

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

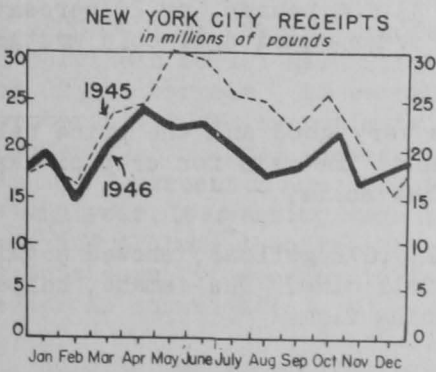
New England

LANDINGS DURING DECEMBER: Landings by fishing craft during December at the ports of Boston, Gloucester, and New Bedford, Mass., Provincetown, other ports on Cape Cod, and Portland, Me., amounted to 29,428,000 pounds, valued at \$2,025,900. This was an increase of 21 percent in the volume compared with December 1945. Total landings at these ports during 1946 amounted to 543,026,000 pounds, valued at \$40,775,900--a decline of 4.5 percent compared with the 1945 landings, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 319. Six species accounted for 85 percent of the landings at the above ports during 1946. These were rosefish, 157.9 million pounds; haddock, 126.9 million pounds; cod, 71.7 million pounds; mackerel, 37.3 million pounds, pollock, 37.1 million pounds; and whiting, 32.9 million pounds.



Middle Atlantic

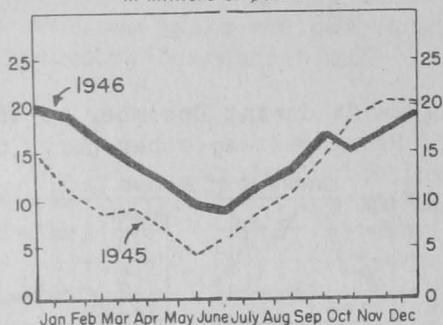
NEW YORK CITY ARRIVALS: Landings and receipts of fishery products in New York during December totaled 17,699,000 pounds, an increase of 5 percent as compared with November and an increase of 11 percent over December 1945 according to the Service's local Market News Office. Leading items were groundfish, hard clams, oysters, scallops, and shrimp. During December, southern species, such as Spanish mackerel, king mackerel, and bluefish, appeared on the market. Shipments of Spanish mackerel were somewhat curtailed due to the exceptional supply of fresh Boston mackerel available to buyers. Boston mackerel receipts, mostly from Long Island and New Jersey, totaled over 314,000 pounds, as compared with less than 15,000 pounds in December 1945 and 1944. Demand was slow throughout December except for eels, squid, pulpi, sepia, and some other shellfish varieties during the Christmas holidays.



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NEW YORK CITY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS: Cold storage holdings of frozen fishery products, in the metropolitan New York area, totaled 19,168,000 pounds on January 1,

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—NEW YORK
in millions of pounds



an increase of 11 percent over the holdings on December 1, according to the Service's Market News Office in New York. Gains in cod fillets, sablefish, salmon, swordfish, cisco, oysters, and shrimp were the chief reasons for the increase. The principal gain was in cod fillets, due to recent imports.

Compared with January 1, 1946, the holdings declined 4 percent. Decreases in mackerel, salmon, whiting, cisco, whitefish, and shrimp more than offset increases in cod fillets, halibut, swordfish, sturgeon and spoonbill catfish, lobster

tails, oysters, and scallops. The greatest declines occurred in mackerel and shrimp, down 1,600,000 pounds and 800,000 pounds respectively, compared with a year ago.



Chesapeake

PRODUCTION: Landings of fish in the Hampton Roads area during December reached 1,438,000 pounds, over double the November production, according to the Service's local Market News Office. Other Chesapeake areas and the Ocean City, Md., and Beaufort, N. C., areas showed a decided decline in production. The increase in the Hampton Roads area was due to greater activity of the trawler fleet operating off the Virginia and Carolina coasts. Southern trawlers, which operated off the New England coast during the summer months, were all back in local waters.

Production of fresh picked crab meat in the Virginia-Maryland areas again showed a drop under the previous month, this time 33,000 pounds, or 20 percent. Dealers credit the low production to warm weather. A long period of cold weather usually causes the crabs to settle to the bottom.

The demand for crab meat during December was very good and the price held up well. Fishermen received \$10 per barrel for crabs. The rate for crab pickers was 15 cents per pound, with plenty available at that scale.

The production of shucked oysters, totaling 287,072 gallons, showed a gain of 12 percent over November. All plants operated full time. The demand, helped by the Christmas trade, was good with prices remaining firm.



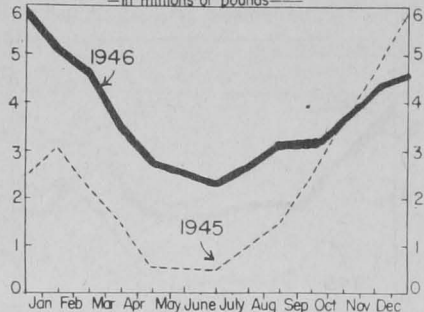
South Atlantic

COLD STORAGE: Holdings of fishery products on January 1 in the five major cold storage warehouses in the South Atlantic States totaled 4,574,000 pounds, an increase of 9 percent over December 1, but 1,256,000 pounds, or 28 percent less than on January 1, 1946, according to the Service's Market News Office at Jacksonville.

The leading items were mullet, groundfish fillets, shrimp, whiting and king whiting, Spanish mackerel, catfish and bullheads, scup, and spiny lobster.

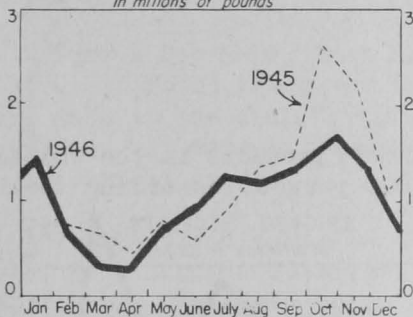
Fish stocks increased 365,000 pounds, due mainly to greater stocks of mullet, red drum (redfish), grouper, halibut, pompano, red snapper, salmon, sea trout, and Spanish mackerel. The increase of 122,000 pounds in shellfish stocks was due to gains in holdings of crabs and crab meat, scallops, shrimp, and spiny lobster. Shrimp holdings, however, were under one-half those for a year earlier.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—SOUTH ATLANTIC
—In millions of pounds—



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SOUTH ATLANTIC SHRIMP RECEIPTS
in millions of pounds



PRODUCTION: Shrimp production in the South Atlantic States amounted to 737,000 pounds (heads off) during December, 41 percent less than in November and 33 percent less than in December 1945, according to the Service's Market News Office at Jacksonville.

The decreased production was due largely to unusually warm weather and the very few landings made during the holiday period.



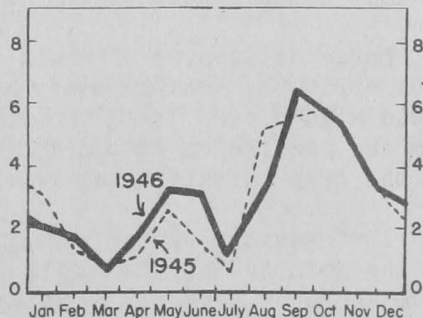
Gulf

PRODUCTION: Shrimp landings in the Gulf States in December, as reported to the Service's Market News Office in New Orleans, were 22,500 barrels, 22 percent less than the November total, but approximately the same as for December 1945. Total landings during 1946 were less than 2 percent under those in 1945. Throughout the year, less shrimp were landed in Mississippi and Alabama than in 1945, while production was considerably greater in Texas and slightly greater in Louisiana.

Adverse weather curtailed shrimp trawling during the first week and the last 10 days of December. The closed season for taking shrimp in inside waters of Louisiana became effective December 16 and will extend through March 15.

The volume of shrimp reported used for canning during December was 8 percent greater than in December 1945, but slightly over twice as much shrimp was utilized for canning in 1946 as during the previous year.

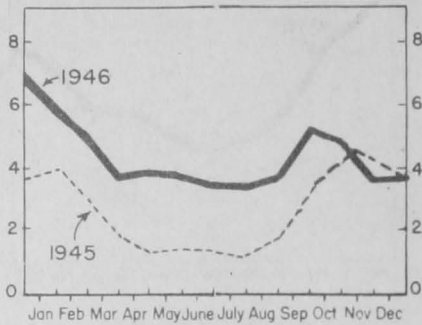
GULF SHRIMP RECEIPTS—
in millions of pounds



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COLD STORAGE: Eleven cold storage warehouses in the Gulf States held 3,629,000

GULF COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS
in millions of pounds



pounds of shrimp on January 2, 4 percent more than 4 weeks previous, and approximately the same amount as on January 3, 1946, according to the Service's Market News Office at New Orleans.

Holdings of frozen cooked and peeled shrimp amounted to 128,000 pounds, the "in" movement exceeding withdrawals during the previous 4 weeks by 27,000 pounds.

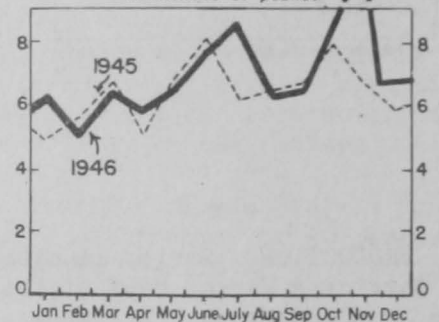
Salt-water fish holdings on January 2 were 2,089,000 pounds, 9 percent greater than 4 weeks earlier. Mullet, rosefish, and cod fillets, whiting and king whiting, red snapper, and sea trout accounted for 994,000 pounds of the total.



Great Lakes

CHICAGO RECEIPTS: Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products in the Chicago wholesale market during December amounted to 6,759,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. They represented an increase of 2 percent over those of the previous month and an increase of 14 percent over December 1945. Fresh water varieties increased 26 percent over the November total, while salt water varieties decreased 25 percent in arrivals. Shellfish and related items increased 12 percent during the same period.

CHICAGO RECEIPTS
in millions of pounds



Deliveries during the month were erratic; at times, heavy arrivals indicated a month of heavy production; and at other times, arrivals approximated the lowest of the year.

Large deliveries of chubs were the outstanding feature of the December fresh water arrivals; however, every important item excepting lake trout and lake herring showed a gain over the previous month. Light deliveries of halibut and salmon from the Pacific coast and fillets from the east coast were chiefly responsible for the drop in salt water receipts.

The heaviest oyster receipts of the current season were chiefly responsible for the gain in the shellfish section. Shrimp deliveries were only 2 percent above those of November. Spiny lobster tails, chiefly from South Africa, added appreciably to the shellfish total. Scallop arrivals were comparable with the previous month. Hard clams gained over November receipts while lobster deliveries were little more than half of the previous month.

Throughout the month, even considering the Christmas and New Year holidays, the demand for fishery products kept pace nicely with the supply. Toward the latter part of the month, there were indications that the demand would exceed the supply and this was borne out by accelerated withdrawals from cold storage to augment the exceptionally light arrivals, due to inclement weather in the Great Lakes area.

CHICAGO COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS: Total holdings of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on January 2, 1947, amounted to 7,640,000 pounds. This represented a decline of 3 percent compared with stocks held on December 5, 1946, and was 9 percent below holdings on January 3, 1946, according to the Service's local Market News Office.

Withdrawals during the month were evenly divided between fresh-water and salt-water items. Shellfish remained fairly constant. Dealers predicted a steady withdrawal of cold-storage holdings for the next few months unless fresh-water production regains some of the volume lost during the last two weeks of December. During that time, demand for fishery products comfortably absorbed available supplies but with the predicted increase of consumption, cold storage withdrawals will be necessary to provide supplies.

During December, very little of the frozen arrivals from the Pacific and the east coast found their way into cold-storage warehouses. Most of the deliveries were made to the dealers' storage rooms to be sold from there as readily available supplies. It seemed that dealers were procuring only sufficient supplies for their current needs.

The combined volume of frozen fillets was the most important item of all, with holdings of frozen rosefish fillets being the most important of all salt-water varieties. Decreased shipments of all fillets during the latter part of December, however, may soon deplete these stocks. Other important items in cold storage during December were whitefish, chubs, and lake trout. Salt-water items of importance were the usual halibut, salmon, sablefish, and whiting.

Shrimp, as usual, leads all shellfish holdings. The chief reason for the slight decrease in shrimp holdings during the holidays, the usual season for greater shrimp withdrawals, was the arrival of fresh shrimp in volume. Forty percent of December shrimp receipts were fresh shrimp.

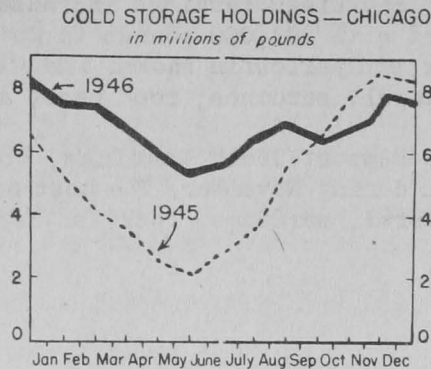
A very disinterested situation regarding frozen fishery products existed on the Chicago wholesale market. This was particularly true of frozen halibut and salmon. The probable reason, in the case of halibut at least, was the small differential between wholesale and retail prices, halibut at present commanding an average price of 38 cents wholesale, while retail prices range from 41 to 44 cents.



Pacific

LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Landings in the San Pedro-Santa Monica area during December amounted to 2,325,000 pounds of fresh fish, an increase of 25 percent over November, according to the Service's Market News Office in San Pedro, despite extremely light landings after December 15 due to the approaching holidays and the limited demand resulting from a threatened butchers' strike.

A sizable increase in the landings of mackerel, 1,708,000 pounds, as compared with 797,000 pounds in November, was utilized mainly for canning. Landings of



barracuda, California halibut, sardines, white sea bass, smelt, and yellowtail decreased.

San Diego landings increased 20 percent in December, 357,000 pounds as compared with 283,000 pounds in November. Barracuda, black sea bass, bonito, skipjack, and yellowfin showed sizable increases, while landings of California halibut, mackerel, sardines, rock bass, and rockfish decreased.

Newport Beach landings, totaling 279,000 pounds, were 75 percent greater than during November. The most notable increases occurred in landings of barracuda, mackerel, sardines, rockfish, spiny lobster, and bonito.



United States

FISHERY PRODUCTION IN 1946: Although the 1946 fish production of 4.4 billion pounds was not far below average in volume, the year was marked by extremes of success or failure almost without parallel in the history of the fisheries, according to an announcement by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The menhaden, an Atlantic coast fish used chiefly in the manufacture of fish meal and oil, became the major item in the catch, replacing the Pacific pilchard or sardine, which experienced the worst season in its history and which has supported the Nation's largest fishery for the past 12 years. Rosefish and tuna exceeded all previous production records; the salmon pack was the smallest since 1927.

In terms of pounds landed, the leading fisheries last year were menhaden, pilchard, salmon, tuna, Alaska herring, and rosefish. These six accounted for more than half of the total production.

As reported, the catch of menhaden was approximately 950,000,000 pounds, compared with 759,000,000 pounds in 1945 and 686,000,000 in 1944. Present centers of the menhaden industry are Lewes, Del.; Reedville, Va.; Port Monmouth, N. J.; Beaufort and Morehead City, N. C.; and Fernandina, Fla.

After maintaining a production averaging close to a billion pounds during the past decade, the pilchard fishery landed only 516,000,000 pounds in 1946. This was only about half the quantity taken the previous year. Pilchards were notably scarce in the waters of northern and central California, ordinarily the center of a busy fishery. In 1946, most of the pilchard boats that usually fish out of San Francisco and Monterey either turned to other types of fishing or moved to other ports. Almost the entire 1946 catch of pilchards was made off southern California.

Salmon was another Pacific coast fishery that fell far below normal yields. The pack of 4,430,000 cases, by canneries in the United States and Alaska, was the smallest since 1927. In 1945, also a poor year, 4,908,240 cases of salmon were packed.

Although the northern albacore fishery was almost a complete failure, tuna landings in California were so large that this industry set a new production record in 1946. Complete figures for the year are not yet available, but the pack for the first 11 months was within a few thousand cases of 1945's record pack of 4,531,565 cases and the year's total was certain to reach a considerably higher figure.

Alaska herring, which along with menhaden and pilchard, supplies the raw materials for the fish meal and fish oil industries, continued the increase in productivity begun several years ago. From 113 million pounds in 1944 and 136,346,400 in 1945, the catch of herring in the Territory rose to approximately 190 million pounds last year. Practically the entire catch of this fishery is converted into oil and meal.

Although the New England fisheries as a whole were slightly less productive in 1946 than in 1945, the major species in the catch--rosefish--made a gain of 38 percent compared with the previous year. Only a little more than a decade ago, rosefish was a little used and almost unknown species; in 1946, landings totaled 180,000,000 pounds, or about a quarter of the total New England fish catch.

Landings of all species at the principal New England ports totaled 698,000,000 pounds, compared with 713,000,000 in 1945.

On the Pacific coast, landings of salmon, halibut, flounders, and miscellaneous species at Seattle totaled about 55 million pounds in 1946, a decline of about 5 million pounds from the 1945 figure.

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COLD-STORAGE FREEZINGS AND HOLDINGS: Stocks of frozen fish and shellfish declined 5,633,000 pounds during December, and on January 1 totaled 152,853,000 pounds. This was 9 percent above holdings on January 1, 1946, and 40 percent above the 5-year average for this date. Freezings of fishery products in domestic cold-storage plants totaled 12,575,000 pounds during December compared with 14,591,000 pounds in the corresponding month of 1945, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 313.

Stocks of frozen fishery products were held in above-average quantities throughout 1946. On December 1, holdings reached the highest point in history when firms reporting their activities to the Fish and Wildlife Service held 158 million pounds of frozen fish and shellfish. During 1946, 280 million pounds of fishery products were frozen in these plants, 6 million pounds less than in 1945, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 318.

