Fleet

By definition, the industrial fleet is comprised of those vessels that have a weight of over 50 tons. Typically, these vessels are equipped with modern navigation and fishing systems requiring advanced technology and greater capital investment. Industrial vessels are further classified according to the fishing technique and type of fish processing used, as illustrated in the following table:

INDUSTRIAL FISHING FLEET

Seiners	502
Trawlers	85
Boulters	247
Others (includes gill netters, trappers, and harpooners)	128
TOTAL	962

Seiner Fleet: This fleet uses seine nets to capture pelagic fish species. It consists of 502 boats with a total storage capacity of 118,163 metric tons. These vessels range in size, with the upper limits being 63 metres in length, and an engine size of 3,000 HP.

Operating principally in Regions I to V and VIII, the seiner fleet has undergone substantial modernization of equipment in recent years, incorporating seine nets of up to 1,200 metres long and 150 metres deep, as well as utilizing sophisticated electronic equipment and prospecting planes to locate fish. The potential for additional modernization advances are

⁵Source: *Chile: Fishing Investment Opportunities*
Foreign Investment Committee, Chile, 1992.