

# FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

## New England

**MAINE'S LOBSTER FISHERY:** The lobster fishery along the coast of Maine, chief United States source of this crustacean, was so successful in 1945 that the total catch may rival the heavy production of this industry during the 1880's, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported on January 24.



Reports received from fishery authorities of the State of Maine indicate that the yield of lobsters during the first 11 months of the year was approximately 18 million pounds. The catch during December, not yet tabulated, probably added little to this total because of stormy weather.

Lobster production only a few years ago had fallen so low that serious concern was felt for the future of this resource. However, an increase in the catch of lobsters became apparent several years ago, the catch in Maine rising from an average of seven million pounds, during the period between 1935 and 1940, to 11.5 million pounds in 1943. Last year the upward trend continued; the 1944 catch was about 13 million pounds.

Biological studies now being conducted by the State and Federal Governments are expected to show whether the increase in the catch is actually the result of an increase in the lobster population or may be due to other causes.

Lobstering is one of the chief industries along the Maine coast, giving employment to more men than any other fishery of the State. In 1945, 5,307 lobster fishermen were licensed in Maine.

Although lobsters are found as far south as New Jersey along the shore and as far as North Carolina in deep water, about two-thirds of the United States catch is taken in Maine waters. Rockland, the Mt. Desert area, Boothbay Harbor, and Portland are important centers of the fishery.

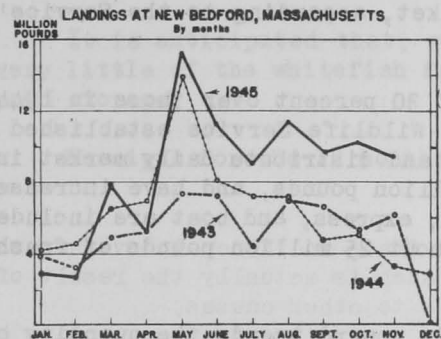
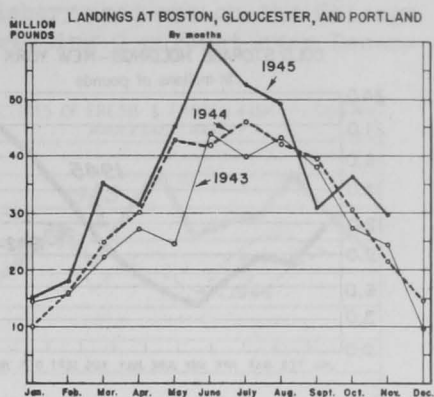
Full time lobstermen operate from 100 to 150 traps or pots, which they visit daily if weather permits. Part time fishermen who depend on other occupations for their principal livelihood may operate two or three dozen pots to supplement their income.

Wartime shortages of rope, lath, and other pot materials, and engine parts have been considerably eased, and with the return of fishermen who have been in service, the intensity of the fishery may be expected to increase.

Experiments on the rearing of young lobsters in hatcheries are carried on by the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries at Boothbay Harbor. In addition to artificial propagation, measures used to conserve the lobster resource are the protection of spawning females and the imposition of size limits.

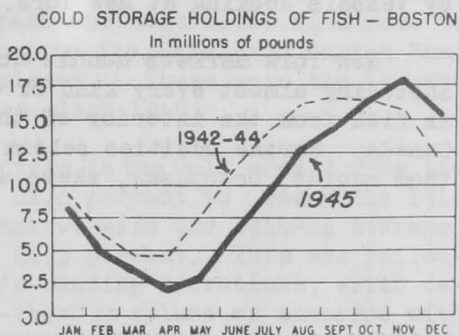


**LANDINGS AT BOSTON, GLOUCESTER, AND PORTLAND:** Landings by fishing craft at Boston, Gloucester, and Portland during November totaled 29,479,000 pounds, valued at \$1,971,700 to the fishermen, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 244. This was an increase of 36 percent in quantity landed compared with November 1944. Landings during the first 11 months of 1945 totaled 404,257,000 pounds compared with 347,816,000 pounds landed during the corresponding period of 1944, an increase of 16 percent.



**LANDINGS AT NEW BEDFORD:** Fishery products landed at New Bedford, Mass., during November totaled 9,548,000 pounds, valued at \$841,700 to the fishermen, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 243. This was an increase of 184 percent in quantity landed, compared with November 1944. Total landings during the first 11 months of 1945 amounted to 97,009,000 pounds compared with 72,036,000 pounds landed during the corresponding period of 1944, an increase of 35 percent.

**COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Cold-storage holdings in Boston on December 26 amounted to 15,734,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. While this figure is 13 percent below holdings on November 28, it is 24 percent above stocks held on December 27, 1944.



Pollock fillets, halibut, and shrimp showed the largest gains during December, while stocks of cod, haddock, and mackerel fillets, sea herring, mackerel, smelt, swordfish, and squid showed the largest decreases.



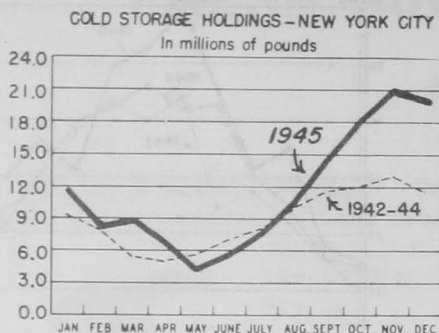
## Middle Atlantic

**NEW YORK CITY HOLDINGS:** Despite light arrivals of fresh fish in the New York market during the month of December due to the generally severe weather conditions along the Atlantic Coast, cold-storage withdrawals of fishery products were moderate, with holdings in the New York metropolitan area dropping close to a million pounds.

As of January 3, 1946, the New York inventories of frozen fishery products totaled 20,395,000 pounds, about 46 percent higher than the holdings of a year previous. Withdrawals of frozen groundfish, mackerel, whiting, shrimp and eels, the latter a Christmas specialty, were compensated to some extent by substantial deliveries of cod fillets, salmon, and sablefish to freezers, so that the net

drop in holdings was less than normally expected. Principal items on hand in freezers of the area on January 3, were cod and cod fillets, Boston mackerel, king salmon, sablefish, shrimp, and squid.

Holdings of fresh-water fish remained more than double the inventory of a year previous, with cisco and whitefish held in greatest quantity. Withdrawals of both these items by smokers were heavy during the month; however, over 1,345,000 pounds of cisco and 575,000 pounds of whitefish remained in storage at the beginning of January.



**NEW YORK CITY RECEIPTS--1945:** New York City, the country's largest market for fresh fish, set a new record in 1945, when 278 million pounds of marine fishery products were received by the salt-water market, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city.

The 1945 receipts represented an increase of 30 percent over those in 1944, and were the largest recorded since the Fish and Wildlife Service established a Market News Office in New York in 1939 to collect and distribute daily market information. New York receipts in 1939 were 228 million pounds, and have increased in each successive year. Shipments by rail, truck, express, and boat are included in the figures. In addition to marine species, about 25 million pounds of fresh-water fish are received annually.

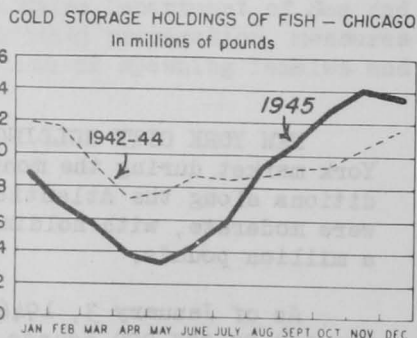
While total receipts have registered a steady upward trend, the quantity of fish actually landed at New York by boat has been declining since 1939, reaching a low of 16 million pounds in 1945. In 1939, 41 million pounds of fish were landed by vessels docking at New York.

New York markets handle about 125 different species of fish and shellfish, including almost every kind of aquatic food taken on the Atlantic Coast, as well as fish from the interior of the country, the Pacific Coast States, Alaska, and Canada. Marine oddities seldom seen elsewhere are to be found in New York, among them squids, octopuses, skate wings, angler fish, periwinkles, and sea urchins.



## Great Lakes

**CHICAGO HOLDINGS:** Total holdings of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on December 27, amounted to 8,245,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. Although there was a decline of 2 percent in the stocks compared with those of November 29, they displayed a gain of 24 percent over total holdings on December 28, 1944. Salt-water fish and shellfish showed the largest increases in holdings during the year by rising 51 and 33 percent, respectively, above those of 1944.



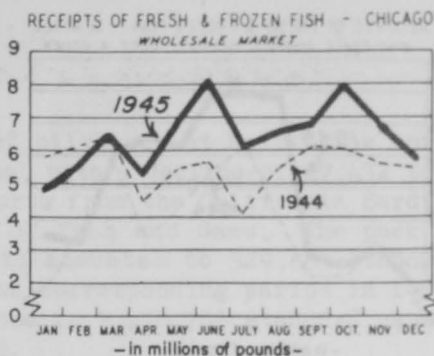
**CHICAGO RECEIPTS:** Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products on the Chicago market during December totaled 5,904,000 pounds, increasing 9 percent over December 1944, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. Although halibut receipts fell 23 percent below those of November, this species led all others in volume during the month, representing 15 percent of the total receipts.

With the exception of shrimp from the Gulf area, there was a general decline in receipts of both fresh and salt-water species, and salmon, especially, showed a marked decline during the latter half of the month.

Shrimp made a particularly strong showing toward the end of December, with a total of 719,000 pounds, a gain of 13 percent over the previous month.

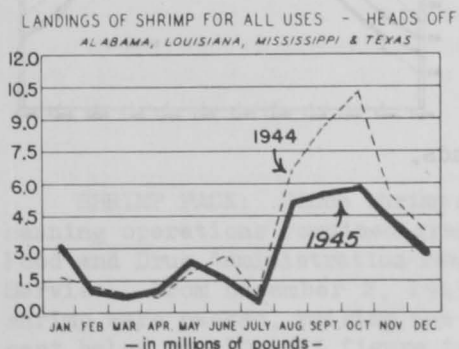
It is anticipated that, with receipts of fresh-water fish on the decline, very little of the whitefish from the Canadian Provinces will find its way into cold storage.

Receipts for the 12 months of 1945 totaled 77,561,000 pounds.



## Gulf

**GULF PRODUCTION:** Total Gulf landings of fresh and salt-water fish rose to more than a million pounds during 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office in New Orleans. These were the largest recorded landings since 1940.



Shrimp landings in the Gulf area during the year failed by 21.1 percent to reach the 1944 totals, and compared with the 1940-44 average, they were short 24.5 percent. This was reflected in the year's canning operations, which declined about one-third in volume as compared with 1944. Shrimp for purposes other than canning remained at the same level as that for the previous calendar year.

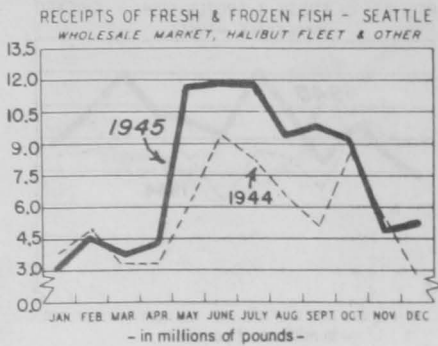
The production of oysters declined 15 percent during 1945 as compared with 1944 totals, but hard crabs and crabmeat showed considerable gain.



## Pacific

**SEATTLE RECEIPTS:** During December, landings and receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products at Seattle totaled 5,319,000 pounds, 79 percent above the December 1944 production, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. Receipts of frozen halibut and salmon from Alaska accounted for the major portion of the total.

Nearly 90 million pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products were received during 1945, which represented an increase of about 32 percent over the 1944 figure. With the exception of lingcod, sablefish, sole and livers, the receipts of practically all other major species during 1945 showed sizable gains over 1944, with true cod, rockfish, smelt, and salmon making the largest percentage gains. The run of pink salmon in Puget Sound was one of the most important factors in the year's high production.



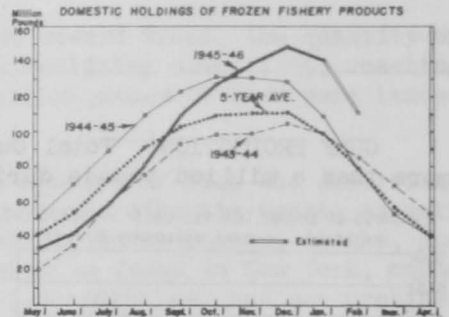
The 1945 receipts were the largest recorded since the Fish and Wildlife Service began collecting statistics for Seattle in 1939. The largest recorded total prior to 1945 was 80,909,000 pounds received in 1943, the year of all-out production for the war.



## United States

**COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of frozen fish and shellfish declined 8 million pounds during December and on January 1, totaled 140,208,000 pounds, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 241. This was 30 million pounds above the holdings on January 1, 1945, and 41 million pounds more than the 5-year average for this date.

Items which accounted for the major portion of the increase were groundfish and rosefish fillets, salmon, whiting, and lake herring. Holdings of these items showed the following increases compared with January 1, 1945: Groundfish and rosefish fillets, 6,700,000 pounds; salmon, 6,992,000 pounds; whiting, 5,400,000 pounds; and lake herring, 3,102,000 pounds.



Although fish-liver oils have long been recognized as first-class sources of vitamins A and D, it is less widely known that the flesh of fish is also a source of several vitamins. On the average, daily vitamin requirements could be obtained from ordinary serving portions of fish to the following extent: vitamin A, 10 percent; vitamin D, more than adequate amounts; thiamin (vitamin B<sub>1</sub>), 15 percent; riboflavin (vitamin B<sub>2</sub>), and nicotinic acid (another element of the vitamin B complex), 70 percent.