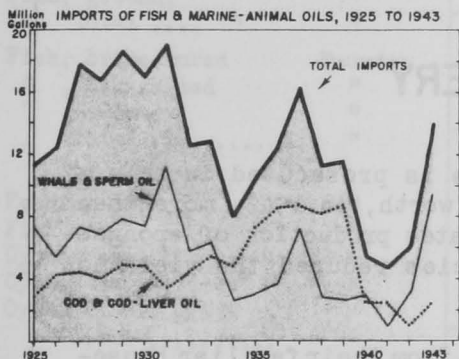
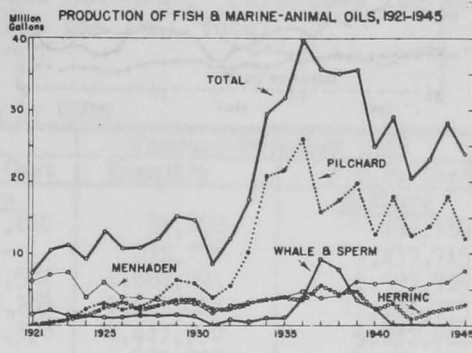


# FISHERY BYPRODUCTS

## Oil and Meal

**UNITED STATES PRODUCTION:** Domestic production of fish oils during December totaled 958,916 gallons, a decline of 49 percent compared with the production during December 1944, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 251. This brought the total for 1945 to 22,946,478 gallons compared with 27,324,173 gallons produced during 1944. Although complete data are not available on meal and scrap, items which accounted for 94 percent of the total 1944 production showed an output of 11,690 tons during December and 180,180 tons during 1945. The decrease in both meal and oil production was due to reduced landings of pilchards during the latter part of 1945.



Imports of fish and marine-animal oils into the United States rose from 4.7 million gallons in 1941 to more than 14 million gallons in 1943, mainly as a result of the resumption of the importation of whale and sperm oils. The apparent domestic supply of these oils (United States production plus imports, minus exports), averaged about 31 million gallons annually during the years 1941-43 compared with the high of 5.2 million gallons during 1936 and 1937. Detailed data on imports were given in the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 242. This leaflet also reported domestic production of 2,245,175 gallons of fish

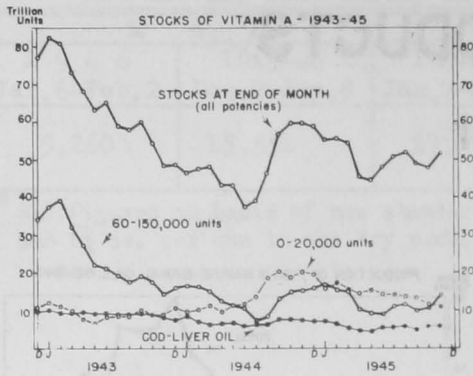
oil and 15,960 tons of meal and scrap for November.



## Vitamin A

**STOCKS AND PRODUCTION:** Stocks of vitamin A in fish-liver oils on November 30 were reported at 52 trillion units, an increase of 8 percent over stocks held on the first of the month, but 13 percent less than those of November 30, 1944, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 249.

Production of vitamin A during November totaled 5.1 trillion units compared with 5.6 trillion units produced during November 1944. Total production during the first 11 months of 1945 amounted to 57.4 trillion units as compared with 69.2 trillion units of the corresponding period of 1944.



Receipts of livers during November totaled 1,111,000 pounds, containing about 4.2 trillion units of vitamin A. During the same month of 1944, 1,053,000 pounds of livers, having a vitamin A content of 5.6 trillion units, were received.



## THE SPONGE FISHERY

The sponge fishery of the United States is prosecuted in only a limited area in Florida, but yields a product worth, in 1943, more than two million dollars. Before the war, United States production of sponges exceeded 600,000 pounds, but wartime exigencies reduced the yield to 174,000 pounds in 1943.



Apart from their familiar household uses, sponges are required in the manufacture of special hygienic and surgical preparations, in leather dressing and glazing, in washing railroad cars and locomotives. They are used by tile and bricklayers, painters, decorators, lithographers, jewelers, and silversmiths.

A sponge of good commercial quality must answer many specifications. It must be spheroidal or cake-shaped in form, soft and fine in texture, and tough, durable, resilient, and absorptive. These characteristics are determined largely by the size and arrangement of the fibers. The Florida sheepwool is of higher quality than sponges of the same species produced in Cuba and the Bahamas. Three other varieties--wire, grass, and yellow--are inferior in quality and therefore of less importance to the industry.