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RELATIVE PRODUCTIVITY AND VALUE OF THE FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALASKA, 1951

By Bob Finley*

WORLD FISHERIES PRODUCTION

Among the nations of the world, the commercial fisheries of the United States and Alaska in 1951 ranked fourth in volume of production. The fisheries of the world annually yield approximately 55 billion pounds. During 1951 the United States and Alaska accounted for 9 percent of the world's production. Production of fishery products by the leading nations is shown in table 1.

Fig. 1 - Inside the Gloucester (Mass.) harbor. In foreground otter trawl nets are hung to dry. Other trawler in center of photograph. Processing plants in background. In 1951 Gloucester was the second largest fishery port in the United States on the basis of volume of landings and in fourth place as to landed value of catch.

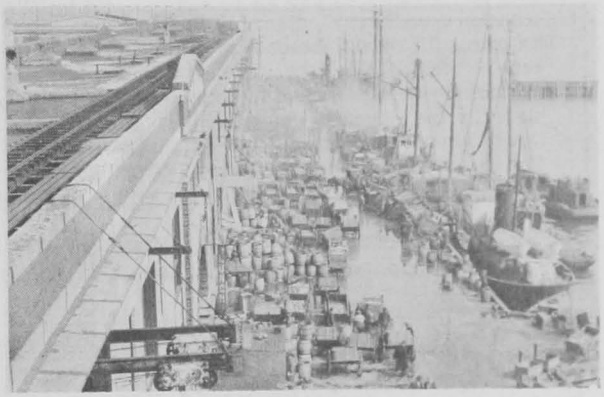

Fig. 2 - South side of Boston fish pier with otter trawlers tied up at the dock. Note loaded fish carts and rear entrances to the wholesaler dealers' stores. Boston (Mass.) ranked as the fourth leading fishery port in the United States with respect to volume of landings and third with respect to landed value of catch.

CATCH OF LEADING SPECIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND ALASKA

Surveys to obtain the commercial catch of fish and shellfish for the year 1951 were conducted in all areas of the United States and for the Mississippi River and its tributaries. All areas of the United States and Alaska (including the Mississippi River and its tributaries) were last canvassed in 1950, and detailed data published in Fishery Statistics of the United States, 1950 (Statistical Digest No. 27). During 1951 the catch of fishery products in all sections in the United States and Alaska totaled approximately 4,414,045,000 pounds, valued at $360,826,000 ex-vessel. This was a decrease of 10 percent in quantity as

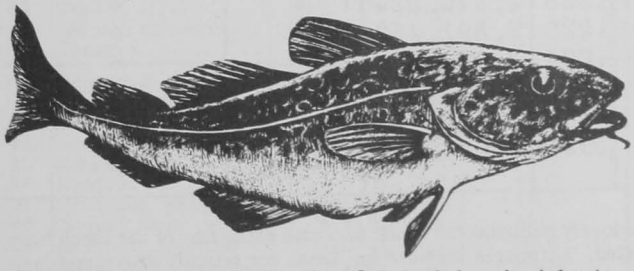

Fig. 3 - Cod, once the leading food fish landed on the Atlantic Coast, has been displaced by ocean perch and haddock.

* Fishery Marketing Specialist, Statistical Section, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

compared with 1950. The value of the 1951 catch was 5 percent above that of the previous year, but 2 percent less than the record high of 1948.

Outstanding developments during the year were the record landings of shrimp, menhaden, ocean perch, and the marked increase in salmon production. However,

Table 1 - World Catch of Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks, 1951, by Principal Countries (Data are partly estimated)

Country	Quantity	Country	Quantity
	1,000 Lbs.		1,000 Lbs.
Japan	8,370,205	Union of South Africa	771,610
China 1/	6,600,000	Portugal	677,914
U. S. S. R.	5,511,500	Philippines	651,680
United States and Alaska	2/5,169,567	Denmark	644,625
Norway	4,009,506	Netherlands	617,288
United Kingdom	2,393,755	South Korea	610,454
Canada, Newfoundland, and Labrador	2,089,961	Sweden	440,920
India	1,681,448	Italy	406,969
Western Germany	1,499,128	Malaya and Singapore	390,214
Spain	1,305,564	Cambodia	345,681
France	1,022,053	Southwest Africa	308,644
Iceland	921,082	Other Countries	10,659,372
		Total	57,099,140

1/Estimated catch in 1949. Based on round weight.

2/The reason for the difference in the amount shown in this table and the United States production reported elsewhere in this article results from the use of in-the-shell weights of certain mollusks. Weight in the shell is used by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for reporting catch statistics for mollusks. In United States fisheries statistics the weights of univalve and bivalve mollusks are reported in pounds of edible meats, and on this basis the United States production of 5,169,567,000 pounds shown in this table would have been approximately 4,414,045,000 pounds. The latter figure has been used in all other tables in this article.

Source: Yearbook of Fisheries Statistics, 1950-51, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

these increases did not offset large declines in the catches of such major species as the California pilchard, Maine and Alaska herring, Pacific tuna, and jack mackerel.

Table 2 - United States and Alaska Catch of Fishery Products, 1921-51

Year	Quantity	Landed Value	Ex-vessel Average Price	Year	Quantity	Landed Value	Ex-vessel Average Price
	1,000 Lbs.	1,000 $	¢ Per Lb.		1,000 Lbs.	1,000 $	¢ Per Lb.
1951	4,414,045	360,826	8.17	1935	4,135,364	*	*
1950	4,884,909	343,876	7.04	1934	4,103,707	*	*
1949	4,788,709	339,000	7.08	1933	2,997,108	*	*
1948	4,498,715	367,000	8.16	1932	2,611,758	55,532	2.13
1947	4,336,647	307,600	7.09	1931	2,630,494	77,344	2.94
1946	4,456,171	310,000	6.96	1930	3,224,318	109,349	3.39
1945	4,598,127	269,900	5.87	1929	3,491,187	*	*
1944	4,532,744	213,000	4.70	1928	3,060,769	*	*
1943	4,161,745	204,000	4.90	1927	2,805,862	*	*
1942	3,874,632	170,338	4.40	1926	2,870,924	*	*
1941	4,899,845	129,000	2.63	1925	2,891,157	*	*
1940	4,059,141	98,957	2.44	1924	2,461,431	*	*
1939	4,444,946	96,532	2.17	1923	2,725,850	*	*
1938	4,254,062	93,547	2.20	1922	2,619,374	*	*
1937	4,352,665	100,845	2.32	1921	2,254,996	*	*
1936	4,826,049	*	*				

* Not available.

Note: Data for certain years will not agree with figures previously published as more accurate estimates of the catch have been prepared for areas in which surveys were not conducted. Estimates included for areas not actually canvassed in certain years.

The catch of menhaden off the Atlantic and Gulf States during 1951 broke all previous records--1,127,065,000 pounds, valued at almost 13 million dollars ex-vessel. The catch was far greater than that of any other species taken by United States and Alaska fishermen.

The Atlantic Coast catch of ocean perch in 1951 totaled 258,320,000 pounds--an increase of 24 percent as compared with the previous year. There were no major tieups during the year in the ocean-perch fishery.

Shrimp production in the United States and Alaska during 1951 amounted to over 224 million pounds, valued at nearly 52 million dollars ex-vessel. Compared with the previous year, the 1951 shrimp catch increased 17 percent in quantity and 19 percent in value. The shrimp industry in 1951 continued to expand throughout the Gulf as the popularity of this shellfish rose to an all-time high.

Table 3 - Relative Quantity and Value of the Fisheries Production in the United States and Alaska by Species, Various Years*

Catch					Landed Value				
			Percentage of Total for:					Percentage of Total for:	
Rank	Species	Quantity	U.S. & Alaska	U.S. & Alaska (Cumulative)	Rank	Species	Value	U.S. & Alaska	U.S. & Alaska (Cumulative)
		1,000 Lbs.	%	%			1,000 $	%	%
1	Menhaden	1,127,065	25.5	25.5	1	Salmon	52,509	14.5	14.5
2	Salmon	374,225	8.5	34.0	2	Shrimp	51,862	14.4	28.9
3	Pilchard	328,894	7.5	41.5	3	Tuna	47,887	13.3	42.2
4	Tuna	319,748	7.2	48.7	4	Oysters	29,070	8.0	50.2
5	Ocean perch (Atl.)	258,320	5.9	54.6	5	Flounders	13,253	3.7	53.9
6	Shrimp	224,316	5.1	59.7	6	Menhaden	12,983	3.6	57.5
7	Herring, sea	154,321	3.5	63.2	7	Ocean perch (Atl.)	12,597	3.5	61.0
8	Haddock	154,103	3.5	66.7	8	Haddock	11,968	3.3	64.3
9	Crabs	148,113	3.4	70.1	9	Clams	11,519	3.2	67.5
10	Whiting	120,076	2.7	72.8	10	Crabs	9,768	2.7	70.2
11	Flounders	118,417	2.7	75.5	11	Lobsters (northern)	9,379	2.6	72.8
12	Jack mackerel	89,838	2.0	77.5	12	Scallops, sea	8,324	2.3	75.1
13	Oysters	72,990	1.7	79.2	13	Pilchard	7,248	2.0	77.1
14	Cod	59,591	1.4	80.6	14	Halibut	6,886	1.9	79.0
15	Alewives	57,697	1.3	81.9	15	Catfish & bullheads	5,858	1.6	80.6
16	Mackerel	49,266	1.1	83.0	16	Cod	4,151	1.2	81.8
17	Halibut	48,056	1.1	84.1	17	Mullet	3,962	1.1	82.9
18	Clams	43,385	1.0	85.1	18	Buffalofish	3,556	1.0	83.9
19	Mullet	39,163	.9	86.0	19	Scup (porgy)	2,994	.8	84.7
20	Scup (porgy)	36,689	.8	86.8	20	Whiting	2,903	.8	85.5
21	Carp	35,429	.8	87.6	21	Mackerel	2,419	.7	86.2
22	Catfish & bullheads	27,371	.6	88.2	22	Yellow pike	2,152	.6	86.8
23	Lobsters (northern)	25,946	.6	88.8	23	Sea bass, black (Atl.)	2,115	.6	87.4
24	Buffalofish	25,790	.6	89.4	24	Herring, sea	2,106	.6	88.0
25	Rockfishes	25,345	.6	90.0	25	Jack mackerel	2,016	.6	88.6
26	Mussel shells	23,062	.5	90.5	26	Carp	2,007	.6	89.2
27	Pollock	22,717	.5	91.0	27	Snapper, red	1,863	.5	89.7
28	Herring, lake	20,177	.4	91.4	28	Shad	1,775	.5	90.2
29	Scallops, sea	18,746	.4	91.8	29	Chub	1,690	.5	90.7
30	Sea bass, black (Atl.)	18,711	.4	92.2	30	Rockfishes	1,409	.4	91.1
31	Squid	17,981	.4	92.6	31	Sea trout, spotted	1,392	.4	91.5
32	Sablefish	14,018	.3	92.9	32	Scallops, bay	1,348	.4	91.9
33	Spot	13,072	.3	93.2	33	Whitefish, common	1,318	.4	92.3
34	Hake, white	12,239	.3	93.5	34	Striped bass	1,300	.4	92.7
35	Sheepshead	10,987	.2	93.7	35	Lake trout	1,246	.3	93.0
36	Butterfish	10,629	.2	93.9	36	Sablefish	1,233	.3	93.3
37	Chub	10,529	.2	94.1	37	Croaker	1,060	.3	93.6
38	Shad	10,472	.2	94.3	38	Yellow perch	1,041	.3	93.9
39	Spanish mackerel	8,721	.2	94.5	39	Pollock	1,002	.3	94.2
40	Croaker	8,495	.2	94.7	40	Herring, lake	981	.3	94.5
41	Groupers	7,748	.2	94.9	41	Sheepshead	929	.2	94.7
42	Snapper, red	7,188	.2	95.1	42	Spanish mackerel	921	.2	94.9
43	Yellow pike	7,087	.2	95.3	43	Lobsters, spiny	890	.2	95.1
44	Anchovies	6,958	.2	95.5	44	Groupers	852	.2	95.3
45	Smelt	6,902	.2	95.7	45	Spot	836	.2	95.5
46	Lingcod	6,679	.2	95.9	46	Butterfish	801	.2	95.7
47	Sea trout, gray	6,342	.1	96.0	47	Alewives	767	.2	95.9
48	Striped bass	6,116	.1	96.1	48	Sea trout, gray	767	.2	96.1
49	Sea trout, spotted	5,820	.1	96.2	49	Bluefish	760	.2	96.3
50	Hake, red	5,165	.1	96.3	50	Blue pike	625	.2	96.5
-	All other	163,330	3.7	100.0	-	All other	12,528	3.5	100.0
	Total	4,414,045	100.0	100.0		Total	360,826	100.0	100.0

*Data are for 1951, except that the Mississippi River area data are for 1950.

The 1951 catch of salmon in the Pacific Coast States and Alaska was up almost 46 million pounds over the previous year. The increase was due mainly to a good run of pink salmon in Southeastern Alaska and Puget Sound.

The Pacific Coast pilchard catch during 1951 amounted to nearly 329 million pounds, valued at over 7 million dollars ex-vessel. This was a decrease of 54 percent in quantity and 40 percent in value as compared with the previous year. The catch of Pacific mackerel on the Pacific Coast declined from over 133 million pounds in 1950 to less than 89 million pounds during 1951. Tuna and tunalike fish production on the Pacific Coast amounted to nearly 320 million pounds in 1951. This was substantially below the previous year when a record 390 million pounds were landed. Landings of tuna were very light during the latter part of 1951 as the fishing fleet was tied up much of the time because of a weak market for canned tuna. The industry reported that a considerable portion of the domestic tuna market had been taken over by imported fish.

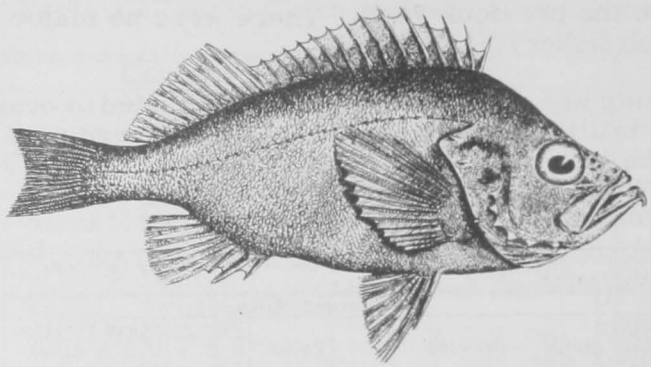

Fig. 4 - Ocean perch (Atlantic) in recent years displaced haddock as the leading food fish landed on the United States Atlantic Coast.

The catch of sea herring during 1951 amounted to over 154 million pounds, compared with nearly 364 million pounds the previous year. Failures in the Alaska and New England herring fisheries were responsible for this marked decrease.

LEADING FISHING PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES

San Pedro, California, continued to be the nation's leading fishing port both as to volume and landed value, with landings of over 513 million pounds, valued at nearly $31 million ex-vessel. Gloucester, Massachusetts, was in second place as to volume, with landings of approximately 260 million pounds. San Diego, California, with landings of nearly 174 million pounds was in third place on the basis of volume. Boston, Massachusetts, with over 171 million pounds, occupied fourth place with respect to volume of landings, but third place in value. With respect to landed value, San Diego, California, was second with landings valued at nearly $26 million, while Gloucester was in fourth place with fishery landings valued at approximately $13 million ex-vessel.

Fig. 5 - Sardine purse seiners docked at San Pedro, Calif. Terminal Island near this port is the largest fish-canning center in the United States.

UTILIZATION OF U. S. AND ALASKA CATCH

It is estimated that the 1951 catch was marketed as follows: 1,715 million pounds (round-weight basis) as fresh and frozen products; 1,326 million pounds were used

for canning; 1,289 million pounds were utilized for bait and byproducts; and 84 million pounds for cured products.

The pack of canned fishery products in the United States and Alaska in 1951 amounted to over 801 million pounds, valued at slightly more than $301 million to

Table 4 - Relative Quantity and Value of the Fisheries of the Atlantic Coast by Species, 1951*

Catch						Landed Value					
			Percentage of Total for:						Percentage of Total for:		
Rank	Species	Quantity	U.S. & Alaska	Atlantic Coast	Atlantic Coast (Cumulative)	Rank	Species	Value	U.S. & Alaska	Atlantic Coast	Atlantic Coast (Cumulative)
		1,000 Lbs.	%	%	%			1,000 $	%	%	%
1	Menhaden	769,100	17.4	36.4	36.4	1	Oysters	23,896	6.6	17.1	17.1
2	Ocean perch	258,320	5.9	12.2	48.6	2	Ocean perch	12,597	3.5	9.0	26.1
3	Haddock	154,103	3.5	7.3	55.9	3	Haddock	11,968	3.3	8.6	34.7
4	Whiting	120,076	2.7	5.7	61.6	4	Clams	10,825	3.0	7.7	42.4
5	Crabs, blue	100,198	2.3	4.7	66.3	5	Flounders	9,752	2.7	7.0	49.4
6	Flounders	72,008	1.6	3.4	69.7	6	Lobsters (northern)	9,379	2.6	6.7	56.1
7	Herring, sea	67,212	1.5	3.2	72.9	7	Scallops, sea	8,324	2.3	6.0	62.1
8	Alewives	57,675	1.3	2.7	75.6	8	Menhaden	8,111	2.3	5.8	67.9
9	Oysters	52,761	1.2	2.5	78.1	9	Shrimp	7,439	2.1	5.3	73.2
10	Cod	50,023	1.1	2.4	80.5	10	Crabs, blue	4,816	1.3	3.4	76.6
11	Clams	40,305	.9	1.9	82.4	11	Cod	3,635	1.0	2.6	79.2
12	Scup (porgy)	36,605	.8	1.7	84.1	12	Scup (porgy)	2,985	.8	2.1	81.3
13	Shrimp	27,915	.6	1.3	85.4	13	Whiting	2,903	.8	2.1	83.4
14	Lobsters (northern)	25,946	.6	1.2	86.6	14	Sea bass, black	2,115	.6	1.5	84.9
15	Pollock	22,717	.5	1.1	87.7	15	Shad	1,636	.5	1.2	86.1
16	Scallops, sea	18,746	.4	.9	88.6	16	Mackerel	1,487	.4	1.1	87.2
17	Sea bass, black	18,711	.4	.9	89.5	17	Mullet	1,458	.4	1.0	88.2
18	Mackerel	15,748	.4	.7	90.2	18	Shad	1,298	.4	.9	89.1
19	Mullet	14,045	.3	.7	90.9	19	Scallops, bay	1,176	.3	.8	89.9
20	Spot	12,856	.3	.6	91.5	20	Croaker	1,051	.3	.8	90.7
21	Hake, white	12,239	.3	.6	92.1	21	Herring, sea	1,006	.3	.7	91.4
22	Butterfish	10,628	.3	.5	92.6	22	Pollock	1,002	.3	.7	92.1
23	Shad	8,477	.2	.4	93.0	23	Spot	819	.2	.6	92.7
24	Croaker	8,374	.2	.4	93.4	24	Butterfish	801	.2	.6	93.3
25	Sea trout, gray	6,342	.2	.3	93.7	25	Sea trout, gray	767	.2	.5	93.8
-	All other	132,442	3.0	6.3	100.0	-	All other	8,695	2.4	6.2	100.0
	Total	2,113,572	47.9	100.0	100.0		Total	139,941	38.8	100.0	100.0

*Includes east coast of Florida.

the packers. This was a decrease of 17 percent in volume and 9 percent in value as compared with 1950. These decreases resulted principally from smaller packs of tuna, California sardines (pilchards), and Maine sardines.

The 1951 production of fishery byproducts in the United States and Alaska was valued at over $69 million--9 percent less than in the previous year.

Frozen fish production in 1951 was the largest in history, amounting to 325.5 million pounds. Of this amount, 255.7 million pounds consisted of fish and 69.8 million pounds of shellfish. The United States and Alaska average inventory of fishery stocks for any one month in 1951 was 136.6 million pounds, exceeding the previous year's record end-of-month average by 8.3 million pounds.

TRENDS IN PRODUCTION AND LANDED VALUE

The trends in production, landed value, and ex-vessel average prices are shown in table 2. Although the total production has not varied greatly during the past ten years, the landed value of the catch has increased nearly 250 percent. The relative rank of the various fisheries of the United States and Alaska is presented in table 3. Approximately 155,000 fishermen and 87,000 vessels and boats were employed in producing the 4,414,045,000 pounds of fish and shellfish and other aquatic products.

Ten species (or groups of species classified together as a single fishery) accounted for 72.8 percent of the total catch and 58.7 percent of the total landed value. The ten species leading in value accounted for 70.2 percent of the total value and 64.5 percent of the total volume. Menhaden, which led all other fish in respect to volume, was sixth in value, while salmon was second in volume but first in value. Pilchard ranked third in volume but thirteenth in value. Shrimp followed salmon for second place in value and sixth in volume. Tuna was third in value and fourth in volume. Only 1 of the first 50 items ranked in the same position with respect to both volume and value--haddock was in eighth place in both categories.

Of the 207 items listed in the catch records for 1951, 50 accounted for 96.3 percent of the total production. The same number of items accounted for 96.5 percent of the total landed value. The relative position of the first 50 items in volume and value is shown in table 3.

ANALYSIS OF CATCH BY AREAS AND STATES

Considering the catch by sections, the fisheries of the Atlantic Coast in 1951 produced 2,113,572,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at $139,941,000 ex-vessel--or 47.9 percent of the volume and 38.8 percent of the value of the domestic

Table 5 - Relative Quantity and Value of the Fisheries of the Pacific Coast by Species, 1951

Catch						Landed Value					
			Percentage of Total for:						Percentage of Total for:		
Rank	Species	Quantity	U.S. & Alaska	Pacific Coast	Pacific Coast (Cumulative)	Rank	Species	Value	U.S. & Alaska	Pacific Coast	Pacific Coast (Cumulative)
		1,000 Lbs.	%	%	%			1,000 $	%	%	%
1	Salmon	374,223	8.5	25.4	25.4	1	Salmon	52,508	14.5	38.4	38.4
2	Pilchard	328,894	7.4	22.3	47.7	2	Tuna	47,697	13.2	34.9	73.3
3	Tuna	317,210	7.2	21.5	69.2	3	Pilchard	7,248	2.0	5.3	78.6
4	Jack mackerel	89,838	2.0	6.1	75.3	4	Halibut	6,788	1.9	5.0	83.6
5	Herring, sea	87,109	2.0	5.9	81.2	5	Crabs	3,905	1.1	2.8	86.4
6	Halibut	47,623	1.1	3.2	84.4	6	Flounders	3,418	.9	2.5	88.9
7	Flounders ..	46,019	1.0	3.1	87.5	7	Jack mackerel	2,016	.6	1.5	90.4
8	Mackerel ...	33,518	.8	2.3	89.8	8	Oysters	1,993	.6	1.4	91.8
9	Crabs	31,361	.7	2.1	91.9	9	Rockfishes ...	1,409	.4	1.0	92.8
10	Rockfishes ..	25,345	.6	1.7	93.6	10	Herring, sea .	1,270	.4	.9	93.7
11	Sablefish	14,018	.3	1.0	94.6	11	Sablefish	1,233	.3	.9	94.6
12	Squid	12,383	.3	.8	95.4	12	Mackerel	932	.2	.7	95.3
13	Cod	9,568	.2	.6	96.0	13	Clams	690	.2	.5	95.8
14	Oysters	8,710	.2	.6	96.6	14	Lingcod	593	.2	.4	96.2
15	Anchovies ..	6,955	.1	.5	97.1	15	Cod	516	.1	.4	96.6
16	Lingcod	6,679	.1	.5	97.6	16	Yellowtail	443	.1	.3	96.9
17	Yellowtail ..	4,670	.1	.3	97.9	17	Abalone	365	.1	.3	97.2
18	Smelt	3,175	.1	.2	98.1	18	Sea bass, white	364	.1	.3	97.5
19	Clams	3,071	.1	.2	98.3	19	Barracuda ...	357	.1	.3	97.8
20	Grayfish	2,604	.1	.2	98.5	20	Smelt	357	.1	.3	98.1
-	All other ...	21,890	.5	1.5	100.0	-	All other	2,562	.7	1.9	100.0
	Total ...	1,474,863	33.4	100.0	100.0		Total	136,664	37.8	100.0	100.0

fisheries. The menhaden fishery, leading in production in this area with 36.4 percent of the total catch, ranked eighth in value. Ocean perch was in second place in both volume and value. Oysters ranked ninth in production but first in value, while haddock was third in both volume and value. Table 4 indicates the relative position in volume and value of the 25 leading species which together represent 93.7 percent of the production and 93.8 percent of the value of the Atlantic Coast fisheries. The fisheries of the Atlantic Coast are much more diversified than those of the Pacific Coast. On the East Coast, the leading 19 species accounted for approximately the same quantity as do only eight species on the West Coast.

In 1951 the fisheries of the Pacific Coast States and Alaska yielded 1,474,863,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at $136,664,000 ex-vessel. This represented 33.4 percent of the volume and 37.8 percent of the value of the total domestic catch.

Table 6 - Relative Quantity and Value of the Fisheries of the Gulf Coast by Species, 1951*

Catch						Landed Value					
			Percentage of Total for:						Percentage of Total for:		
Rank	Species	Quantity	U. S. & Alaska	Gulf	Gulf (Cumulative)	Rank	Species	Value	U. S. & Alaska	Gulf	Gulf (Cumulative)
		1,000 Lbs.	%	%	%			1,000 $	%	%	%
1	Menhaden	357,965	8.1	55.1	55.1	1	Shrimp	44,137	12.2	69.4	69.4
2	Shrimp	193,651	4.4	29.8	84.9	2	Menhaden	4,872	1.3	7.7	77.1
3	Mullet	25,010	.6	3.8	88.7	3	Oysters	3,181	.9	5.0	82.1
4	Crabs	14,218	.3	2.2	90.9	4	Mullet	2,497	.7	3.9	86.0
5	Oysters	11,519	.3	1.8	92.7	5	Catfish & bullheads	1,812	.5	2.9	88.9
6	Catfish & bullheads	7,553	.2	1.2	93.9	6	Snapper, red	1,721	.5	2.7	91.6
7	Snapper, red	6,670	.1	1.0	94.9	7	Sea trout, spotted	963	.3	1.5	93.1
8	Spanish mackerel	6,511	.1	1.0	95.9	8	Crabs	916	.2	1.4	94.5
9	Groupers	5,862	.1	1.0	96.9	9	Spanish mackerel.	688	.2	1.1	95.6
10	Sea trout, spotted	4,099	.1	.6	97.5	10	Groupers	592	.2	.9	96.5
-	All other	16,610	.4	2.5	100.0	-	All other	2,244	.6	3.5	100.0
	Total	649,668	14.7	100.0	100.0		Total	63,623	17.6	100.0	100.0

* Includes west coast of Florida.

The salmon fishery led in both production and value with 25.4 percent of the total production and 38.4 percent of the total value. The pilchard fishery was in second place with 22.3 percent of the production but in third place with only 5.3 percent of the total value. The catch of tuna ranked third in volume with 21.5 percent but second in value with 34.9 percent. Collectively, these three species accounted for 69.2 percent of the total Pacific Coast catch and 78.6 percent of the total value. Table 5 lists the relative positions of the 20 largest and the 20 most valuable Pacific Coast fisheries, which comprise 98.5 percent of the total volume and 98.1 percent of the total value of the fisheries on the West Coast.

The fisheries of the Gulf Coast, including the West Coast of Florida, during 1951 produced 649,668,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at $63,623,000 ex-vessel. This represents 14.7 percent of the volume and 17.6 percent of the value of

Fig. 6 - "Shrimp Boats" of popular-song fame in port at Brownsville, Texas--one of the important shrimp ports in the Gulf of Mexico.

the U. S. and Alaska fisheries for that year. The menhaden fishery led all others in volume with 55.1 percent of the Gulf catch, but as to value was only in second place and represented only 7.7 percent of the total value. Shrimp, which was second in volume, ranked first in value. Mullet and crabs were third and fourth in volume. Oysters and mullet ranked third and fourth in value. Table 6 indicates the relative position of the 10 largest and the 10 most valuable Gulf Coast fisheries, which comprised 97.5 percent of the total volume and 96.5 percent of the total value.

The catch and values shown for fishery products in the Great Lakes and in the Mississippi River Areas are for 1951 and 1950, respectively. During these years this area produced 175,942,000 pounds of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic products, valued at $20,768,000. This represented 4.0 percent of the total domestic catch and 5.8 percent of the total landed value. On the basis of volume, carp was the leading

species of fish produced in this area with 18.1 percent of the total production for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River; buffalofish (14.2 percent) and mussel shells (13.1 percent) were in second and third positions, respectively. With regard to

Table 7 - Relative Quantity and Value of the Fisheries of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River by Species, Various Years*

Catch						Landed Value					
			Percentage of Total for:						Percentage of Total for:		
Rank	Species	Quantity	U. S. & Alaska	Lakes & Miss. R.	Lakes & Miss. (Cumulative)	Rank	Species	Value	U. S. & Alaska	Lakes & Miss. R.	Lakes & Miss. R. (Cumulative)
		1,000 Lbs.	%	%	%			1,000 $	%	%	%
1	Carp	31,968	.7	18.1	18.1	1	Catfish & bullheads	3,609	1.0	17.4	17.4
2	Buffalofish	25,013	.6	14.2	32.3	2	Buffalofish	3,470	1.0	16.7	34.1
3	Mussel shells	23,062	.5	13.1	45.4	3	Yellow pike	2,152	.6	10.4	44.5
4	Herring, lake	20,177	.5	11.5	56.9	4	Carp	1,857	.5	9.0	53.5
5	Catfish & bullheads	16,031	.4	9.1	66.0	5	Chub	1,690	.5	8.1	61.6
6	Chub	10,529	.2	6.0	72.0	6	Whitefish, common	1,318	.4	6.3	67.9
7	Sheepshead	10,241	.2	5.8	77.8	7	Lake trout	1,246	.3	6.0	73.9
8	Yellow pike	7,087	.2	4.0	81.8	8	Yellow perch	1,012	.3	4.9	78.8
9	Yellow perch	4,494	.1	2.6	84.4	9	Herring, lake	981	.3	4.7	83.5
10	Smelt	3,624	.1	2.1	86.5	10	Sheepshead	854	.2	4.1	87.6
–	All other	23,716	.5	13.5	100.0	–	All other	2,579	.7	12.4	100.0
	Total	175,942	4.0	100.0	100.0		Total	20,768	5.8	100.0	100.0

*Data are for 1951, except that the Mississippi River area data are for 1950.

value, catfish and bullheads led all other species with 17.4 percent of the total, and in the second and third positions were buffalofish with 16.7 percent and yellow pike with 10.4 percent, respectively. Lake trout, which led all other species in value for many years was in seventh place with 6.0 percent of the total value. Although the per-pound value of lake trout has risen steadily in recent years, the production has dropped markedly. This has been caused partially by the depredation of the

Table 8 - Relative Quantity and Value of the Fisheries of the United States and Alaska by States, Various Years*

Catch					Landed Value				
			Percentage of Total for:					Percentage of Total for:	
Rank	State	Quantity	U. S. & Alaska	U. S. & Alaska (Cumulative)	Rank	State	Value	U. S. & Alaska	U. S. & Alaska (Cumulative)
		1,000 Lbs.	%	%			1,000 $	%	%
1	California	862,149	19.5	19.5	1	California	66,597	18.5	18.5
2	Massachusetts	633,189	14.4	33.9	2	Massachusetts	46,815	13.0	31.5
3	Alaska	407,727	9.2	43.1	3	Alaska	39,260	10.9	42.4
4	Louisiana	340,377	7.7	50.8	4	Louisiana	28,592	7.9	50.3
5	Virginia	265,888	6.0	56.8	5	Washington	23,453	6.5	56.8
6	New Jersey	241,648	5.5	62.3	6	Florida	22,153	6.1	62.9
7	Maine	223,051	5.1	67.4	7	Texas	15,699	4.4	67.3
8	Florida	207,880	4.7	72.1	8	Maine	15,606	4.3	71.6
9	Delaware	175,657	4.0	76.1	9	New York	15,242	4.2	75.8
10	North Carolina	157,865	3.6	79.7	10	Virginia	14,965	4.2	80.0
11	Washington	151,941	3.4	83.1	11	New Jersey	10,607	2.9	82.9
12	New York	138,886	3.1	86.2	12	Maryland	10,146	2.8	85.7
13	Mississippi	133,357	3.0	89.2	13	Oregon	7,184	2.0	87.7
14	Texas	98,290	2.2	91.4	14	North Carolina	6,329	1.8	89.5
15	Maryland	64,702	1.5	92.9	15	Mississippi	4,215	1.2	90.7
16	Oregon	53,046	1.2	94.1	16	Ohio	3,955	1.1	91.8
17	Rhode Island	48,795	1.1	95.2	17	Delaware	3,781	1.0	92.8
18	Wisconsin	28,829	.7	95.9	18	Rhode Island	3,496	1.0	93.8
19	Michigan	25,021	.6	96.5	19	Michigan	3,409	.9	94.7
20	Alabama	21,528	.5	97.0	20	Alabama	3,144	.9	95.6
21	Tennessee	20,529	.5	97.5	21	Wisconsin	2,839	.8	96.4
22	Ohio	18,700	.4	97.9	22	Georgia	2,615	.7	97.1
23	South Carolina	18,062	.4	98.3	23	South Carolina	2,283	.6	97.7
24	Minnesota	17,029	.4	98.7	24	Minnesota	1,792	.5	98.2
25	Georgia	15,248	.3	99.0	25	Arkansas	1,610	.4	98.6
26	Arkansas	13,157	.3	99.3	26	Tennessee	1,428	.4	99.0
27	Connecticut	11,185	.3	99.6	27	Connecticut	1,299	.4	99.4
28	Illinois	10,114	.2	99.8	28	Illinois	895	.2	99.6
29	South Dakota	2,817	.1	99.9	29	Kentucky	347	.1	99.7
30	Kentucky	2,134			30	Pennsylvania	285	.1	99.8
31	Iowa	1,980	.1	100.0	31	New Hampshire	215	.1	99.9
32	Oklahoma	1,167			32	Oklahoma	194		
33	Pennsylvania	736			33	Iowa	181	.1	100.0
34	Missouri	685			34	South Dakota	112		
35	New Hampshire	587			35	Missouri	73		
36	Indiana	89			36	Indiana	10		
	Total	4,414,045	100.0	100.0		Total	360,826	100.0	100.0

*Data are for 1951, except that the Mississippi River area data are for 1950.

Table 9 - Relative Quantity and Value of Salt-Water Fisheries of the United States and Alaska by Species, Various Years*

Catch							Landed Value						
Rank in Total for:				Percentage of Total for:			Rank in Total for:				Percentage of Total for:		
U. S. & Alaska	Salt-water Fish	Species	Quantity	U. S. & Alaska	Salt-water Fish	Salt water Fish (Cumulative)	U. S. & Alaska	Salt-water Fish	Species	Value	U. S. & Alaska	Salt-water Fish	Salt-water Fish (Cumulative)
		Salt-water fish:	1,000 Lbs.	%	%	%			Salt-water fish:	1,000 $	%	%	%
1	1	Menhaden	1,127,065	25.5	30.8	30.8	1	1	Salmon	52,509	14.5	24.6	24.6
2	2	Salmon	374,225	8.5	10.2	41.0	3	2	Tuna	47,887	13.3	22.4	47.0
3	3	Pilchard	328,894	7.5	9.0	50.0	5	3	Flounders	13,253	3.7	6.2	53.2
4	4	Tuna	319,748	7.2	8.8	58.8	6	4	Menhaden	12,983	3.6	6.1	59.3
5	5	Ocean perch (Atl.)	258,320	5.9	7.1	65.9	7	5	Ocean perch (Atl.)	12,597	3.5	5.9	65.2
7	6	Herring, sea	154,321	3.5	4.2	70.1	8	6	Haddock	11,968	3.3	5.6	70.8
8	7	Haddock	154,103	3.5	4.2	74.3	13	7	Pilchard	7,248	2.0	3.4	74.2
10	8	Whiting	120,076	2.7	3.3	77.6	14	8	Halibut	6,886	1.9	3.2	77.4
11	9	Flounders	118,417	2.7	3.2	80.8	16	9	Cod	4,151	1.2	1.9	79.3
12	10	Jack mackerel	89,838	2.0	2.5	83.3	17	10	Mullet	3,962	1.1	1.9	81.2
14	11	Cod	59,591	1.4	1.6	84.9	19	11	Scup (porgy)	2,994	.8	1.4	82.6
15	12	Alewives	57,697	1.3	1.6	86.5	20	12	Whiting	2,903	.8	1.4	84.0
16	13	Mackerel	49,266	1.1	1.3	87.8	21	13	Mackerel	2,419	.7	1.1	85.1
17	14	Halibut	48,056	1.1	1.3	89.1	23	14	Sea bass, black (Atl.)	2,115	.6	1.0	86.1
19	15	Mullet	39,163	.9	1.1	90.2	24	15	Herring, sea	2,106	.6	1.0	87.1
20	16	Scup (porgy)	36,689	.8	1.0	91.2	25	16	Jack mackerel	2,016	.6	.9	88.0
25	17	Rockfishes	25,345	.6	.7	91.9	27	17	Snapper, red	1,863	.5	.9	88.9
27	18	Pollock	22,717	.5	.6	92.5	28	18	Shad	1,775	.5	.8	89.7
30	19	Sea bass, black (Atl.)	18,711	.4	.5	93.0	30	19	Rockfishes	1,409	.4	.7	90.4
32	20	Sablefish	14,018	.3	.4	93.4	31	20	Sea trout, spotted	1,392	.4	.6	91.0
33	21	Spot	13,072	.3	.4	93.8	34	21	Striped bass	1,300	.4	.6	91.6
34	22	Hake, white	12,239	.3	.3	94.1	36	22	Sablefish	1,233	.3	.6	92.2
36	23	Butterfish	10,629	.2	.3	94.4	37	23	Croaker	1,060	.3	.5	92.7
38	24	Shad	10,472	.2	.3	94.7	39	24	Pollock	1,002	.3	.5	93.2
39	25	Spanish mackerel	8,721	.2	.2	94.9	42	25	Spanish mackerel	921	.2	.4	93.6
40	26	Croaker	8,495	.2	.2	95.1	44	26	Groupers	852	.2	.4	94.0
41	27	Groupers	7,748	.2	.2	95.3	45	27	Spot	836	.2	.4	94.4
42	28	Snapper, red	7,188	.2	.2	95.5	46	28	Butterfish	801	.2	.4	94.8
44	29	Anchovies	6,958	.2	.2	95.7	47	29	Alewives	767	.2	.4	95.2
46	30	Lingcod	6,679	.2	.2	95.9	48	30	Sea trout, gray	767	.2	.4	95.6
47	31	Sea trout, gray	6,342	.1	.2	96.1	49	31	Bluefish	760	.2	.4	96.0
48	32	Striped bass	6,116	.1	.2	96.3	-	-	All other	8,631	2.4	4.0	100.0
49	33	Sea trout, spotted	5,820	.1	.2	96.5			Total	213,366	59.1	100.0	100.0
50	34	Hake, red	5,165	.1	.1	96.6							
-	-	All other	122,700	2.8	3.4	100.0			Salt-water shellfish, etc:				
		Total	3,654,604	82.8	100.0	100.0	2	1	Shrimp	51,862	14.4	41.9	41.9
		Salt-water shellfish, etc:					4	2	Oysters	29,070	8.1	23.5	65.4
							9	3	Clams	11,519	3.2	9.3	74.7
6	1	Shrimp	224,316	5.1	39.8	39.8	10	4	Crabs	9,768	2.7	7.9	82.6
9	2	Crabs	148,113	3.4	26.2	66.0	11	5	Lobsters (northern)	9,379	2.6	7.6	90.2
13	3	Oysters	72,990	1.6	13.0	79.0	12	6	Scallops, sea	8,324	2.3	6.7	96.9
18	4	Clams	43,385	1.0	7.7	86.7	32	7	Scallops, bay	1,348	.4	1.1	98.0
23	5	Lobsters (northern)	25,946	.6	4.6	91.3	43	8	Lobsters, spiny	890	.2	.7	98.7
29	6	Scallops, sea	18,746	.4	3.3	94.6	-	-	All other	1,594	.4	1.3	100.0
31	7	Squid	17,981	.4	3.2	97.8			Total	123,754	34.3	100.0	100.0
-	-	All other	12,499	.3	2.2	100.0			Total salt-water fish and shellfish, etc.	337,120	93.4	-	-
			563,976	12.8	100.0	100.0							
		Total salt-water fish and shellfish, etc.	4,218,580	95.6	-	-							

* Data are for 1951, except that the Mississippi River area data are for 1950.

lake trout in the Great Lakes by the sea lamprey. Table 7 shows the relative positions of the leading species with regard to both volume and value.

California led the various states and Alaska in both catch and value with 19.5 percent of the total domestic production and 18.5 percent of the total landed value. Massachusetts ranked second in both categories with 14.4 percent of the total volume and 13.0 percent of the total value. In third position in both volume and value was Alaska with 9.2 percent of the total catch and 10.9 percent of the total value.

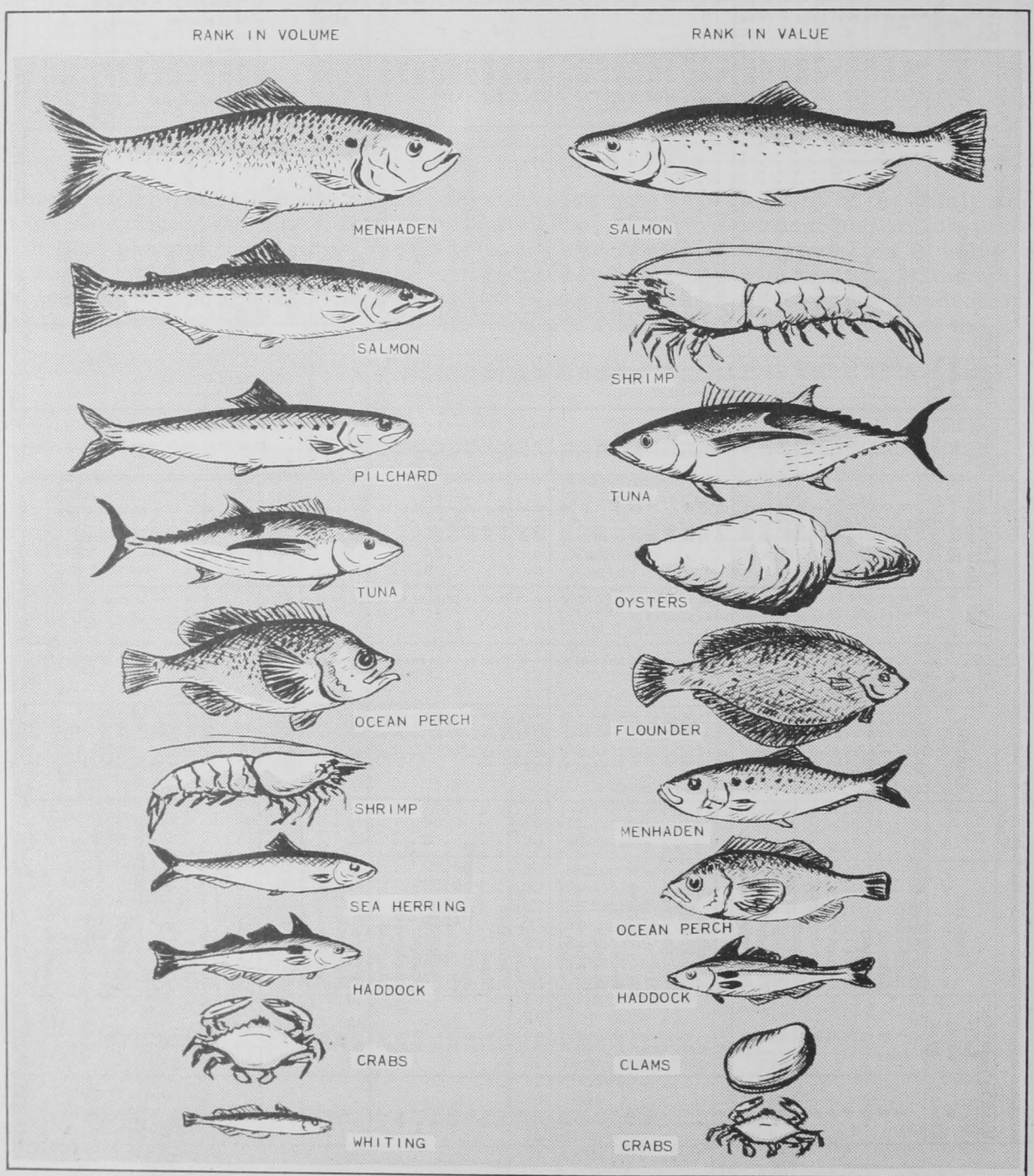

Fig. 7 - Pictorial representation of rank in volume and rank in value of leading species of fish and shellfish landed in the United States and Alaska.

Louisiana was in fourth place in both volume (7.7 percent) and value (7.9 percent). Collectively, these three states and Alaska produced 50.8 percent of the total domestic commercial catch and accounted for 50.3 percent of the total landed value. The relative positions of the various states and Alaska are listed in table 8.

ANALYSIS OF SALT-WATER AND FRESH-WATER FISHERIES

Salt-water sources produced the bulk of the commercial fisheries catch of the United States and Alaska, yielding 4,218,580,000 pounds or 95.6 percent of the total commercial catch, and accounting for $337,120,000 or 93.4 percent of the total landed value. Most of the leading varieties listed in table 3 were salt-water species.

Table 10 - Relative Quantity and Value of Fresh-Water Fisheries of the United States and Alaska, Various Years*

Catch							Landed Value						
Rank in Total for:		Species	Quantity	Percentage of Total for:			Rank in Total for:		Species	Value	Percentage of Total for:		
U. S. & Alaska	Fresh-water fish			U. S. & Alaska	Fresh-water fish	Fresh-water Fish (Cumulative)	U. S. & Alaska	Fresh-water fish			U. S. & Alaska	Fresh-water fish	Fresh-water Fish (Cumulative)
		Fresh-water fish:	1,000 Lbs.	%	%	%			Fresh-water fish:	1,000 $	%	%	%
21	1	Carp	35,429	.8	21.1	21.1	15	1	Catfish & bullheads	5,858	1.6	25.3	25.3
22	2	Catfish & bullheads	27,371	.6	16.3	37.4	18	2	Buffalofish	3,556	1.0	15.4	40.7
24	3	Buffalofish	25,790	.6	15.3	52.7	22	3	Yellow pike	2,152	.6	9.3	50.0
28	4	Herring, lake	20,177	.4	12.0	64.7	26	4	Carp	2,007	.5	8.7	58.7
35	5	Sheepshead	10,987	.2	6.5	71.2	29	5	Chub	1,690	.5	7.3	66.0
37	6	Chub	10,529	.2	6.3	77.5	33	6	Whitefish, common	1,318	.4	5.7	71.7
43	7	Yellow pike	7,087	.2	4.2	81.7	35	7	Lake trout	1,246	.3	5.4	77.1
-	8	Yellow perch	4,708	.1	2.8	84.5	38	8	Yellow perch	1,041	.3	4.5	81.6
-	9	Smelt	3,624	.1	2.1	86.6	40	9	Herring, lake	981	.3	4.2	85.8
-	10	Suckers	3,291	.1	2.0	88.6	41	10	Sheepshead	929	.2	4.0	89.8
-	-	All other	19,246	.5	11.4	100.0	50	11	Blue pike	625	.2	2.7	92.5
		Total	168,239	3.8	100.0	100.0	-	-	All other	1,727	.5	7.5	100.0
									Total	23,130	6.4	100.0	100.0
		Fresh-water shellfish, etc.:							Fresh-water shellfish, etc.:				
26	1	Mussel shells	23,062	.5	84.7	84.7	-	1	Mussel shells	380	.1	66.0	66.0
-	-	All other	4,164	.1	15.3	100.0	-	-	All other	196	.1	34.0	34.0
		Total	27,226	.6	100.0	100.0			Total	576	.2	100.0	100.0
		Total fresh-water fish and shellfish, etc.	195,465	4.4	-	-			Total fresh water fish and shellfish, etc.	23,706	6.6	-	-

*Data are for 1951, except that the Mississippi River area data are for 1950.

Fresh-water items among the leading species in production were carp (35,429,000 pounds), catfish and bullheads (27,371,000 pounds), and buffalofish (25,790,000 pounds), and these species ranked 21st, 22nd, and 24th in volume, respectively (table 3). In value, catfish and bullheads led all other fresh-water species with $5,858,000, but was in 15th place among all items listed in table 3; while buffalofish, in 18th place in table 3, was the second most valuable fresh-water species bringing $3,556,000 ex-vessel. In the shellfish group, shrimp, crabs, and oysters were the most important in volume, followed by clams and lobsters. In value, shrimp, oysters, and clams were the three leading items, with the most important fresh-water item, mussel shells, far down in the value column. Tables 9 and 10 divide the United States and Alaska catch into fresh-water and salt-water groupings by species.