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ARRIVALS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS AT SEATTLE, 1947

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Landings and receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products at Seattle during 1947 totaled 78,064,000 pounds, valued at approximately \$15,889,000. In volume, this was the third largest year since 1939 when records were first obtained. The 1947 receipts were exceeded only in 1945 and 1943 when 89,500,000 pounds and 82,500,000 pounds, respectively, were received. In value, however, 1947 exceeded the record established in 1946 when 77,400,000 pounds were received, valued at \$15,319,000.



Washington and Oregon were the principal sources of supply, contributing 40,191,000 pounds, or nearly 51 percent of the total. Local receipts were nearly 16,500,000 pounds, or 29 percent, below those from the same States in 1946. Alaska was in second place supplying 23,237,000 pounds, of which 96 percent were frozen products. The third most important source was British Columbia. Imports from this Province totaled 14,483,000 pounds, about 19 percent of all receipts. California, the Gulf States, and other sources (Table 1) contributed 153,000 pounds, less than half of one percent of the total volume.

Table 1 - Receipts by Source - 1947

Source	F R E S H			F R O Z E N		
	1947	1946	Change from 1946	1947	1946	Change from 1946
	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Percent
Local ^{1/}	40,117,000	56,140,000	- 29	74,000	451,000	-84
California	25,000	11,000	+127	-	-	-
Gulf States	82,000	74,000	+ 11	34,000	162,000	-79
Alaska	849,000	322,000	+164	22,388,000	14,632,000	+53
British Columbia	11,206,000	3,631,000	+209	3,277,000	1,928,000	+70
Other ^{2/}	11,000	39,000	- 72	1,000	10,000	-90
Total	52,290,000	60,217,000	- 13	25,774,000	17,183,000	+50

^{1/}Washington and Oregon.

^{2/}New York, Mexico, and Nova Scotia.

Alaska shipments increased more than 55 percent over those for both 1946 and 1944, and, in addition, exceeded the heavy 1945 shipments by more than 750,000 pounds. Imports from British Columbia continued to rise and were nearly 161 percent over 1946 and more than three times the 1945 imports.

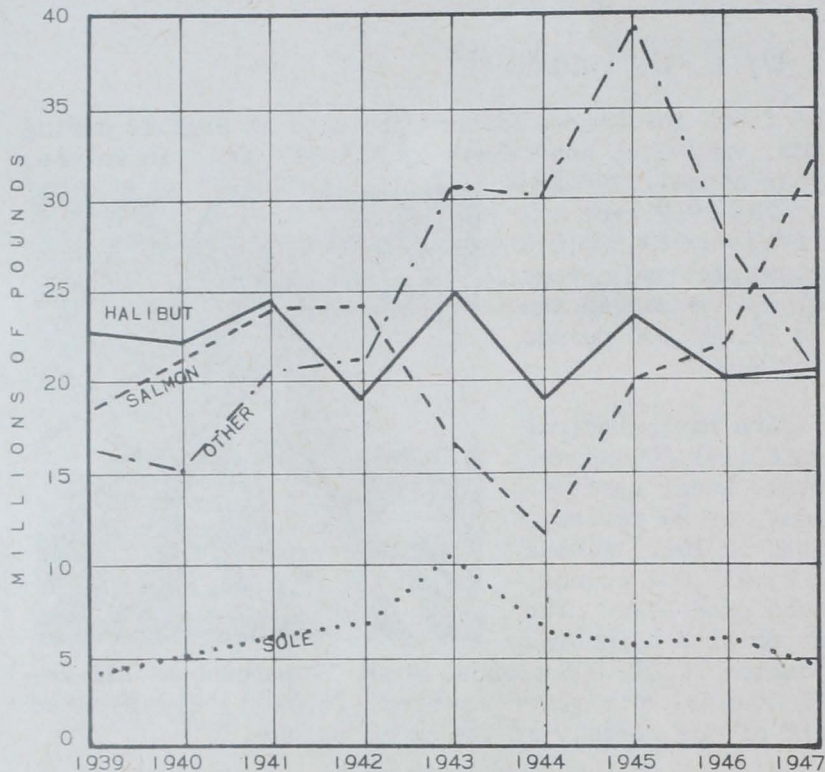
Thirty-one major classifications comprised Seattle's receipts. Of these, eight accounted for 93 percent of the total volume. Salmon (all species) led the other items with a total of 32,141,000 pounds. Second was halibut with 20,680,000 pounds, and in third place were soles totaling 4,199,000 pounds. Following these were:

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	Pounds		Pounds
Rockfishes	- 3,847,000	Lingcod	- 2,531,000
Sablefish	- 3,699,000	Oysters	- 1,677,000
Livers and viscera	- 3,693,000		

Receipts of fresh and frozen salmon were the heaviest on record, exceeding 1942, the former peak year, by nearly 10,000,000 pounds (Figure 1). Good offshore catches of the early run chinooks and silver salmon, coupled with the relatively heavy summer catch of Puget Sound pink salmon, were largely responsible for the increase. In addition, receipts of Alaska frozen salmon were nearly double those for the previous year, and removal of the Canadian embargo on fresh salmon permitted the importation of more than 4,000,000 pounds of chum, pink, and silver salmon. State closure of certain nearby areas virtually eliminated direct landings of pink salmon at Seattle. However, nearly 4,333,000 pounds of pink salmon were trucked into Seattle from other areas of the Sound and Coast.

FIGURE 1 - VOLUME OF RECEIPTS OF CERTAIN SPECIES
1939-47



NOTE: "OTHER" INCLUDES ALL OTHER FISH, SHELLFISH, LIVERS AND VISCERA.

nearly five times the 1946 receipts and also well above those for previous years. The seasonal runs or migrations of this species showed less tendency to fluctuate and catches were consistently heavy. The arrivals of silver salmon also were heavy and were double the volume for the previous year. Catches of silvers were somewhat erratic with the bulk being landed late in the season. The average price received by fishermen for all salmon reached an all-time high of nearly 19 cents a pound. In 1939 and 1940, this average was about 8 cents and during the war years, 1942-45, this was increased to 14 cents a pound. In a number of cases, chum salmon prices were frequently too high for canners to meet and abnormally large quantities were sold in the fresh markets. Toward the close of the season, considerable quantities of chum salmon were imported from British Columbia solely for canning.

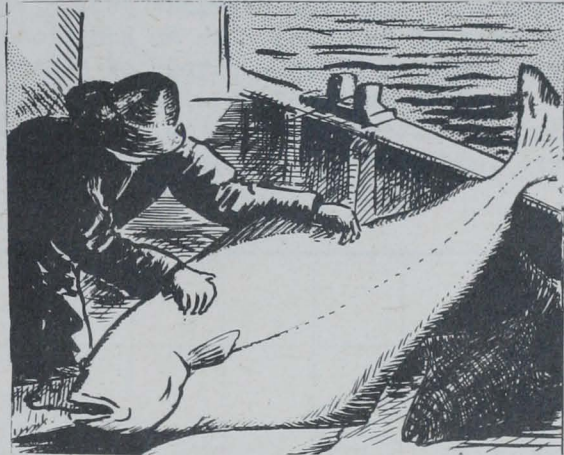
Further indication of a satisfactory salmon season is evidenced by the pack of canned salmon. In Alaska, from May 1 to November 15, a total of 4,268,000 cases were packed. This was an increase of 388,000 cases over the 1946 pack, but the second smallest pack in Alaska since 1927. However, the canning of more than 1,333,000 cases in the Bristol Bay districts was outstanding. The pack of pink salmon did not reach expectations, and the over-all output of canned chums and silvers were somewhat under those for previous years. It is estimated that be-

Receipts of chinook salmon, totaling almost 10,500,000 pounds, were

tween 800,000 and 900,000 cases were packed in Puget Sound during 1947, the largest pack in this area since 1931.

The 1947 halibut fishing season opened May 1 and closed August 17, a total of 109 days, 2 less than in 1946, the previous shortest season in the history of the fishery. Seattle received nearly

20,750,000 pounds of halibut from all sources during the year, 1 percent over the 1946 receipts, but nearly 15 percent below 1941 and 1943, the two heaviest years since 1939 (Figure 1). More than half of this quantity was frozen halibut from Alaska. Imports from Canada supplied more than 3,000,000 pounds. Landings of fresh halibut by the Seattle fleet totaled 5,413,000 pounds, and fell short of original expectations. Normally, the local fleet catches about 28 percent of the Pacific Coast quota of 52,500,000 pounds. Due to a dispute between boat owners and crew over the share ratio, the Seattle vessels remained tied up from the opening date until July 2. When the dispute was settled on the latter date, the vessels departed for the Area 3 grounds, as the quota had been taken in Area 2 by June 8. As a result of the 62-day tie-up, the local fleet landed but 10 percent of the total quantity of halibut taken during the year by the combined United States and Canadian fleets. The gross receipts of the Seattle halibut fleet were reduced by over \$2,000,000 by the tie-up.



Throughout the season, halibut prices showed less fluctuation than in previous years. The price level ranged from 4 to 5 cents a pound over the 1946 average, and was more than 11 cents above the 1939-41 average. Alaska and Canadian quotations followed a similar trend.

With the exception of the last quarter of 1947, otter trawling was a depressed and generally unprofitable fishery. The market demand for either round or processed bottom fish was consistently sluggish and freezer facilities frequently became overloaded. A considerable number of trawl vessels dropped out of the fishery earlier than usual and left for the more profitable tuna and shark fishing in southern waters.

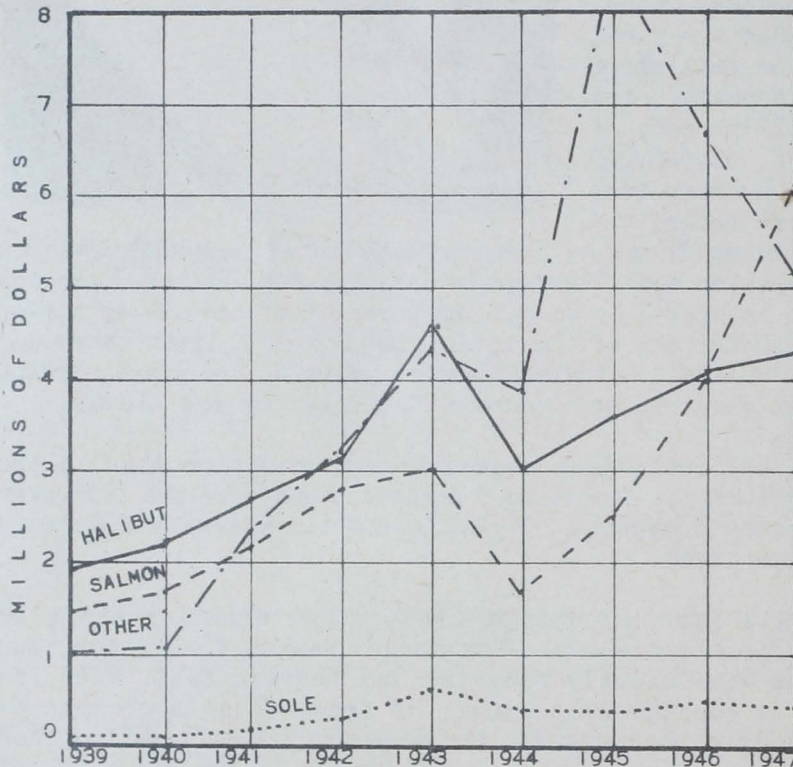
As the scarcity of meats and other protein foods became more pronounced in midyear, the demand by consumers for bottom fish increased. This occurred, unfortunately, rather late in the season and adverse weather conditions hampered the hard-working trawlers with the result that the fleet produced but a fraction of the catch needed to satisfy the new and urgent demands. During the year, 526 trawler trips were made to the offshore grounds and the vessels landed a total of 9,189,000 pounds of bottom fish. This was about half the number of trips and 6,750,000 pounds less than in 1946. The 1947 receipts were nearly 15,000,000 pounds below 1945 and were the second smallest volume for this fishery since 1939. Buyers again limited purchases of true cod and rockfishes during part of the year, but the restricted buying did not reach the serious proportions developed during 1946, and were promptly removed as poor market conditions disappeared.

Leading the trawl landings were 4,033,000 pounds of soles, mostly petrale and English. Rockfish landings were next, totaling 3,123,000 pounds, or less than

half the 1946 volume, and about one-fifth of the 1945 landings, when a peak of nearly 15,000,000 pounds for this species was reached. Most other bottom fish varieties showed similar declines.

The albacore tuna season in northern waters, while not outstanding, was more productive than the previous year. Vessels landed about 93,000 pounds direct to the port of Seattle, with an additional 148,000 pounds arriving by truck and rail. This included 129,000 pounds of albacore imported from British Columbia. The bulk of the tuna catch of Washington was landed at coastal ports where most of the canning facilities are located. State catch records indicate that 4,126,000 pounds were landed in various Washington ports and 9,174,000 pounds landed in Oregon.

FIGURE 2 - VALUE OF RECEIPTS FOR CERTAIN SPECIES
1939-47



NOTE: "OTHER" INCLUDES ALL OTHER FISH, SHELLFISH, LIVERS AND VISCERA.

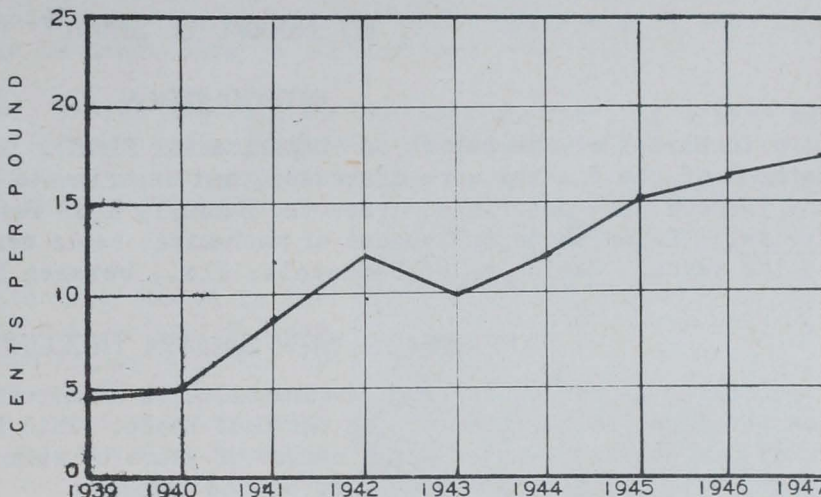
reported to have reached a high of \$600 a ton. In 1944 and 1945, the ceiling price for albacore was \$390 a ton. During 1946, this was raised to \$410 a ton.

Receipts of livers and viscera totaled 3,693,000 pounds, valued at approximately \$2,831,000. Almost two-thirds of this volume, or 2,267,000 pounds, were secured by the local fleet fisheries. About 75 percent consisted of grayfish (dogfish) livers, and the remainder, totaling 1,426,000 pounds, were frozen stocks from Alaska, mostly halibut livers and viscera. Liver receipts were about 20 percent below the 1946 receipts of 4,579,000 pounds and were the smallest volume received since 1940. In 1944, the peak year, nearly 6,000,000 pounds of livers and viscera were landed at Seattle. Since that time, there has been a steady decline in the receipts of livers and viscera, and accompanying this, has been a drop in value. In 1945, the average price paid for all livers and viscera was about 84½ cents a pound. This dropped to an average of 80 cents in 1946, and to 76½ cents in 1947.

These landings, together with receipts of about 4,000 tons of southern-caught tuna, indicate that approximately 500,000 cases, or over twice the 1946 pack, were canned during the year. This compared favorably with the 1945 pack of 483,000 cases canned from fish taken in 1945, but was considerably below 1944, the peak year, when the catch yielded a pack of 884,000 cases. The major albacore schools were reported much further offshore during 1947 than in several previous years. Many vessels ranged seaward as much as 700 miles while few craft were able to make satisfactory catches in areas nearer than 100 miles. During the season, albacore prices ranged from \$510 to \$580 a ton, with a rising trend. Some sales in small lots were

The rise in value of the fishery products followed the current trend for most other food commodities and was due principally to the higher levels maintained by halibut, salmon, oysters, tuna, and a few other well known items (Figure 2). Prices for trawl fish continued at the 1946 level. The average price per pound for all species of fish and shellfish in 1947 to the fisherman was nearly 20½ cents, or about three-quarters of a cent higher than the 1946 average. From 1939 to 1941, fishermen received an average price of 8¾ cents a pound for all fish. In 1942, the average rose to 13 cents. With the exception of 1944, when OPA ceiling prices were effective on many of the higher priced varieties, the average has continued to rise each year to its present level (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3 - AVERAGE FISH PRICE PAID TO FISHERMEN 1939-47



Receipts of fish, shellfish, and livers from domestic sources (United States) totaled 63,573,000 pounds (Table 2), 11 percent below those for 1946 and nearly 22,000,000 pounds under 1945, the peak year, when domestic receipts totaled 85,512,000 pounds.

Table 2 - Receipts, Domestic and Imports, 1947-1946

Source	1947		1946	
	Pounds	Value*	Pounds	Value*
All fish, shellfish, livers and viscera:				
Domestic	63,573,000	\$13,560,000	71,806,000	\$14,236,000
Imports	14,491,000	2,329,000	5,594,000	1,083,000
Total	78,064,000	\$15,889,000	77,400,000	\$15,319,000

*Estimated.

Imports from Canada and Mexico amounted to 14,491,000 pounds, an increase of 159 percent. This was nearly 9,000,000 pounds more than last year and the heaviest ever recorded by the Seattle Market News Service since it has been in operation.

In addition to the fresh and frozen arrivals, a total of 5,153,000 pounds of cured fishery products were received at Seattle during 1947. This included 2,824,000 pounds of mild-cured salmon, 1,205,000 pounds of salted herring, 825,000 pounds of other salted fish, and 299,000 pounds of miscellaneous smoked items. This was nearly 3,000,000 pounds less than 1946, but well above the receipts of cured fish for many previous years. Herring and other fish meals from Alaska totaled nearly 14,000 tons, or about 10 percent more than last year. Over 1,500,000 gallons of fish oils (mostly herring oil) were also received.

The month having the largest volume of receipts of fishery products was October when 10,664,000 pounds arrived. This was at variance with receipts during 1946 and 1945 when the largest volume was received during July and June, respectively. Exceptionally heavy shipments of frozen fish from Alaska and British Columbia accounted for October's peak arrivals. The next heaviest month was September when 9,768,000 pounds were received, followed by July's arrivals totaling 9,100,000 pounds.

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