

# FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

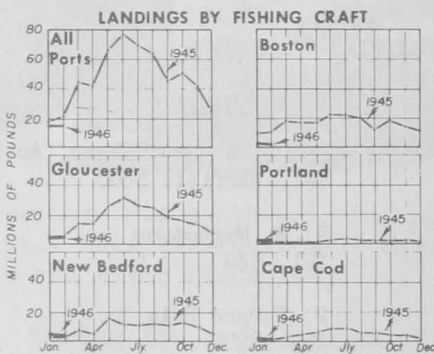
## New-England

**LANDINGS:** The most striking feature of the landings by offshore fishing vessels at Boston, Gloucester, and New Bedford during April, according to the Service's Market News Office at Boston, was the shift from the cod and rosefish fishery to haddock. The landings of haddock at Gloucester and New Bedford were the heaviest on record. In past years, Gloucester depended largely on the rosefish fishery and New Bedford on the fishery for yellowtails throughout the year, and when slumps occurred in these fisheries, the boats would haul out for repairs or turn to the fisheries for mackerel or scallops. With many larger and more powerful boats, these two ports have turned to the groundfish fishery.

Production at Boston was still sharply curtailed during April owing to the boat tie-up at that port.

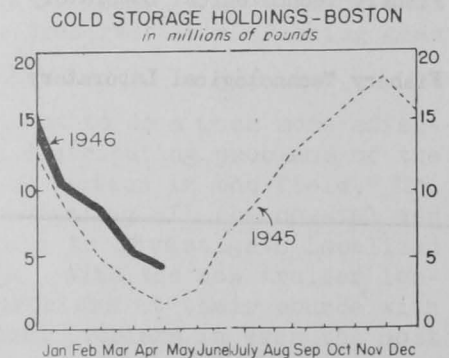
The mackerel seining fleet from Gloucester got off to an early start, with the first catch landed at Norfolk, Virginia, on March 25. The fleet made unusually heavy landings of mackerel during April. When the prices offered at all ports dropped below five cents, the fleet voted to limit the catches to 50,000 pounds per trip, with a 48-hour lay-over between trips at southern New Bedford ports and 24 hours at Boston and Gloucester.

**LANDINGS:** Landings by fishing craft during February at Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, Portland, and ports on Cape Cod totaled 14,592,000 pounds--a decrease of 32 percent in quantity landed as compared with February 1945, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 265. Total landings during the first two months of 1946 amounted to 29,235,000 pounds compared with 40,136,000 pounds landed during the corresponding period of 1945. Because of a price disagreement between vessel owners and fishermen, only 6.2 million pounds were landed at Boston during the 2-month period, compared with 19.6 million pounds for these months in 1945.



**COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of fishery products in Boston and Gloucester cold-storage plants on May 1 showed an increase of 81 percent as compared with stocks held on May 1, 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at Boston.

The increase in holdings was due to a large carry-over of a few items such as cod, pollock, mackerel, whiting, and miscellaneous fillets. Holdings of shrimp increased from 27,000 pounds on May 1, 1945 to 299,000 pounds on May 1, 1946,



and accounted for approximately 20 percent of the excess. The large carry-over of frozen mackerel from the 1945 season has made it impractical to freeze any of the early 1946 catch.

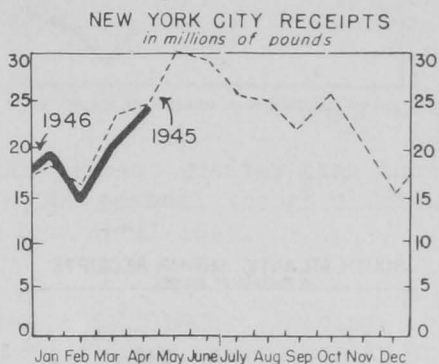


## Middle Atlantic

**NEW YORK CITY RECEIPTS:** Receipts of fish and shellfish during April amounted to 24 million pounds. This was an increase of 17 percent over March arrivals, but was about the same as the total for April 1945, according to the Service's local Market News Office.

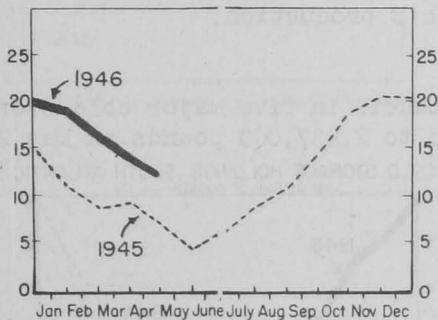
Cod was the leading item in the April receipts, despite continuance of the fleet tie-up at Boston. Shad was the second highest item of production, with heaviest receipts coming from the Hudson River and the Long Island and New Jersey Coasts. The third and fourth items of importance were haddock and mackerel.

April saw the last of the season's oyster production. Lobster receipts showed an increase compared with the previous month.



**NEW YORK CITY COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of fishery products in New York City cold-storage warehouses totaled 11,117,000 pounds on May 1. This was a decrease of 3 million pounds compared with stocks held on April 1, but was twice as high as the inventory on May 1, 1945, according to the Service's local Market News Office.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - NEW YORK  
in millions of pounds



The downward trend in holdings was checked considerably during April by the increased production of fresh fish. Large receipts of cod during the month tended to glut the market, thus sending sizable quantities of cod fillets to cold-storage.

Stocks showing the heaviest withdrawals during April were salmon, mackerel, smelt, and halibut; while cod fillets and herring were the items displaying the greatest increase.



## Chesapeake

**PRODUCTION:** During April, the trawler season in the Hampton Roads area came to a virtual close, according to the Service's Market News Office at Hampton. The majority of the fish was being taken by pound nets.

An unusual development during the month was the large catches of mackerel by trawl.

Oyster production was about terminated though the oysters were as fat as any time during the winter. Only 87,490 gallons were produced during April.

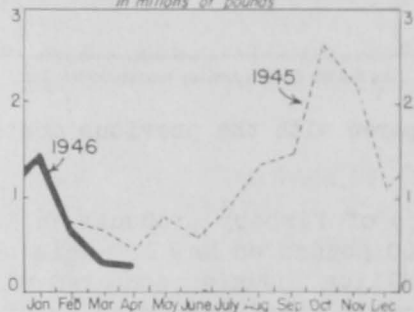


## South Atlantic

**RECEIPTS:** Shrimp production in April for Florida and the South Atlantic States amounted to 266,700 pounds (heads off), according to the Service's Market News Office at Jacksonville. This represented an increase of 1 percent over March, but was 41 percent below landings for April 1945.

Although Florida's closed period for shrimp fishing in the Atlantic Ocean ended April 15, catches after that date were very small. Gulf shrimplanded at Apalachicola, Florida, was mainly responsible for the increase in landings over the previous month's production.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SHRIMP RECEIPTS  
*in millions of pounds*

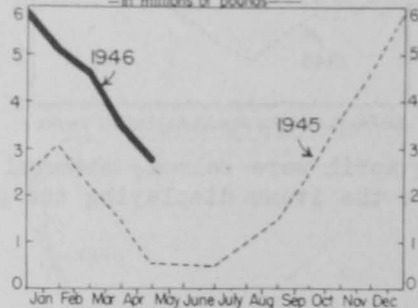


**COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of fishery products in five major cold-storage warehouses in the South Atlantic States amounted to 2,837,000 pounds on May 2, according to the Service's Market News Office at Jacksonville, Florida. This was a decline of 20 percent as compared with stocks on April 1.

Fish holdings decreased 417,000 pounds and shellfish 275,000 pounds during April. The major withdrawals were made from stocks of shrimp, mullet, whiting, and fillets.

The decrease in total holdings was partially offset by an increase in stocks of Spanish mackerel.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—SOUTH ATLANTIC  
*in millions of pounds*



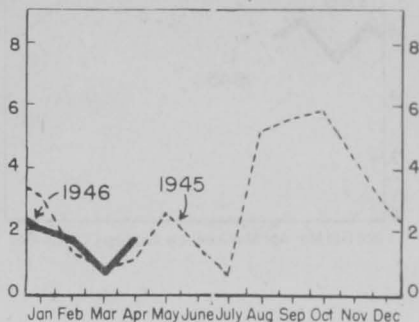
## Gulf

**PRODUCTION:** Shrimp production in the Gulf area amounted to 13,900 barrels during April, an increase of 123 percent over the March landings and 52 percent above the April 1945 production, according to the Service's Market News Office in New Orleans. The greater portion of the increase occurred during the latter part of April, causing producers to anticipate a good spring run.

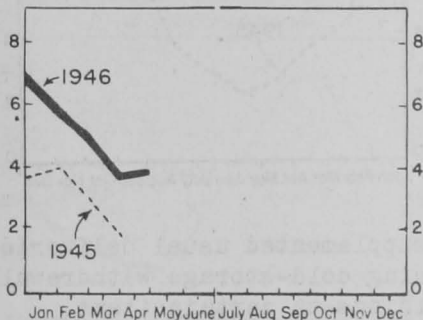
Oyster production continued strong with 99,000 barrels harvested in April, exceeding the previous month's production of 88,000 barrels, and that for April 1945 of 85,000 barrels. Hard crab landings reached almost 2 million pounds during the month. Soft crab, crayfish, and turtle receipts also were good.

Fresh-water fish landings during April were 100 percent greater than those for April 1945, while salt-water production of 418,000 pounds, though slightly behind the March receipts, was considerably higher than April 1945.

GULF SHRIMP RECEIPTS—  
in millions of pounds



GULF COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS  
in millions of pounds



**GULF COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of shrimp in eight cold-storage warehouses in the Gulf area totaled 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  million pounds on May 1, a considerable increase over May 1, 1945, when only 620,000 pounds were held, according to the Service's Market News Office at New Orleans.

The normal decline in shrimp stocks was interrupted when 200,000 pounds of this species was added during the latter part of April.

On May 1, 2,200,000 pounds of fish were in cold-storage as compared with 600,000 pounds on May 1, 1945.



## Great Lakes

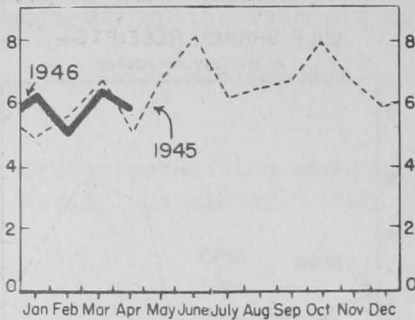
**CHICAGO RECEIPTS:** Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products in the Chicago wholesale fish market during April totaled 5,951,000 pounds, an increase of 12 percent over April 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. Fresh-water varieties accounted for 72 percent of the total receipts; salt-water varieties, 19 percent; and shellfish, 9 percent.

Fresh-water deliveries during April exceeded those of April 1945 by 19 percent. Yellow pike led all other fresh-water items and accounted for 21 percent of the fresh-water receipts.

Fresh salmon, in limited supply, made its initial appearance for this season.

Salt-water deliveries were 14 percent less in April than in April 1945.

CHICAGO RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



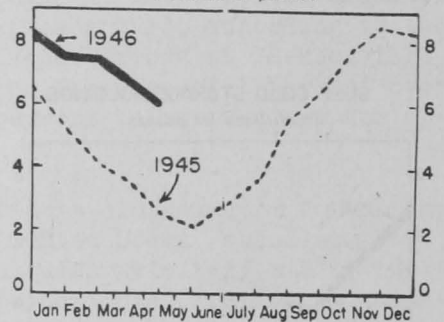
Receipts of fish from the Canadian Provinces were confined almost wholly to minor deliveries of fresh fish from Ontario and Quebec and frozen items from the Maritime Provinces. Lake Erie was the most important source of fresh-water fish during the month.

Shrimp, totaling 289,000 pounds, accounted for 42 percent of the total shellfish deliveries. Oyster deliveries of 138,000 pounds were 43 percent greater than April 1945.

CHICAGO COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS: Total holdings of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on May 2 amounted to 5,884,000 pounds, a decline of 11 percent compared with stocks on April 4, according to the Service's Chicago Market News Office. Holdings were, however, considerably larger than those on May 3, 1945.

Holdings of halibut decreased from 333,000 pounds on April 4 to 68,000 pounds on May 2, but this was a normal seasonal decline. Salmon stocks dropped 109,000 pounds, and nearly all other salt-water varieties showed declines except fillets of cod and haddock, which displayed small increases. Stocks of scallops, shrimp, and spiny lobster tails also shrank during April.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CHICAGO  
in millions of pounds



Large deliveries of fresh fish from Lake Erie supplemented usual deliveries from other Great Lakes points during the month, holding cold-storage withdrawals to a minimum and, in a few cases, even increased holdings on certain items.

Expected large deliveries of halibut, salmon, and sablefish from the West Coast soon should add to the present nearly depleted stocks of these items.

With increased deliveries of shrimp from the Gulf States, some shrimp will, undoubtedly, find its way to the freezers, thus adding to present holdings of this item.



## Pacific

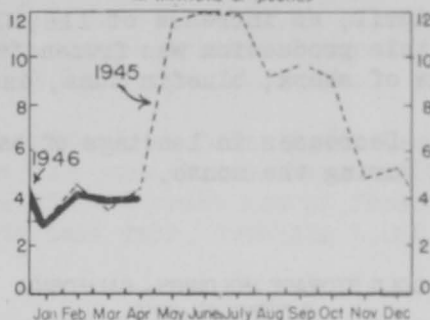
SEATTLE RECEIPTS: Fresh and frozen fishery products received at Seattle during April totaled 4,295,000 pounds, 12 percent above March receipts, but 2 percent below April 1945, according to the Service's local Market News Office.

With offshore weather conditions moderating to a considerable extent, Seattle's otter-trawl fleet was able to obtain greater production during April, with the result that bottomfish landings by this fleet totaled over 2,799,000 pounds, or 65 percent of the month's total receipts.

Local receipts consisted of 3,200,000 pounds of fish, largely bottomfish, including 83,000 pounds of fillets processed and frozen on the fishing grounds. The filleting and freezing of bottomfish at sea was a recent experiment by the local industry, and the vessels so equipped were limited in number, but results indicated a fairly promising future. Local shellfish receipts totaled about 378,000 pounds, consisting mainly of Dungeness crabs, cooked crabmeat, Pacific oysters, and octopus, with the last item being caught almost entirely by the otter-trawl vessels.

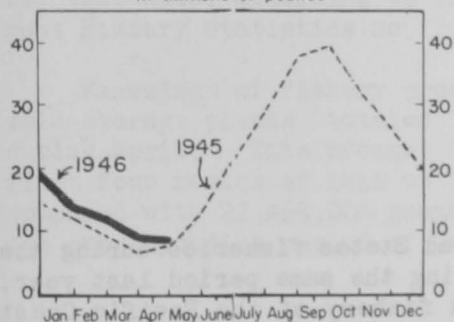
Receipts from Alaska, via coastwise steamers, dropped from 1,404,000 pounds in March to 156,000 pounds in April. Smaller shipments of frozen halibut and salmon accounted for the greater portion of the decline.

SEATTLE RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



NORTHWEST COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS: Fish and shellfish holdings in cold-storage plants of Washington, Oregon, and Alaska amounted to nearly 9 million pounds on May 1, according to the Service's Market News Office at Seattle. This was a decline of 6 percent compared with stocks held on April 1, but an increase of 18 percent over May 1, 1945 holdings.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—NORTH PACIFIC  
in millions of pounds



Preparatory to the opening of the 1946 halibut fishing season on May 1, owners of stocks of frozen halibut endeavored to reduce their inventories of this species to a minimum. Resulting withdrawals of halibut from the freezers accounted for the major portion of the month's reduction. Other substantial withdrawals consisted of bait and animal food.

With otter-trawl operations at the peak of production off the coasts of Washington and Oregon during April, exceptionally heavy freezings of filleted rockfish, true cod, lingcod, and soles were made. The over-abundant supply of bottomfish became so serious during the month in these States that dealers were forced to limit daily purchases from vessels. This was particularly true with reference to rockfish and true cod.

Despite the efforts of a majority of the dealers to stimulate sales of both round and filleted bottomfish, most of the markets remained extremely sluggish, resulting in large quantities of these fish being placed in cold-storage. Rockfish fillets alone increased 157 percent above April 1 holdings of this item.

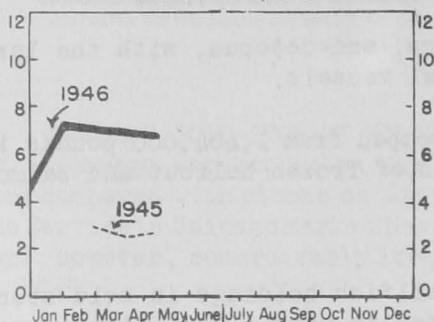
RECEIPTS AT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PORTS: Landings of fish at the ports of Santa Monica, San Diego, and San Pedro area showed an increase of 153,000 pounds

during April compared with landings in March, according to the Service's Market News Office at San Pedro.

Pilchard production showed the greatest increase with 170,700 pounds landed in April, an increase of 116,600 pounds compared with March. However, the bulk of this production was frozen for bait. Other notable increases were in the landings of shark, bluefin tuna, and yellowtail.

Decreases in landings of barracuda and California halibut were the most striking during the month.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CALIFORNIA  
in millions of pounds



**CALIFORNIA COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of fishery products in California cold-storage plants totaled 6,694,500 pounds on May 1. This was 300,000 pounds less than stocks held on April 1, but 4,391,200 pounds greater than May 1, 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at San Pedro.

The most notable decreases in freezings occurred in salt-water fish and shrimp.

Shrimp holdings were larger than those of any other single item held in cold-storage on May 1.



## United States

**FISH PRODUCTION:** Production in the major United States fisheries during the first quarter of 1946 was appreciably less than during the same period last year, largely because of a decline in the large pilchard fishery of the Pacific Coast and a decrease in landings at New England ports, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported on May 2.

Landings of pilchards or Pacific sardines between January 1 and the closing of the season on February 28 amounted to 43,787 tons, compared with 62,076 tons in 1945. Fishing for pilchards will be resumed in California, the center of the fishery, on August 1. Pilchards support the largest canned fish industry in the United States (exclusive of Alaska) and are also the chief source of fish meal and oil.



Quantities of fish landed at the major ports of New England have fallen from about 86,000,000 pounds during the first three months of 1945 to some 63,000,000 pounds this year. The heaviest decline--some 26,000,000 pounds--occurred at Boston, where the large trawlers have been tied up since the first of the year as a result of a labor disagreement. Landings at Gloucester are 4,000,000 pounds under

last year's receipts, but a gain of about 4,000,000 pounds was reported at both New Bedford and Portland. Fishing activity on Cape Cod continued at about the same level as in the first quarter of 1945.

The catch of tuna during the first three months of 1946 totaled 22,910,000 pounds compared with 14,280,000 pounds in 1945. The three-month total for Pacific mackerel was 4,390,000 pounds, declining from 5,790,000 pounds last year.

On the Gulf of Mexico, production of shrimp declined from 43,225 barrels during the first quarter of 1945 to 36,078 barrels this year, and oysters declined from 257,220 barrels to 180,691 barrels. Catches of hard crabs and of fresh and salt-water fish showed little change compared with last year, totaling 1,080,000 and 1,650,000 pounds, respectively.

Receipts of fish at most of the large consuming centers remained at approximately the level of 1945. New York's salt-water market received slightly smaller shipments by truck and express but vessel landings increased, giving the market a total of 56,000,000 pounds, compared with 58,000,000 in 1945. Chicago received 17,600,000 pounds of fish, including domestic shipments and imports, or approximately the same as in 1945. Landings and local receipts of fish at Seattle totaled 6,255,000 pounds in the first quarter of 1946 and 5,187,000 in 1945.

**COLD-STORAGE FREEZINGS AND HOLDINGS:** Stocks of frozen fish and shellfish declined 8,947,000 pounds during April and on May 1 totaled 75,318,000 pounds. This was 132 percent above holdings on May 1, 1945, and 86 percent above the 5-year average for this date, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 268.

Freezings of fishery products in domestic cold-storage plants totaled 12,504,000 pounds during April. This brought the total for the first four months of 1946 to 36,040,000 pounds compared with 28,968,000 pounds frozen during the corresponding period of 1945.

