

# FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

## New England

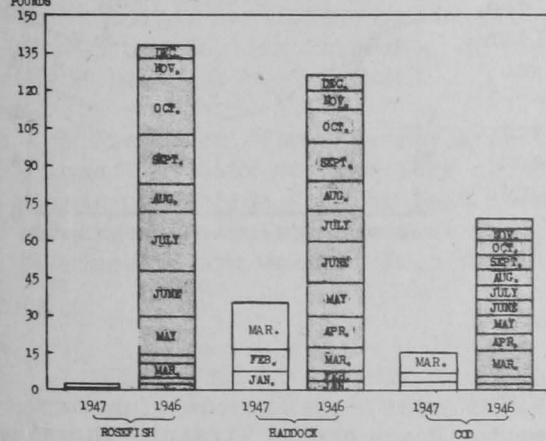
**MAINE LANDINGS:** Maine fishermen landed 5,915,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at \$532,743, during March bringing the total for the first three months of the year to 13,659,000 pounds, valued at \$1,542,912, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 345. Four items--rosefish, herring, soft clams, and lobsters--accounted for 78 percent of the volume and 79 percent of the value of the landings during the first three months of the year.

During the period from July to December 1946, data on landings at Portland, Maine, were included in the monthly New England bulletins entitled "New England Landings" and "Maine Landings." Beginning with January 1947, data on Portland landings are included only in the Maine bulletin.

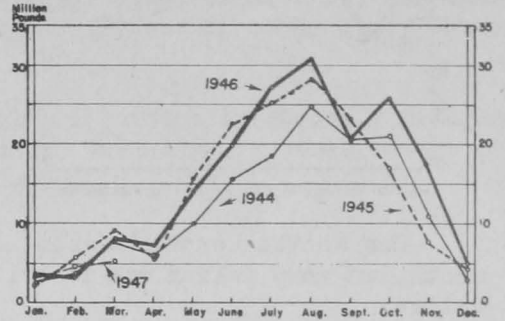
During March, landings at Portland amounted to 1,481,000 pounds, valued at \$63,694. This was a decrease of 43 percent in the volume and 52 percent in the value of the landings at Portland compared with March 1946.

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



**LANDINGS AT MAINE PORTS, 1944-47**  
By months



**MASSACHUSETTS LANDINGS:** Landings of fish and shellfish at the ports of Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, Provincetown and other Cape Cod ports during March amounted to 31,909,000 pounds, valued at \$2,719,337 to the fishermen, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 346. This was an increase of 1 percent in volume and 12 percent in value compared with the same month in 1946. Landings at Boston during the first three months of 1947 were 248 percent greater than in the same period the previous year, while those at Gloucester and New Bedford showed declines of 60 percent and 55 percent, respectively.



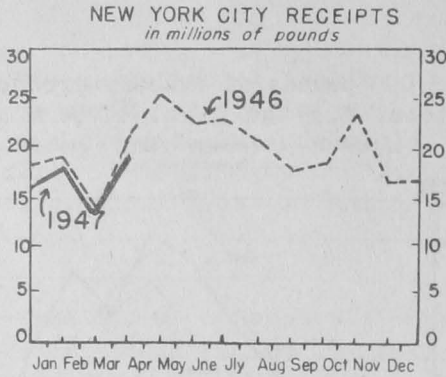
## Middle Atlantic

**NEW YORK CITY ARRIVALS:** Landings and receipts at New York's Fulton Market during March totaled 17,862,000 pounds, or 3,997,000 pounds more than the arrivals during February, but 2,138,000 pounds less than the total for March 1946, according to the Service's Market News Office in that city.

Abundant important species were: cod, yellowtails, haddock, flounders, fluke, and scup. Shad appeared in greater amounts during the latter part of March. Moderate amounts of croakers from the Chesapeake area were available.

The purse seine fishery for Boston mackerel was off to an early start with the arrival of three boats at Norfolk, Va., on March 19 with over 125,000 pounds.

Following this early beginning by the seiners, the winter trawl fleet of draggers fishing out of Virginia ports caught unusually large quantities of this species. A liberal share of these early mackerel catches was shipped to the New York market.



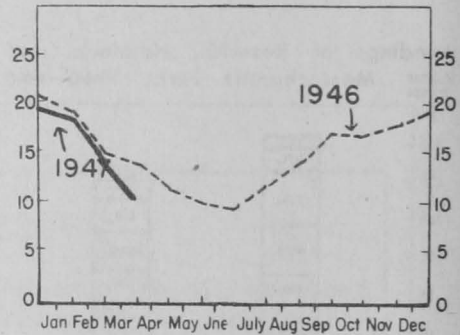
Forty-four trips of fish landed at New York during March, totaling 1,828,000 pounds. This total is over a half million pounds less than the amount landed during the same month last year, although the number of trips was eight less this year.

Due to the Lenten season, there was a moderate demand for fish during the month, but very seldom was it brisk. The market throughout the month was moderately active.

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**NEW YORK CITY COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS:** Holdings of frozen fish and shellfish in the New York City metropolitan area, on April 1, 1947, totaled 10,294,000 pounds, a decrease of 26 percent compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 27 percent compared with the same period of last year, according to the Fishery Market News Office in that city.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—NEW YORK  
in millions of pounds



Cod fillets, sablefish, and salmon were the only species with holdings of over one million pounds. Other leading items were halibut, cisco, whitefish, lobster tails, and shrimp. Mackerel holdings were down to 16,000 pounds. Shrimp holdings declined close to 400,000 pounds, compared with last month, and about 800,000 pounds compared with the same month last year.



### Chesapeake

**PRODUCTION:** Production of fish in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia increased from 3,117,000 pounds in February to 5,185,000 pounds in March, or 66 percent, according to the local Fishery Market News Service Office. This represents an increase of 509,000 pounds, or 11 percent over the production for February 1946. Of the total production, 2,171,000 pounds, or 42 percent, were croaker. The next three species were gray trout, scup, and sea bass. Practically all of the catch was made by otter trawlers working offshore. Landings of fish in the other areas of Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina covered by the Hampton Market News Report were small during March, but are expected to be much larger in April.

Production of fresh picked crab meat in the Virginia-Maryland areas included in the report amounted to 99,000 pounds, an increase of 22,000 pounds, or 29 per-

cent, over February. For March 1946, the production in the same areas was 136,000 pounds, or 38 percent, over that for the same month in 1947.

Production of shucked oysters increased from 221,000 gallons in February to 247,000 gallons in March. The 1946 production during the same period was 176,000 gallons.

The demand for fish during the month was good and the prices were satisfactory to both the fishermen and the dealers. The ex-vessel price of croaker, the chief species produced, was from 6 to 10 cents per pound. Prices of other species were comparable to those of croaker.

The scarcity of crab meat kept the price high all through the month. Dredging for crabs was extremely poor all through the winter. The demand for shucked oysters was only fair with prices reflecting the poor demand.

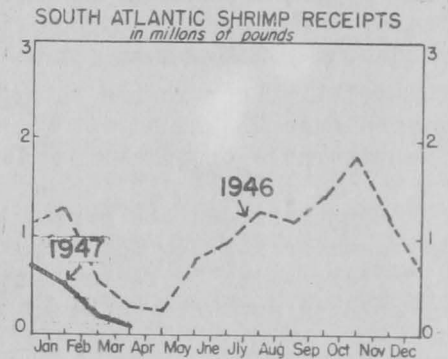


### South Atlantic

**SHRIMP PRODUCTION:** Shrimp production for Florida and the South Atlantic States during March amounted to 113,000 pounds (heads off), 54 percent less than last month, and 59 percent less than landings in March 1946, according to the Jacksonville Fishery Market News Office.

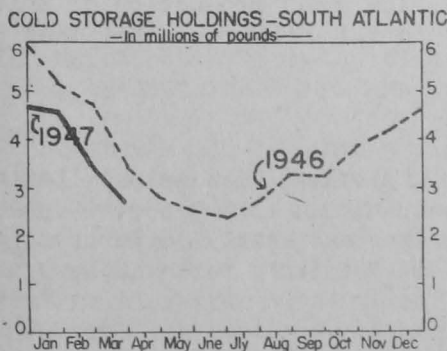
Florida landings were 11,000 pounds against 199,000 pounds for the same period last year, while Georgia landings were 102,000 pounds against 80,000 pounds, an increase of 28 percent over March 1946.

Fishermen of many years' experience were at a loss to account for the lack of shrimp on both coasts of Florida for the past few months, some offering the explanation that the shrimp went elsewhere to spawn, due to the unseasonably warm weather last fall and winter.



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**COLD STORAGE:** Frozen fish and shellfish holdings on April 1 for the five major cold-storage warehouses in the South Atlantic States totaled 2,706,000 pounds, according to the Service's Market News Office in Jacksonville, Fla. Compared with holdings on March 1 of 3,458,000 pounds, this month showed a decrease of 752,000 pounds, or 22 percent. Total withdrawals exceeded total receipts by 752,000 pounds. April 1 holdings this year were 823,000 pounds less than on April 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, and scup.

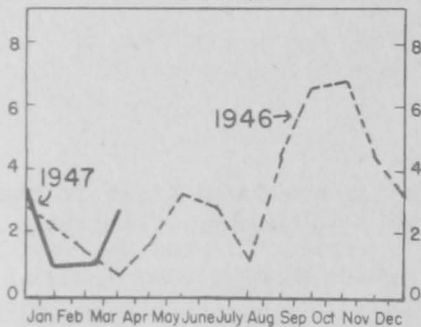
Holdings of fish decreased 683,000 pounds and holdings of shellfish decreased 68,000 pounds during March. Large withdrawals of mullet, scup, Spanish mackerel, red snapper, catfish, fillets (except pollock), and shrimp during the Lenten period accounted for the major reduction. There were some gains in the holdings of croaker, pollock fillets, sea herring, crabs and crab meat, and spiny lobster.



## Gulf

PRODUCTION: Shrimp landings for Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, as reported to the Fishery Market News Office in New Orleans, although still not heavy, were 42 percent greater than February landings and nearly twice as great as the amount produced in March 1946. In spite of this, landings from January through March 1947 were approximately 30 percent less than during the same period last year.

GULF SHRIMP RECEIPTS—  
in millions of pounds



The season for catching shrimp in inside waters of Louisiana opened March 15 after being closed since December 16. This accounted for the increased production this month. Most of the shrimp were small to medium in size. In previous years, the closed seasons for taking shrimp commercially from inside waters of Louisiana were between March 15 and May 16 and between June 25 and August 16. Since the opening of the closed season this year, a considerable proportion of the small shrimp was reported to be used for canning.

Oyster production during March was over twice that of February, and 59 percent greater for the first quarter of 1947 than during the corresponding period last year. Over twice the quantity of oysters have been reported as being used for canning as during January through March of 1946.

Salt-water and fresh-water fish production in March compares favorably with the quantity landed in February. The use of nets for catching fish in the inside coastal waters of Louisiana is prohibited for the first time, beginning April 1 and ending May 31, according to an Executive Order issued by the Commissioner of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

From January through March this year, landings of hard crabs were less than one-third the quantity landed during the same period last year. There has been no appreciable production of soft crabs this year. The small production of crabs, for the most part, is reported to have been due to the cooler weather that has prevailed during the first three months of 1947.

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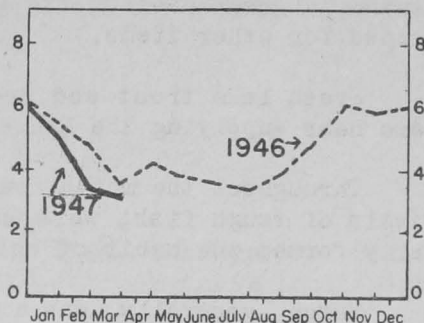
COLD STORAGE: Eleven cold-storage warehouses in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas reported frozen fish and shellfish holdings of 2,656,000 pounds on April 3, 1947, 13 percent less than four weeks ago, and nearly 30 percent less than total holdings on April 4, 1946, according to the Service's Market News Office at New Orleans.

Compared with holdings of one year ago, nearly all seafoods show a decline, except rosefish fillets, which were 67,000 pounds greater, and cooked and peeled shrimp, which were 77,000 pounds greater than last year.

Frozen shrimp holdings on April 3 amounted to 1,118,000 pounds, 125,000 pounds less than four weeks ago and 400,000 pounds less than last year.

Salt-water fish holdings amounted to 1,270,000 pounds, 316,000 pounds less than four weeks ago and 875,000 pounds less than last year. Five items--mullet, rosefish fillets, cod fillets, Spanish mackerel, and whiting and king whiting--made up over one-third of the volume.

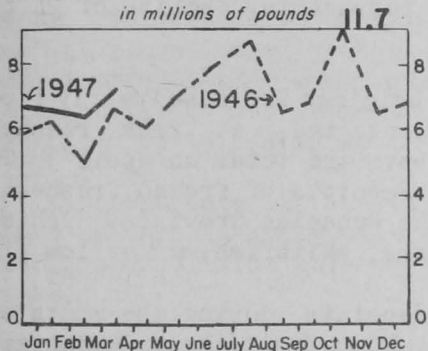
GULF COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS  
in millions of pounds



### Great Lakes.

RECEIPTS: Receipts of fresh and frozen fishery products in the Chicago wholesale market during March totaled 7,249,000 pounds. This was an increase of 14 percent compared with February and was 15 percent above March 1946, according to the Chicago Fishery Market News Office.

CHICAGO RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



Compared with February, fresh-water receipts advanced 41 percent but were 12 percent below March 1946. Salt-water receipts fell 12 percent below those of February but were 53 percent greater than those of March 1946. Shellfish arrivals were 6 percent above those during February and 94 percent higher than for March 1946.

Chief reasons for the gain in fresh-water species were larger receipts of frozen lake trout, saugers, whitefish, and yellow pike from Canadian provinces. A 100 percent increase in arrivals of lake herring from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin added greatly to fresh fish arrivals as did important receipts of smelt from the evidently rejuvenated waters of Michigan and Wisconsin. Arrivals of smelt during March exceeded those of March 1946 by 275 percent.

Arrivals of haddock, and haddock and rosefish fillets showed important gains during March, but the total of salt-water fish receipts was kept comparable to February by diminished receipts of halibut, cod fillets, and salmon.

Shrimp receipts declined 8 percent during March. This was, however, an expected seasonal occurrence. Mexican frozen shrimp again, as during the past few months, formed a very important part of all shrimp arrivals, representing 36 percent of the total. Fresh shrimp were nearly non-existent during March, shipments arriving being confined to a few barrels at a time which were sold out immediately upon arrival at high prices. Unusually large receipts of frozen spiny lobster tails from Florida and South Africa more than offset the decline in shrimp, but oysters declined 35 percent and nearly all other shellfish items showed decreases.

After playing a very minor part in the fishery products picture during most of the winter months, halibut regained its normal important position during the Lenten season. Most arrivals were sold directly to the consignee's customers without reaching cold-storage warehouses. Salmon, chiefly chum salmon, was in very little demand, a great deal of the fish arriving being re-consigned to other cities or traded for other items.

Fresh lake trout and fresh whitefish, except for one brief period, never came near supplying the Lenten demand for these varieties.

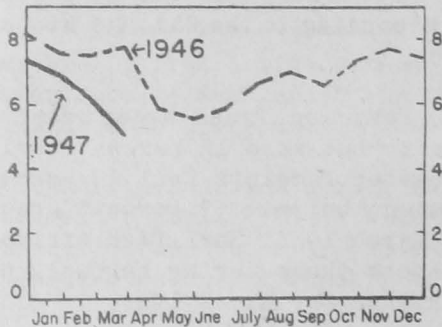
Throughout the month nearly all daily receipts, except occasional heavy arrivals of rough fish, were sold out long before the market closed. Customers early formed the habit of collecting their daily purchases in their own trucks.

March, generally, was a very good month for the Chicago dealers, the supply being just about sufficient for the demand, except for lake trout and whitefish. The lack of these latter items helped deplete cold-storage holdings. Prices were good, too, with little fluctuation.

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COLD STORAGE: Holdings of fishery products in Chicago cold-storage warehouses on April 3 amounted to 5,045,000 pounds, a decline of 16 percent from holdings on February 27, according to the Service's Market News Office. Compared with holdings on April 4, 1946, this total represents a decline of 24 percent.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CHICAGO  
in millions of pounds



Fresh-water holdings increased nearly 1 percent during the month and, at times, reached a point 6 percent above the total on April 3. This was due to large receipts of frozen fresh-water varieties from the Canadian provinces, chiefly lake trout, saugers, whitefish, and yellow pike.

Salt-water receipts during the month were light and resulted in a decline of 20 percent in holdings due to heavy withdrawals during the Lenten season. However, the decline would have been greater had not important receipts of fillets from the eastern area arrived during the month. These arrivals were usually sold direct from the dealers' floors and were not placed in cold-storage warehouses at any time.

Shellfish holdings declined 27 percent. As usual, the chief item of withdrawal was shrimp, holdings declining 34 percent.

In the fresh-water section, gains were shown by lake herring, 102 percent; chubs, 21 percent; lake trout, 100 percent; and whitefish, 5 percent. General small declines in nearly all other varieties kept the fresh-water total comparable with a month earlier.

Of the salt-water items, salmon increased 35 percent over February, but the total for this variety was comparatively small. Fillets declined 31 percent during March with cod fillets declining 45 percent and rosefish fillets, 29 percent. Halibut declined 10 percent from a relatively small amount.

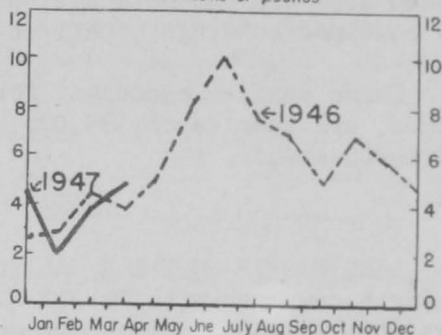
Shrimp holdings on April 3 were 517,000 pounds. Local dealers complained of their inability to procure enough shrimp for their barest needs even with half a million pounds in Chicago. Most of the shrimp placed in cold storage during the month was put there by dealers not ordinarily considered as fishery firms, such as chain stores. Dealers receiving shrimp during March sold out within a few days, from their own floors.



## Pacific

ARRIVALS: Receipts of fresh and frozen fish, shellfish, and livers at Seattle during March totaled 4,313,000 pounds, according to the Service's local Market News Office. This was a decline of 485,000 pounds from the February total of 4,798,000 pounds, but nearly 10 percent more than was received during March 1946. Fairly good fishing weather prevailed in the Straits and offshore waters and otter trawl deliveries of bottomfish slightly exceeded those for the previous month with a total of 726,000 pounds arriving from 42 trips. During the same period last year, 105 trips produced almost a million and a half pounds which were delivered to Seattle. During the past several months, many vessels of the Washington trawl fleet have not landed their catches at the local port, instead making their deliveries at various ports in the northern Puget Sound region where, it was reported, inducements in icing privileges and less strict grading of certain species were being offered trawlers.

SEATTLE RECEIPTS  
in millions of pounds



Although only 11 vessels landed during the month, receipts of fresh troll-caught salmon, all kings, were almost three times the February quantity and totaled 110,000 pounds. The bulk of this amount was received from coastal points via trucks.

The largest decrease was shown in shipments from Alaska, via coastwise vessels. These receipts dropped nearly three-quarters of a million pounds to a total of 2,645,000 pounds. There was a small increase, amounting to 37,000 pounds, in receipts from British Columbia which raised the March import total to 140,000 pounds, mostly frozen sole fillets and other frozen fillets.

Six species accounted for 75 percent of all receipts and were: Salmon, all species, 1,136,000 pounds, of which 1,026,000 pounds were frozen; frozen halibut, 1,011,000 pounds; frozen sablefish, 515,000 pounds; rockfishes, 320,000 pounds; lingcod, 165,000 pounds; and true cod, 104,000 pounds.

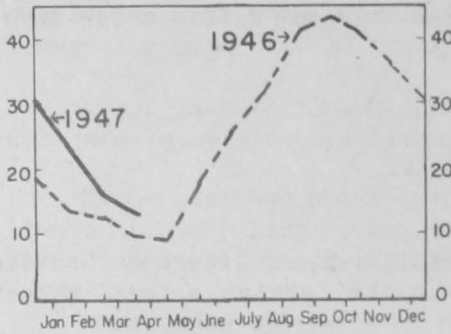
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NORTHWEST COLD STORAGE: On April 1, holdings of frozen fish and shellfish in 31 cold-storage warehouses of the Northwest region, including Alaska, amounted to 12,248,000 pounds, according to the Service's Seattle Market News Office.

This was a decline of about 29 percent from the March 1 figure of 17¼ million pounds, but nearly 3 million pounds, or 31 percent, heavier than the holdings on April 1, 1946.

During March, freezings of fish and shellfish throughout the region totaled 2,033,000 pounds, an increase of 41.4 percent over February, but 21 percent under the March 1946 freezings of 2,500,000 pounds.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—NORTH PACIFIC  
in millions of pounds



Bait and animal food, frozen largely in Washington and Alaska cold-storage warehouses, accounted for 87 percent of the area's total freezings. The balance of items placed in cold storage were generally limited quantities of bottomfish, fillets, clams, and crabs.

The consumer demand in many markets during March continued to absorb the major production of fresh fishery products. While holdings of fillets and other varieties showed substantial declines, the withdrawals of chum salmon continued slow and the holdings, which amounted to 2,169,000 pounds, almost equaled the combined holdings of all of the other species of salmon.

Three species accounted for nearly three-quarters of all holdings and were: salmon, all species, 4,589,000 pounds; sablefish, 2,541,000 pounds; and halibut, 1,348,000 pounds.

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LANDINGS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: San Pedro landings totaled 701,000 pounds in March compared with 803,000 pounds in February, according to the Fishery Market News Office in San Pedro. Mackerel led all other species in this decline by falling from 267,000 pounds in February to 97,000 pounds in March.

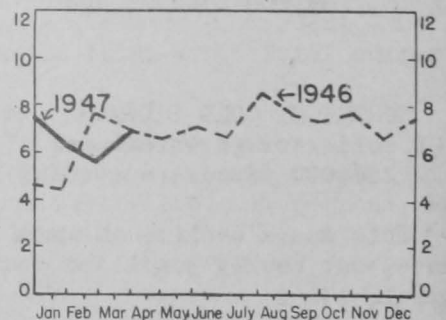
San Diego landings dropped from 196,000 pounds in February to 162,000 pounds in March, with California halibut and bonito showing the greatest loss. California halibut landings in February were 59,000 pounds but only 38,000 pounds in March, while the bonito landings totaled 43,000 pounds in February compared with 20,000 pounds in March.

Newport Beach landings dropped over 50 percent when only 111,000 pounds were landed in March compared with 278,000 pounds in February. The decrease was general and included nearly every species of fish normally landed there at this time of the year.

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COLD STORAGE: The holdings of fishery products in cold storage in California as of April 1, 1947, compared quite favorably with those of March 1, 1947, and with April 1, 1946, 5,706,000 pounds being held on April 1, 1947; 5,754,000 pounds on March 1, 1947; and 6,982,000 pounds on April 1, 1946, according to the Service's Market News Office at San Pedro.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS—CALIFORNIA  
in millions of pounds



Freezings fell off during March when 301,000 pounds of fish were frozen as compared to 616,000 pounds frozen in February.

Most notable decreases during March were in the freezing of unclassified fish, shrimp, and lobster tails when 66,000 pounds, 171,000 pounds,



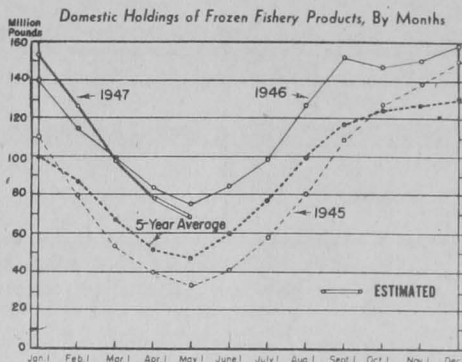
and 40,000 pounds were frozen, respectively. During February, 262,000 pounds of unclassified fish, 192,000 pounds of shrimp, and 89,000 pounds of lobster tails were frozen.



## United States

**COLD-STORAGE FREEZINGS AND HOLDINGS:** Stocks of frozen fish and shellfish, held on April 1 by cold-storage operators reporting their activities to the Fish and Wildlife Service, amounted to 78,242,000 pounds, a decline of 20 percent (19,698,000 pounds) below the holdings on the first of the previous month, according to information contained in Current Fishery Statistics No. 335. Stocks of frozen fishery products declined 74,561,000 pounds during the first three months of 1947, compared with a decline of 55,943,000 pounds in the same period in 1946. It is estimated that May 1 holdings will be below 70 million pounds.

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



## PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

Per capita consumption of fish has fallen to a level below that of the prewar years, due to a lowered catch and the diversion of canned products to foreign needs. Competition for domestic fishery markets is now coming from distant sources. No longer can the fisheries look upon their domestic prewar or war markets as exclusive property. Improvements in methods of packaging and transporting fishery products are opening up distant markets to remote fisheries. New England and Pacific Coast products are meeting in midwestern markets. Foreign competition is increasing. Imports of frozen groundfish and rosefish fillets in 1946 were five times larger than in 1940. Other protein foods too, such as meat, cheese, poultry, and eggs are seeking their places in the markets, and must be considered important contenders.