

# FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

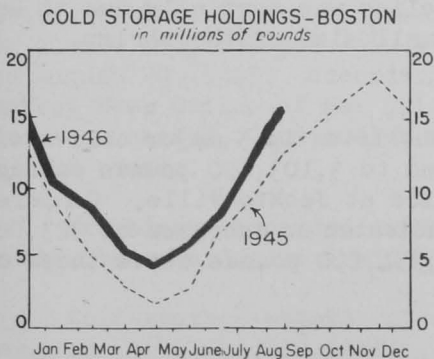
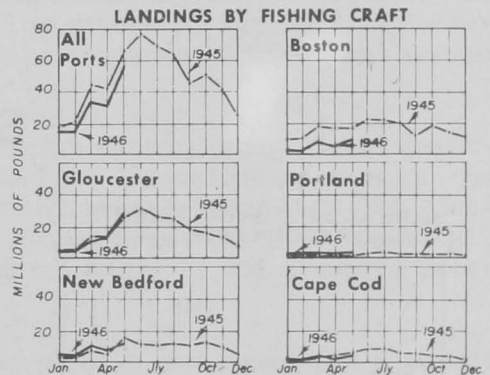
## New England

**PRODUCTION:** Production in all the major New England ports declined during August, according to the Service's Market News Office at Boston. Declines are to be expected at this period of the year; but at Gloucester, where the landings were less than half of the production for July, the fishermen decided to hold their boats in port until more space became available in the cold-storage warehouses rather than risk selling their catches at a lower price.

The lack of storage space in the freezers was not due to poor consumer demand for frozen stocks, but rather to the limited storage space at points of distribution. An estimated loss in production of 10 million pounds has resulted from the shortage of these facilities.

Landings of popular species such as haddock continued high in proportion to cod and other groundfish, while the landings of swordfish, which should be at their peak in August, were less than expected. The swordfish and seining fleets were hampered by some unusually bad weather.

**LANDINGS DURING MAY:** Landings by fishing craft during May at Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, Portland, and ports on Cape Cod totaled 56,820,000 pounds--a decrease of 13 percent in quantity landed as compared with May 1945. Total landings during the first 5 months of 1946 amounted to 150,695,000 pounds compared with 189,829,000 pounds landed during the corresponding period of 1945. Landings at Boston during May were less than half of those for May a year previous, and the landings for the 5 months ending with May totaled only 26 million pounds as compared with 71 million pounds in 1945, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 285.



**COLD-STORAGE:** Holdings of fishery products in 13 cold-storage plants in Maine and Massachusetts on August 31 totaled 33,429,000 pounds, according to the Service's local Market News Office. This represented an increase of 18 percent over July 31, and was 40 percent greater than August 31, 1945.

Holdings at Gloucester approached closely the capacity of the storage warehouses, and at the end of the month fishing operations out of that port were being curtailed to permit handling of the receipts without loss.

## Chesapeake

**PRODUCTION:** Fish production in the Chesapeake Bay area during August increased 20 percent over July. With the exception of one week when most of the fish were taken, production was very irregular, according to the Service's Market News Office at Hampton.

Croakers amounted to approximately 68 percent of the total catch.

The end of August saw the pound-net fishermen take their nets ashore and the dealers prepare for the otter-trawl season.

Production of fresh picked crabmeat dropped from 265,000 pounds in July to 244,000 pounds in August, a decrease of 8 percent. An extended period of north-easterly winds during the latter part of the month greatly curtailed crabbing operations.

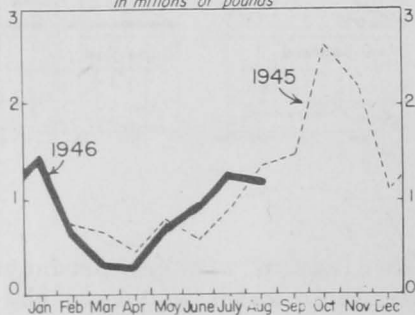
Only a slight increase was noted in the total oyster take during the month, although production in some sections increased considerably.

Perplexing employment problems continued in the crab-picking and oyster-shucking plants during August. The production of both crabmeat and shucked oysters was hampered by insufficient labor.



## South Atlantic

SOUTH ATLANTIC SHRIMP RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



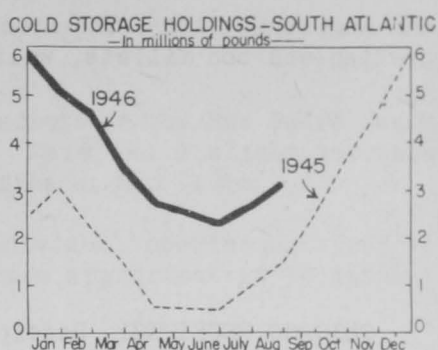
**PRODUCTION:** Shrimp production in the South Atlantic area during August amounted to 1,124,500 pounds (heads off). This was a decrease of 10 percent compared with July and was 16 percent less than August 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at Jacksonville.

A decline in shrimp landings occurred in each of the South Atlantic States during August compared with those of the previous month and August 1945. The decline was partially due to bad weather and the small size of the shrimp.

**COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of fish and shellfish in 5 major cold-storage warehouses in the South Atlantic States amounted to 3,103,000 pounds on August 29, according to the Service's Market News Office at Jacksonville. Compared with holdings on August 1 of 2,780,000 pounds, this indicated an increase of 323,000 pounds. This year's holdings on August 29 were 1,354,000 pounds above those on August 30, 1945.

The leading items in stocks held were cod, haddock, pollock, and rosefish fillets, mullet, Spanish mackerel, whiting, scup, and shrimp.

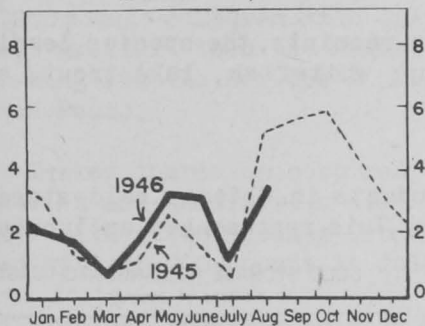
Compared with August 1, fish stocks increased 235,000 pounds and shellfish holdings, 88,000 pounds. Increases in stocks of rosefish fillets, Spanish mackerel, and mullet were largely responsible for the rise in fish holdings, while shellfish stocks were enlarged by increased shrimp and spiny lobster holdings.



## Gulf

**PRODUCTION:** Shrimp production in the Gulf area during August was three times greater than that for July, but was 30 percent lower than August 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at New Orleans.

GULF SHRIMP RECEIPTS—  
in millions of pounds



Louisiana's closed shrimp season ended August 11, permitting shrimping vessels to enter the inland and shallow waters of the Gulf. This resulted in liberal landings of small and medium sized shrimp.

Fourteen shrimp canning companies, operating under the Seafood Inspection Service of the Food and Drug Administration, canned 58,300 standard cases of shrimp from July 1 to August 31,

while during the corresponding period in 1945, approximately 31,000 standard cases were produced by 28 canning plants.

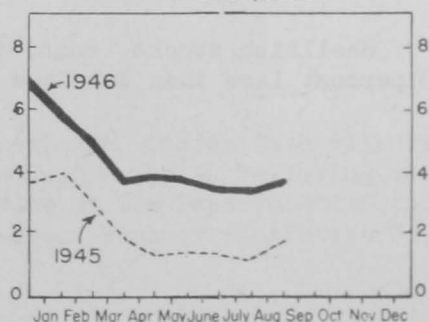
Shrimping operations in Alabama and Mississippi were suspended for a period in August during price negotiations between fishermen and dealers.

**COLD-STORAGE:** Shrimp holdings in 10 cold-storage warehouses in the Gulf States totaled 1,388,000 pounds on August 29. This was 38 percent above holdings on August 1 and 38 percent greater than stocks on August 29, 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at New Orleans. Holdings of frozen, cooked, and peeled shrimp amounted to 63,000 pounds.

Freezings exceeded withdrawals by 46,000 pounds between August 1 and 29.

Cold-storage stocks of salt-water fish amounted to 2,096,000 pounds, 6 percent under holdings of August 1 and three times greater

GULF COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS  
in millions of pounds



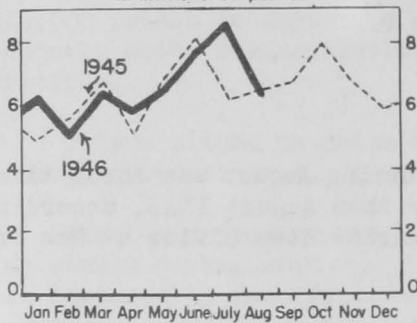
than August 29, 1945. The species accounting for most of the holdings were mullet, rosefish and cod fillets, whiting, and blue runner.



## Great Lakes

**CHICAGO RECEIPTS:** Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products in the Chicago wholesale fish market during August totaled 6,277,000 pounds. This was 26 percent less than receipts in July and 4 percent below August 1945, according to the Service's local Market News Office.

CHICAGO RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



Fresh-water receipts declined 16 percent during August compared with July, and the salt-water arrivals fell 37 percent below the July figure.

Shellfish receipts of 734,000 pounds were 16 percent less than those for July.

Of the August receipts, the species leading in poundage were halibut, rosefish fillets, shrimp, whitefish, lake trout, and cod fillets.

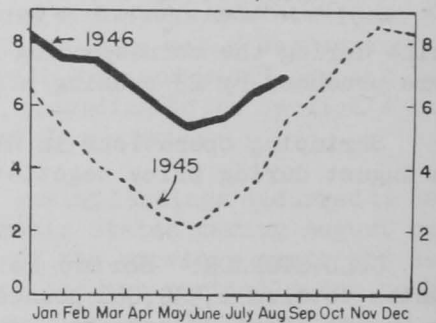
**CHICAGO COLD-STORAGE:** Holdings of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on August 29 amounted to 6,819,000 pounds. This represented an increase of 6 percent compared with holdings on August 1 and was 23 percent over August 30, 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at Chicago.

Stocks of fresh-water fish totaled 2,231,000 pounds on August 29, 6 percent above the August 1 holdings and 42 percent greater than August 29, 1945. Whitefish accounted for 610,000 pounds of the total.

Holdings of salt-water varieties, amounting to 3,936,000 pounds, increased 12 percent over stocks on August 1. Salmon and halibut were the predominating species.

Shellfish stocks, consisting mainly of shrimp, amounted to 653,000 pounds, 20 percent less than holdings on August 1.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CHICAGO  
in millions of pounds



## Pacific

**LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:** Fresh fish landings in the San Pedro-Santa Monica area totaled 545,000 pounds during August. This was a slight increase over July, according to the Service's Market News Office at San Pedro.

The most noticeable rise in the landings of individual species occurred in mackerel. These landings, increasing seasonally, rose approximately 50 percent over those in July.

At San Diego, landings of swordfish rose from 11,000 pounds during July to 139,000 pounds in August. Swordfish is most abundant in these waters at this season of the year.

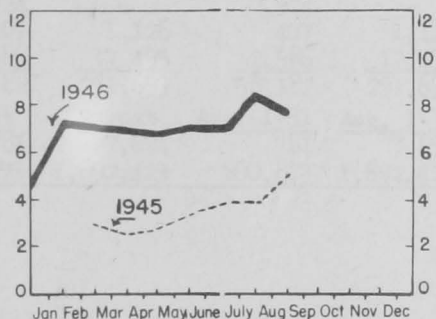
The sardine fishery at San Francisco and Monterey, normally scheduled to begin on August 1, was delayed until August 15 because of price negotiations. Landings of this species at both ports declined considerably during the month compared with the August 1945 catch.

**CALIFORNIA COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Freezings of fish and shellfish in California plants during August, amounted to 505,000 pounds. This was a decline of 102,000 pounds compared with July, but was 67,000 pounds greater than the August 1945 freezings, according to the Service's Market News Office at San Pedro.

Marked increases occurred in freezings of anchovies and sardines for use as bait or animal food, with 41,000 pounds frozen in August compared with 15,000 pounds in July.

Fishery products held in California cold-storage plants on September 1 totaled 7,700,000 pounds, representing a decline of 6 percent compared with August 1, but an increase of 57 percent compared with September 1, 1945. Shrimp holdings displayed a drop of 815,000 pounds on September 1 compared with August 1. This drop was largely responsible for the decrease of total holdings during August. Despite this decline, shrimp stocks were 1,098,000 pounds greater on September 1 than the holdings of this species on September 1, 1945.

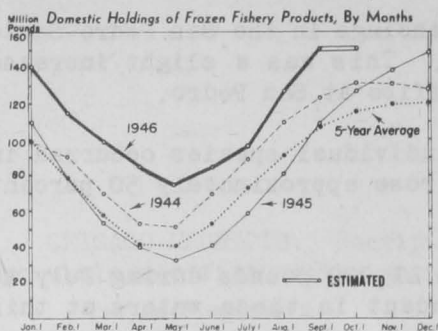
COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - CALIFORNIA  
in millions of pounds



## United States

**COLD-STORAGE FREEZINGS AND HOLDINGS:** Both fresh and frozen fish will be plentiful during the balance of the year and will aid greatly in relieving the shortage of protein foods, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior predicted on September 19 while releasing Current Fishery Statistics No. 287.

The prediction is based on the facts that the quantity of frozen fish and shellfish now held in freezers is at a record for this season of the year and that boats in the Atlantic, the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and the Pacific are daily bringing in additional quantities of fresh fish to meet consumers' needs.



Holdings of frozen fish and shellfish, exclusive of those in private freezers, totaled 152 million pounds on September 1, a record quantity for this season of the year, the Service stated. Stocks included 130 million pounds of salt-water fish, 9 million pounds of lake and river fish, and 13 million pounds of shellfish.

Stocks of frozen fish are well distributed throughout the country; 36 million pounds in New England, 24 million in the Middle Atlantic States, 9 million in the South Atlantic area, 24 million in the North Central States, 7 million in the South Central States, 22 million on the Pacific Coast, and 30 million in Alaska.

Freezings of fishery products in domestic cold-storage plants during August amounted to 37,940,000 pounds, compared with 45,623,000 pounds in August of the previous year. Freezings during the first 8 months of the year amounted to 189,827,000 pounds compared with 184,469,000 pounds during the corresponding period in 1945.



RIVERS HAVE LONG BEEN CONSIDERED THE PROPER PLACE TO DUMP WASTES OF FACTORIES, mines, oil wells, and domestic sewage. The belief that running water purifies itself in 30 (or 300 or 3,000) feet is a fallacy. Factory, mine, or petroleum wastes may destroy scores of miles of valuable fishing grounds. Raw sewage is dangerous from the health standpoint and depletes the oxygen supply so necessary for aquatic life. Properly treated and in moderate quantities, however, it fertilizes the waters and increases fish food and fish production, just as fertilization increases production from the soil. Where streams are impounded, or where summer droughts reduce stream flow, pollution of the waters may be doubly disastrous to aquatic life.