

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

New England

PRODUCTION: Production of all the major New England ports increased during May, according to the Service's Market News Office at Boston. The causes for this increase were: Normal gain due to seasonal abundance of important species such as haddock and rosefish, resumption of the small boat fishery for whiting, the appearance of the mackerel schools in local waters, and the return to production of a majority of the large otter trawlers which had been tied up from December 27, 1945 to May 23. Previous to April, all the major New England ports were deluged with cod, which had to compete in the market with unusually large imports of this species. At Gloucester, in May, the large fleet of draggers found abundant supplies of rosefish and shifted their fishing from cod and haddock to rosefish. Total landings at Boston increased over 100 percent during the last week of May compared to preceding weeks due to the first arrivals of the large otter trawlers. It is expected that landings will rapidly return to normal at Boston when the 42 large trawlers reach their maximum production.

The end of May found Boston, Gloucester, and New Bedford with greatly expanded fishing fleets. Shore facilities at Gloucester and New Bedford have been nearly tripled since prewar days. With shortages in many foods other than fishery products, it is considered probable that the trade can absorb the production of the expanded fleets in our major ports.

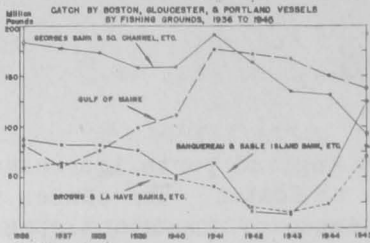
One of the most eventful occurrences was the suspension of price ceilings on many fishery items on May 20th. Prices during the last two weeks of the month averaged close to one and one-half cents per pound higher for important species at Boston and New Bedford, while Gloucester prices held close to the old summer ceilings. Prices paid for scallops doubled over the former ceiling but reportedly were not more than those paid previously on the black market.

LANDINGS DURING MARCH: Landings by fishing craft during March at Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, Portland, and ports on Cape Cod totaled 34,081,000 pounds-- a decrease of 24 percent in quantity landed as compared with March 1945, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 271. Total landings during the first 3 months of 1946 amounted to 63,317,000 pounds, compared with 84,892,000 pounds landed during the corresponding period of 1945. Because of the price controversy existing between vessel owners and fishermen, only 12.9 million pounds were landed at Boston during the 3-month period, compared with 37.9 million pounds for these months in 1945.



LANDINGS FOR 1945: Landings of fishery products at Boston, Gloucester, and Portland during 1945 by fishing vessels of over 5 net tons totaled 423,615,000 pounds, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 264, entitled

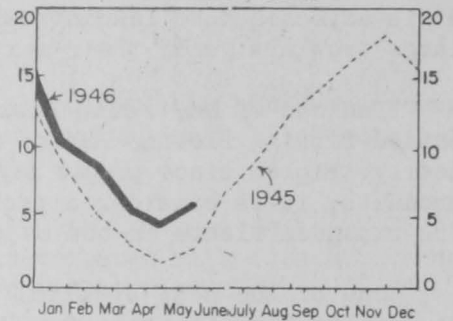
"New England Landings, 1945, by Gear and Area." This was an increase of 16 percent over the landings at these ports during 1944. Of the total, 37 percent was caught by large otter trawls, 39 percent by medium otter trawls, 12 percent by small otter trawls, and 7 percent by purse seines. The remaining 5 percent of the catch was taken by sink gill nets, line trawls, floating traps, harpoons, drift gill nets, hand lines, haul seines, dip nets, and scallopdredges. Large increases during recent years are evident in Banquereau and Sable Island Banks, etc., and Browns and LaHave Banks, etc., while other areas continued to decline from the 1941 peak.



COLD-STORAGE: Holdings of fishery products in 13 cold-storage plants in Maine and Massachusetts on June 1 showed an increase of 38 percent over inventories on May 1 and were double the quantities held on June 1, 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at Boston.

The cold-storage plants in the Maine-Massachusetts area have an estimated capacity of 40 million pounds. On June 1, stocks were only about 29 percent of this potential capacity. Individual items held in storage showed that nearly 54 percent of the increase during May consisted of sea herring and squid. These items, as a rule, do not compete with the most important items such as cod, haddock, and rosefish; instead they are usually frozen for bait or for canning. Holdings of cod fillets, which prior to this month were rapidly increasing, declined 22 percent, while stocks of haddock and rosefish fillets increased slightly.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-BOSTON
in millions of pounds



It is difficult to make comparisons of cold-storage holdings of recent years, owing mainly to the affect of the war upon production, and a lack of complete records for earlier years. It appears evident, however, that holdings were higher on June 1 this year than they were on that date in any prewar year, because of the increased acceptance by the public of frozen products and a corresponding increase in production of frozen fish.

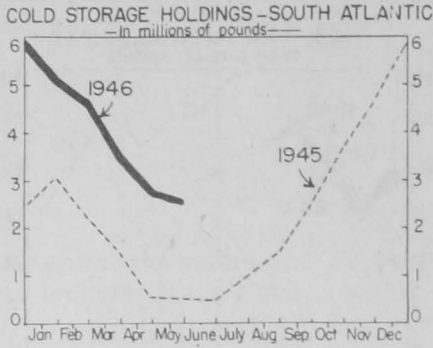


Middle Atlantic

NEW YORK CITY RECEIPTS: Fish and shellfish received in the New York salt-water market during May amounted to more than 22 million pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. This represented a decrease of approximately 2 million pounds compared with April and was 9,700,000 pounds less than May 1945. May was the month of highest production in 1945.

Of the salt-water fish receipts, the species arriving in greatest abundance during May were flounder, cod, haddock, and mackerel, while clams, soft shell

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS: Holdings of fish and shellfish in 5 major cold-storage warehouses in the South Atlantic States amounted to 2,585,000 pounds on June 1, according to the Service's Market News Office at Jacksonville. This was 245,000 pounds less than inventories on May 2, but 2,072,000 pounds greater than June 1, 1945.



Fish stocks decreased 165,000 pounds and shellfish 80,000 pounds during May. The decrease was partially counterbalanced, however, by an increase in holdings of whiting, king whiting, fillets of northern varieties of fish, and croakers. There were only slight increases in stocks of southern varieties.

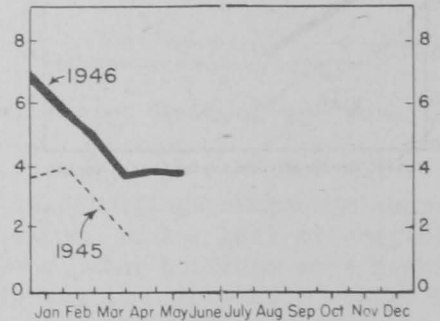


Gulf

COLD-STORAGE: Withdrawals of frozen shrimp from Gulf storage plants during the last week of May were double the quantity withdrawn in any of the previous 5 weeks, according to the Service's Market News Office in New Orleans. There were, however, larger amounts assigned to freezing, so that holdings remained at a level of about $1\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds in the 10 Gulf area warehouses covered by market news records.

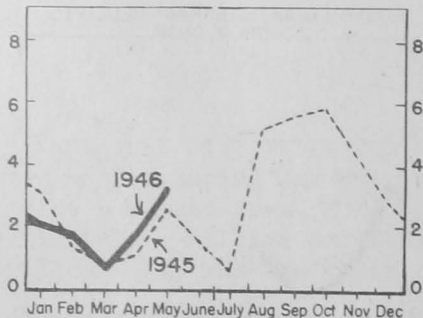
Nine of 28 canning plants operating under the Federal inspection service resumed operations after the suspension of price ceilings.

GULF COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS
in millions of pounds



PRODUCTION: Suspension of price ceilings on May 20 by OPA caused considerable change in the Gulf shrimp industry, according to the Service's Market News Office in New Orleans.

GULF SHRIMP RECEIPTS—
in millions of pounds



Prices released for open bargaining, mounted from 50 to 100 percent higher than the former OPA maximums. Some areas established local ceilings of their own, but this system became disrupted when outside buyers came in with bids higher than those of the local dealers.

It was expected that consumer demand would remain sufficiently strong to sustain the high prices until August, when shrimp would be more plentiful.

Production of shrimp was good for several days following the lifting of the ceilings, but dropped off as May ended, and it was expected that the following

ten weeks would see light production. The season on inside fishing closes in Louisiana on June 28 and remains closed until August 15. (A bill pending in the Louisiana legislature would extend this period slightly, banning fishing from June 10 until the second Monday in August. This bill defines inside waters as all waters extending out to the 3-fathom line.)



Great Lakes

CHICAGO RECEIPTS: Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products in the Chicago wholesale fish market during May totaled 6,400,000 pounds, an increase of 7 percent over April, but 7 percent less than the May 1945 receipts, according to the Service's local Market News Office. Although total salt-water deliveries were 22 percent below those in May 1945, halibut receipts were 30 percent greater, chiefly due to increased shipments of fresh halibut from British Columbia. Salmon receipts, chiefly fresh salmon from California and Washington, were 14 percent greater than those in May 1945.

Fresh-water fish deliveries were 33 percent less during May than in the previous month and 10 percent less than May 1945. Lake trout led all other species.

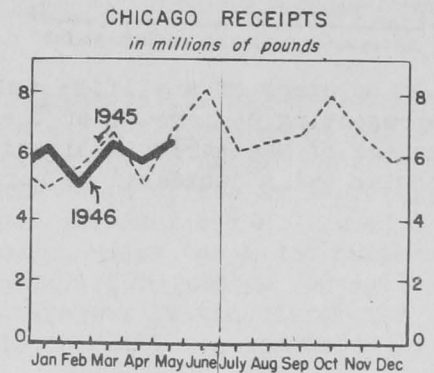
Shrimp was the most important shellfish item during the month with a total of 737,000 pounds received. Deliveries were nearly 200 percent greater than those in April and 94 percent greater than deliveries in May 1945. Fresh shrimp amounted to 40 percent of the shrimp deliveries, while frozen shrimp accounted for the remainder. With the suspension of price control, prices rose far above the suspended ceilings. A gain of 27 percent was noted in lobster receipts from New England.

The latter part of May saw the beginning of shipments of fresh fish from the Western Canadian Provinces. Local deliveries of fish from Lake Erie suffered a sharp decline.

Larger deliveries of frozen fillets from the East Coast and the Maritime Provinces was one of the most noticeable results of the suspension of ceiling prices. This was especially true of rosefish fillets, which totaled more during the latter part of May than in any previous month. Rosefish fillets rank next to halibut and salmon in consumer demand.

CHICAGO COLD-STORAGE: Holdings of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on May 29 amounted to 5,323,000 pounds, representing a decrease of 8 percent compared with holdings on May 2, but an increase of 162 percent over May 31, 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city.

Fresh-water varieties declined 6 percent during the month. Since April, receipts of fresh fish from the Canadian Provinces have been of little consequence,



but it is expected that when these shipments attain their anticipated volume, cold-storage holdings will increase rapidly.

Salt-water items declined 18 percent during May. This was largely due to heavy withdrawals of frozen salmon. Only two carloads of frozen halibut arrived during the month, which affected the total holdings of this item very little, as it was withdrawn soon after it was deposited in storage. Items showing the greatest decline during the month were salmon, 80 percent; rosefish fillets, 37 percent; cod fillets, 23 percent; and sablefish, 23 percent.

Recently, large arrivals of frozen salt-water fish, which heretofore had been delivered to cold-storage houses, have been delivered directly to retailers.

Holdings of shellfish increased 20 percent during the month, with shrimp representing 85 percent of the total holdings. However, only a very small percentage of May shrimp deliveries found its way into storage. Holdings of spiny lobster tails decreased 50 percent during the month.



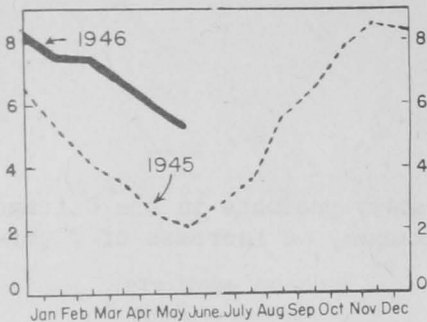
Pacific

SEATTLE RECEIPTS: Nearly 8 million pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products were received at Seattle during May, according to the Service's local Market News Office. This was an increase of 86 percent over April, but 32 percent less than May 1945. Opening of the 1946 halibut season on May 1, together with ideal fishing weather and heavy landings, was responsible for the month's sharp increase.

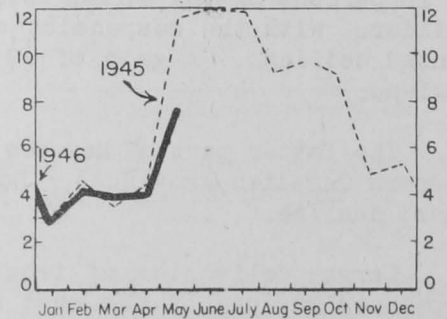
Fresh halibut landings at Seattle totaled 3,175,000 pounds during May. Additional halibut landings, made by coastwise vessels from Alaska, consisted of 235,000 pounds of frozen and 13,000 pounds of fresh halibut. Also, 61,000 pounds of fresh halibut was imported from British Columbia. While landings at Seattle and American fleet landings at Prince Rupert were somewhat below those for May 1945, landings at the major Alaska ports were over 1-1/2 million pounds greater. In addition, the Canadian fleet delivered almost 9-2/3 million pounds in Prince Rupert and Vancouver.

Operations of Seattle's local otter-trawl fleet declined during May with only 1,809,000 pounds of groundfish landed, nearly a million pounds below the April catch. The trawlers concentrated on catching the higher priced Petrale and English sole, with the result that the production of rockfish dropped considerably.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CHICAGO
in millions of pounds



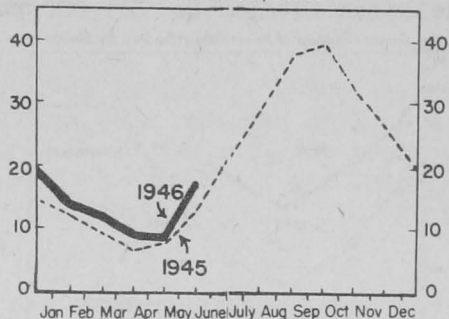
SEATTLE RECEIPTS
in millions of pounds



NORTHWEST COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS: Approximately 17 million pounds of fish and shellfish were held in cold-storage plants in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska on June 1, according to the Service's Market News Office at Seattle.

Although considerable quantities entered the fresh markets, over 9 million pounds of halibut were frozen during the month and accounted for the major portion of the heavy inventories. Other species frozen in large quantities were king salmon, sablefish, fillets of English and Petrale sole, and rockfish. Total freezings amounted to 12,884,000 pounds during May, representing an increase of 410 percent over April and 12 percent above May 1945. Holdings on June 1 consisted mainly of the above species with the addition of bait and animal food.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—NORTH PACIFIC
in millions of pounds



LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Fresh fish landings in the San Pedro-Santa Monica area totaled 477,000 pounds during May. This was a decline of 25 percent compared with landings during April, according to the Service's Market News Office at San Pedro. Only 49,000 pounds of sardines and 900 pounds of yellowtail were landed during the month compared with 170,000 pounds and 41,000 pounds, respectively, in April. There was little difference in the landings of other individual species.



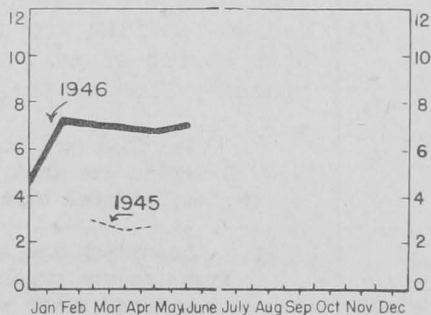
With few exceptions, prices of fresh fish in all southern California areas remained stable after the lifting of OPA price regulations on May 20.

Large landings of barracuda and yellowtail during May were reflected in the fresh fish landings at San Diego, and brought the total catch for the month to 332,000 pounds, an increase of 48 percent over April.

CALIFORNIA COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS: May freezings of fish and fishery products in California plants totaled 457,000 pounds, as compared with 344,000 pounds during April and 1,050,000 pounds in May 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at San Pedro.

Holdings continued high during May with 7,039,000 pounds held on June 1. This was an increase of 344,000 pounds over May 1, and was 3,479,000 pounds greater than stocks held on June 1, 1945.

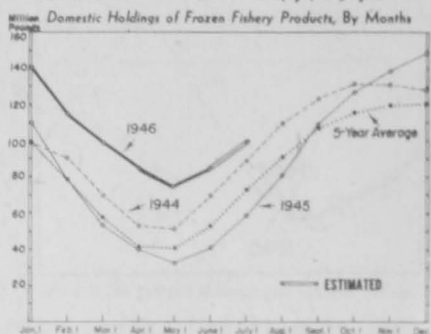
COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CALIFORNIA
in millions of pounds



United States

COLD-STORAGE FREEZINGS AND HOLDINGS: Domestic stocks of frozen fish and shellfish totaled 84,725,000 pounds on June 1, an increase of 9,407,000 pounds

over the holdings reported for May 1. The increase during May was 17 percent greater than the gain in holdings during May 1945, when stocks increased from 32,509,000 pounds on May 1 to 40,516,000 pounds on June 1. Holdings of frozen fishery products on June 1, 1946, were 109 percent greater than those on the corresponding date in 1945, and 61 percent above the 5-year average for this date, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics No. 272.



Freezings of fishery products in domestic cold-storage plants during May amounted to 34,375,000 pounds, compared with 27,630,000 pounds during May 1945. This brought the total freezings during the first 5 months of the year to 70,414,000 pounds, compared with 56,599,000 pounds for the corresponding period in 1945.



FAT CONTENT OF FISH

For best results in preparing a fresh fish, it is always desirable to know whether it is fat or lean. Fat fish are especially suitable for baking, and may also be broiled, while lean fish are best adapted to steaming, boiling, and frying. Medium-fat fish are prepared like the lean, or may be dressed with strips of salt pork or bacon and baked. Most cookbooks classify fish as follows:

Fat fish are those containing more than 5 percent fat. Examples are shad, mackerel, eel, butterfish, herring, porgies, striped bass.

Lean fish are those containing less than 5 percent fat. Examples are croaker, sea bass, weakfish, oysters, crabs, flounders, spot, whiting, clams.