

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

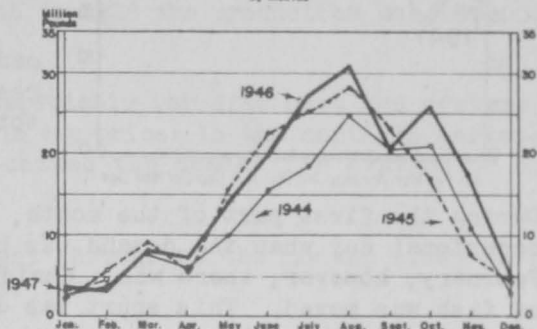
New England

MAINE LANDINGS: Maine fishermen landed 4,738,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at \$472,949, during February 1947, bringing the total for the first two months of the year to 7,744,000 pounds, valued at \$1,010,169, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 336. Herring, rosefish, soft clams, and lobsters accounted for 82 percent of the volume and 83 percent of the value of the February landings.

During the period from July to December 1946, data on landings at Portland, Maine, were included in the two New England bulletins entitled "New England Landings" and "Maine Landings." However, beginning with January 1947, data on Portland landings will be included only in the Maine bulletin.

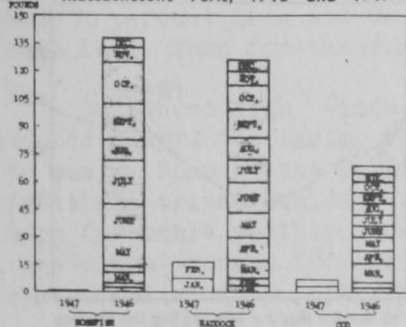
During February, landings at Portland amounted to 886,000 pounds, valued at \$43,464. This was a decrease of 27 percent in the volume of the landings at Portland and 26 percent in value compared with the same month in 1946.

LANDINGS AT MAINE PORTS, 1944-47
By months



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Landings of Rosefish, Haddock, and Cod at Massachusetts Ports, 1946 and 1947



MASSACHUSETTS LANDINGS: Landings of fish and shellfish at the ports of Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, Provincetown and other Cape Cod ports during February 1947 amounted to 15,927,000 pounds, valued at \$1,474,935 to the fishermen, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 338. This was an increase of 19 percent in volume and 43 percent in value compared with the same month in 1946. Landings at Boston during the first two months of 1947 were 296 percent greater than in the same period the previous year, while those at Gloucester and New Bedford showed declines of 66 percent and 56 percent, respectively.

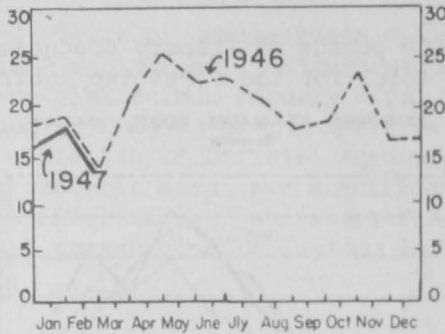


Middle Atlantic

NEW YORK CITY ARRIVALS: Receipts on New York's Fulton Market for the month of February 1947, totaled 13,842,000 pounds which is 18 percent less than the amount received during January 1947, and about 5 percent less than the total for February 1946, according to the Service's New York Market News Office. In addition to the usual stormy weather encountered by the fishermen along the Atlantic coast at this time of the year, more complications set in to shorten the supply in the form of some unsettled labor conditions in two producing areas in New England.

Important species that were in abundance were cod, yellowtails, and haddock with a combined total of over 4 million pounds. Other leading items were scup, whiting, and pollock. There were also some southern varieties which were in moderate supply; namely, mullet, Spanish mackerel, and small sized gray sea trout (weakfish). Outstanding among the shellfish items were hard clams, oysters, shrimp, live lobsters, and sea scallops.

NEW YORK CITY RECEIPTS
in millions of pounds



Fishing vessels landing at New York City made 58 trips and landed 1,567,000 pounds, representing slightly more than 11 percent of the total receipts.

The market during February was spasmodic. During the first part of the month, business was generally sluggish with only an occasional day when the demand was brisk. By the beginning of the third week of February, however, there was a decided pick-up in the demand and a liberal supply of fish was moved. This spurt was due to the fact that the 19th of February was Ash Wednesday--the beginning of the Lenten season. The remainder of the month was fairly active for limited supplies.

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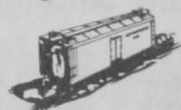
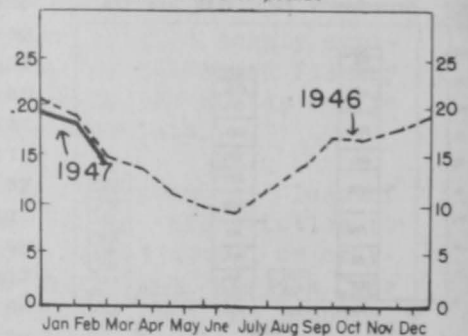
NEW YORK CITY COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS: Cold-storage holdings of fishery products in the New York City metropolitan area, on March 1, 1947, totaled 14,062,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city. This was a decrease of more than 23 percent compared with the inventory shown for February 1, 1947, and a decrease of over 13 percent compared with the stocks held on March 1, 1946.

While cod fillets, halibut, and salmon were among the leading items held, there were appreciable declines in the holdings of these species compared with last month. Stocks of sablefish, also a leading item, increased over 200,000 pounds.

Fresh-water species showed a slight increase in stocks held. Cisco, sturgeon and spoonbill cats, and whitefish were the outstanding items. This increase was offset by the decline in the salt-water and shellfish figures.

Lobster tails, sea scallops, and shrimp were among the leading shellfish species. Shrimp holdings were over 260,000 pounds less than a month ago and over 1 million pounds less than a year ago.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - NEW YORK
in millions of pounds



Chesapeake

PRODUCTION: Landings of fish in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia during the month of February amounted to 3,117,000 pounds, compared with 2,765,000 pounds in January. This was an increase of approximately 13 percent. For the same period

in 1946 the production was 4,676,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in Hampton, Va.

Production of fresh picked crab meat in the Virginia-Maryland areas covered by this report amounted to 77,000 pounds, a decrease of 28,000 pounds, or 27 percent from that of the month before. For February of 1946, the production was 141,000 pounds, almost double that for the same period this year.

Production of shucked oysters dropped from 289,000 gallons in January to 221,000 gallons in February. For the same month in 1946 the production was 187,000 gallons.

Demand for all seafoods has been good, especially for crab meat and oysters. The small production of crab meat has resulted in top prices in the northern markets and the steady cold weather in February has caused the demand for oysters to be good all through the month.

Labor organization activities were evident throughout the month. They were the general topic of conversation on the water front.

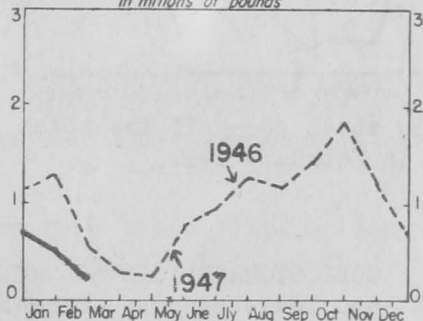


South Atlantic

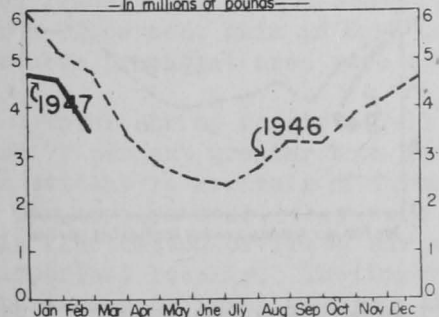
SHRIMP PRODUCTION: Shrimp landings in Florida and the South Atlantic States during February amounted to 249,000 pounds (heads off), 57 percent less than last month and 62 percent less than landings in February 1946, according to the Service's Market News Office in Jacksonville. Florida landings were 70 percent less and Georgia landings 40 percent less than for the same period last year.

Continued high winds and bad weather prevented many of the shrimp vessels from going out to sea. Some of the fishermen, after several fruitless trips, decided to save fuel and await more favorable weather. Most of the shrimp that were caught ranged from medium to very small in size, most of them being small.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SHRIMP RECEIPTS
in millions of pounds



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



COLD STORAGE: Holdings of fish and shellfish on March 1 for the 5 major cold-storage warehouses in the South Atlantic area totaled 3,458,000 pounds, according to a report from the Jacksonville Office of the Market News Service. Compared with holdings on February 1 of 4,311,000 pounds, this month showed a decrease of 853,000 pounds, or 20 percent. March 1 holdings this year were 1,080,000 pounds less than on March 1, 1946.

The leading items with stocks of over 100,000 pounds are, in order of quantity, as follows:

mullet, fillets (cod, haddock, pollock, and rosefish), shrimp, whiting and king whiting, Spanish mackerel, catfish and bullheads, and scup.

Holdings of fish decreased 721,000 pounds and holdings of shellfish decreased 132,000 pounds during February. Withdrawals of mullet, shrimp, whiting and king whiting, red snapper, Spanish mackerel, pompano, and catfish and bullheads accounted for the major reduction, with smaller decreases in several other species of fish and shellfish. There were some increases in the holdings of croaker, red drum, fillets of haddock, salmon (unclassified), and crabs and crab meat.

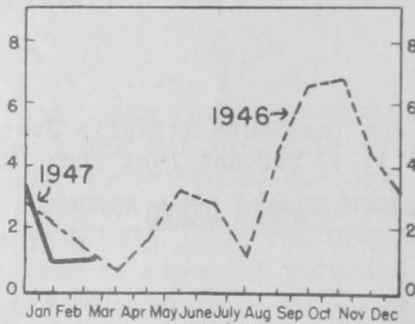


Gulf

PRODUCTION: Inclement weather in the Gulf, during February, seriously affected fishing operations.

February shrimp landings of 985,000 pounds (heads off), for Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, as reported daily to the Fishery Market News Office in New Orleans, were approximately 9 percent less than January landings, and 36 percent less than the amount landed in February 1946. Only a nominal quantity of shrimp was canned during the month. The closed season for taking shrimp in the inside waters of Louisiana will end next month, March 16.

GULF SHRIMP RECEIPTS—
in millions of pounds



Due mainly to a decrease in operations of a number of oyster packing plants, canned oyster production was slightly less than half of the production in January. Oyster landings, although only about one-half the total landed during January, were approximately the same as in February 1947.

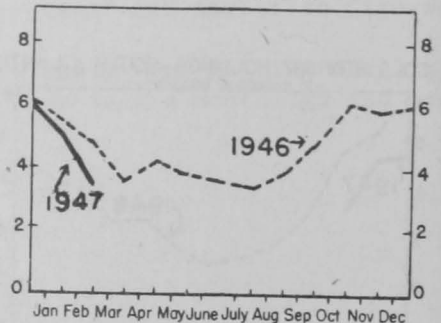
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COLD STORAGE: Eleven cold-storage warehouses in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas reported frozen shrimp holdings amounting to 1,602,000 pounds on February 27, 42 percent less than 4 weeks ago, and 29 percent less than holdings on February 28, 1946, according to the Service's Market News Office in New Orleans.

Frozen shrimp withdrawals exceeded the "in" movement by over 1,000,000 pounds during the month.

Holdings of frozen cooked and peeled shrimp amounted to 85,000 pounds on February 27, 32 percent less than 4 weeks ago. Cooked and peeled shrimp holdings one year ago amounted to 5,000 pounds.

GULF COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS
in millions of pounds



Frozen salt-water fish holdings on February 27 were 1,600,000 pounds, 9 percent less than 4 weeks ago, and 35 percent less than one year ago. Mullet, rose-

fish fillets, Spanish mackerel, red snapper, cod fillets, flounder, whiting and king whiting, and red drum (redfish) accounted for more than 50 percent of the total.



Great Lakes

RECEIPTS: Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products in the Chicago wholesale market during February totaled 6,365,000 pounds. This was a decline of 3 percent compared with January and an increase of 20 percent over February 1946, according to the Chicago Fishery Market News Office.

Compared with January, fresh-water receipts declined 28 percent, and were 18 percent below those of February 1946. Salt-water receipts exceeded those of January by 65 percent and were 121 percent above those during February 1946. Shellfish deliveries were 22 percent below those of January but were 41 percent above February 1946.

Chief reason for the decline in fresh-water receipts was the greatly lessened arrivals of whitefish. This consistently leading item fell 43 percent below the January total and was approximately 50 percent below arrivals during February 1946. The leading point of origin for whitefish was the Province of Alberta, Canada.

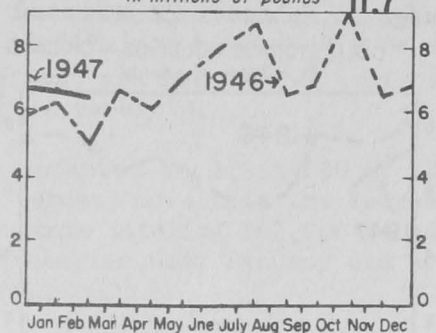
Severe weather conditions in the Great Lakes area affected production and transportation alike. At times, daily arrivals fell to startlingly low levels but, due to demands of the Lenten season, this condition had its favorable reaction in increased withdrawals of cold-storage supplies.

While arrivals of saugers, yellow perch, and yellow pike helped to bolster the curtailed Great Lakes supplies, total receipts of these species, chiefly from Canadian provinces, fell far below the previous month.

The rise in salt-water receipts was the result of heavy supplies, late in February, of frozen halibut and salmon from the Pacific coast. This was a result of the easing of transportation difficulties over the western mountains, allowing deliveries of many delayed shipments. Halibut receipts gained 120 percent over January and salmon showed a 220 percent gain over the same period. Except for a 74 percent gain in East Coast frozen cod fillets, other arrivals of fishery products from that area were comparable to those of the preceding month.

Total shrimp receipts fell 20 percent below those of January; however, they were 77 percent greater than receipts during February 1946. The greatest decline was evident in arrivals of fresh shrimp which approximated but one-third of those of January; however, they were more than double the receipts of February 1946. This fluctuation of fresh shrimp receipts is due to seasonal conditions and is unimportant locally. The important fact, however, is the increasing difficulty experienced by local dealers in their efforts to acquire sufficient stocks of frozen shrimp. The advent, recently, of Mexican shrimp was expected to alleviate

CHICAGO RECEIPTS
in millions of pounds



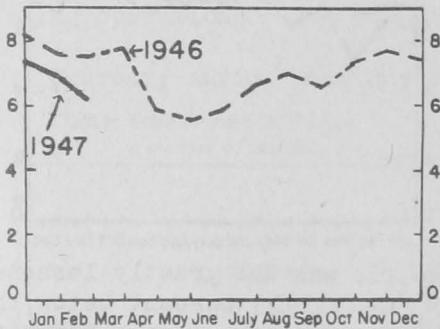
this condition but nothing so far has indicated that this is so, Mexican supplies being, apparently, as difficult to obtain as those from the Gulf.

One unusual development, on the last day of February, was the indifferent reception afforded the initial shipment of fresh king salmon to Chicago. Because of high prices paid the producer, the asking price was high. There were no takers. It is difficult to arrive at any explanation of this condition but the fate of future shipments, when salmon begins to arrive in quantity, will be watched with interest.

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COLD STORAGE: Holdings of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on February 27 amounted to 6,017,000 pounds, a decline of 14 percent from holdings on January 30. Compared with holdings one year ago on February 28, 1946, the current total represents a decline of 19 percent, according to the Service's local Market News Office.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CHICAGO
in millions of pounds



Chiefly responsible for the decline was the lack of fresh fish received in the local market. This situation caused greater withdrawals of cold storage holdings to bolster dealers' stocks during the Lenten season.

Large receipts of frozen fish, late in February, prevented holdings from registering still greater reductions.

Holdings of fresh-water fish declined 19 percent as compared with January and were 35 percent below holdings on February 28, 1946. Salt-water stocks declined 10 percent below January holdings and were 4 percent below those on February 28, 1946. Shellfish holdings declined 20 percent below those of January 30 and were 31 percent below stocks held on February 28, 1946.

Chief among the withdrawals of fresh-water items were chubs, lake trout, whitefish, yellow perch, and yellow pike fillets. Among salt-water items, rosefish fillets declined 23 percent, while cod fillets gained 4 percent during the month. Halibut, with a comparatively small amount held in storage, declined 23 percent during February, while salmon holdings, also with light stocks in storage, increased 30 percent over January. Shrimp holdings declined 18 percent during the month, while supplies of other shellfish items fluctuated sharply from day to day due to nominal amounts in storage.



Pacific

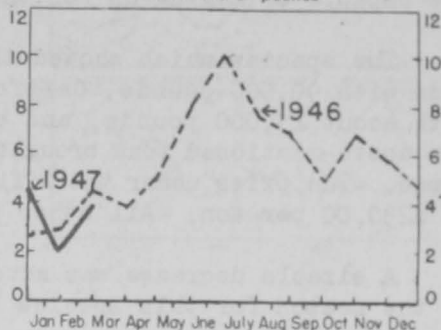
ARRIVALS: Landings and receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products, including livers, at Seattle totaled 4,798,000 pounds during February, the Service's local Market News Office reported.

This was a sharp increase, 126 percent, over January's record low production. Fresh fish and shellfish receipts, mostly from local sources, rose from 638,000 pounds to 1,331,000 pounds, an increase of 108 percent.

An abrupt change for the better in offshore weather permitted the local otter-trawl fleet, making 40 trips to the grounds, to deliver over 700,000 pounds of bottomfish, mostly rockfishes, English and other soles, and true cod. This was a gain of more than half a million pounds compared with January's strawl deliveries of 136,000 pounds obtained in 26 trips. The fishing areas south of Cape Flattery, west of Vancouver Island, and in Hecate Straits were most productive, while catches inside the Straits of Juan de Fuca materially dropped.

The season's first deliveries of troll-caught chinook salmon were made during the month, totaling almost 48,000 pounds. Substantial arrivals of frozen salmon, mostly silvers and chums, sablefish, and nearly 1-2/3 million pounds of frozen halibut further increased the port's receipts.

SEATTLE RECEIPTS
in millions of pounds



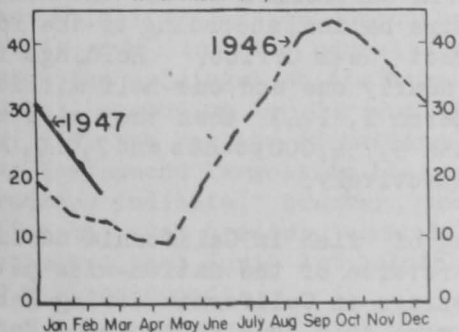
Alaska shipments of frozen fishery products amounted to 3,365,000 pounds, about three times the January volume and nearly 87 percent more than the February 1946 figure of 1,798,000 pounds. British Columbia imports totaling 103,000 pounds, while continuing somewhat low were about 6 percent heavier than January and consisted largely of frozen chinook salmon and sole fillets.

February's arrivals raised the 1947 cumulative total to 6,914,000 pounds, about 3 percent below 1946.

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COLD STORAGE: Holdings of frozen fishery products in 30 cold-storage warehouses of the Northwest Pacific region totaled about 17 1/4 million pounds on March 1, according to the Service's Seattle Market News Office.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—NORTH PACIFIC
in millions of pounds



While the holdings declined about 28 percent from those on February 1, they were 6 1/2 million pounds, or nearly 48 percent, heavier than the March 1, 1946 figure of 11,745,000 pounds. Holdings of halibut were nearly twice as heavy as last year while those of sablefish were over three times as great. In addition, salmon inventories, all species, totaled 8,391,000 pounds, an increase of more than 4 1/2 million pounds over March 1, 1946. The bulk of the salmon stocks consisted

of chum salmon held largely in Washington and Alaska plants which failed to show normal withdrawals.

A rising demand in most markets absorbed most of February's normally low production of fresh fish. As a result, freezings in the region dropped to 396,000 pounds, about 8 percent below January's freezings and 87 percent less than last year when over 3,150,000 pounds were frozen.

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LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Despite the fact that the mackerel landings at San Pedro and Santa Monica dropped about 200,000 pounds during February as com-

pared with the January landings, the total poundage for all species increased about 15,000 pounds, according to the Service's San Pedro Office. This is encouraging as the mackerel season is over and it indicates that the other species are capable of making up for the lack of mackerel.

The species which showed the greatest increase during the month were barracuda with 90,000 pounds, California halibut with 53,000 pounds, white sea bass with about 13,000 pounds, and bluefin tuna with about 148,000 pounds. Most of the above-mentioned tuna brought 20 cents a pound, or \$400.00 per ton, to the fishermen. The price under the Office of Price Administration was in the neighborhood of \$230.00 per ton. All other prices have also been holding up well.

A sizable decrease was noted in the landings of sardines. This was expected as the season for this species has ended.

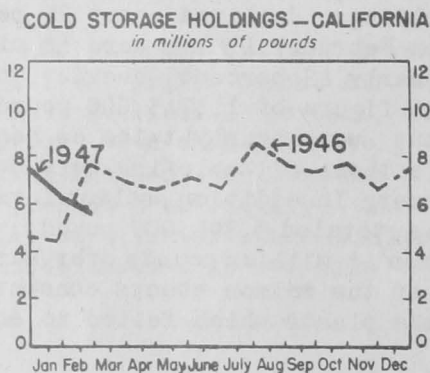
Newport and San Diego reported conditions as similar. Both these ports showed an increase in total landings with increases noted in many of the same species as at San Pedro and Santa Monica.

At San Diego, the total landings were 195,000 pounds in February compared with 191,000 pounds in January. Increased landings occurred in California halibut, grouper, rockfish, sea bass, sheephead, and bonito. Decreases occurred in the landings of spiny lobster, barracuda, and yellowtail.

At Newport Beach, the total landings in February were 278,000 pounds compared with 228,000 pounds in January. The species showing the greatest increase over January were anchovies with landings of 48,000 pounds, California halibut with 10,000 pounds, rockfish with 9,000 pounds, and yellowtail with 23,000 pounds.

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COLD STORAGE: The holdings of fish and fishery products in cold storage during February followed almost the same pattern in California as did the holdings for the entire nation, according to the local Fishery Market News Office. Holdings in California were nearly one and one-half million pounds less on March 1, 1947, than they were on March 1, 1946 with 5,754,000 pounds and 7,349,000 pounds held, respectively.

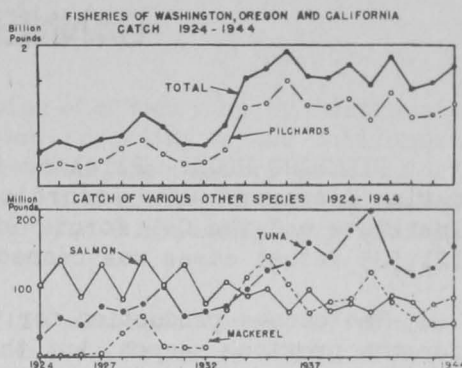


The freezing of fish in California during February was the reverse of the nation-wide pattern. The freezings in California during February 1947 were more than doubled those of February 1946. This year, 616,000 pounds were frozen compared to 297,000 pounds a year ago.

Although the poundage of shrimp imported the first two months this year and the first two months last year was almost the same, the bulk of the shrimp last year was frozen in Mexico or at the border. This year the bulk of the shrimp came across the border as fresh shrimp.

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PACIFIC COAST FISHERIES, 1944: The commercial catch of fishery products in the Pacific Coast States totaled 1,667,794,000 pounds in 1944, an increase of 15 percent over the previous year, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 332. Catches of pilchards, tuna, mackerel, and salmon were all more than in 1943. The amount received by the fishermen for the 1944 catch surpassed that of 1943 by 4 percent and was the largest on record, totaling \$59,801,692. The value of the 1943 catch was \$57,322,690.

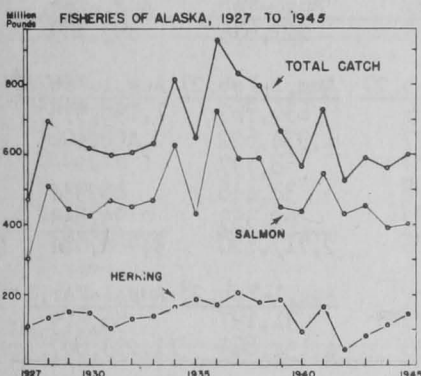


United States

ALASKA FISHERIES, 1945: The commercial catch of fishery products in Alaska during 1945 totaled 596,052,000 pounds, valued at \$22,288,148 to the fishermen. From this catch, products valued at \$58,926,269 were prepared for market, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 331.

The salmon catch, totaling 402,635,000 pounds, was 2 percent more than the previous year. Herring landings of 139,769,000 pounds were 23 percent greater than those of 1944.

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COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS AND FREEZINGS: Stocks of frozen fish and shellfish, held on March 1 by cold-storage operators reporting their activities to the Fish and Wildlife Service, amounted to 97,939,000 pounds--a decline of 23 percent (29,441,000 pounds) below the holdings on the first of the previous month, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 328. The decline in holdings during February was the second largest in history. Reports from freezers indicate, however, that stocks may decline an even greater amount in March. It is estimated that April 1st holdings may total about 70 million pounds.

Data on the domestic freezings and holdings of fishery products in the bulletin are based on reports for 213 freezers. These are principally public cold-storage plants.

