



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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In the last eight years, the catch of rosefish has jumped from 130th to 13th place with respect to the volume of individual fishery products landed in the United States and Alaska.

"Prior to 1933," according to an article in the current issue of the Fishery Market News, issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, "this species was of only slight economic importance, and although large quantities of the fish were taken by New England trawlers operating for groundfish, they were usually discarded. Those brought to port were utilized principally in dressing show windows. In 1932 the total catch was only 132,000 pounds, valued at \$2,000. Eight years later, in 1940, the catch reached nearly 84,000,000 pounds, valued at over \$1,250,000."

The phenomenal increase in the landings of rosefish was due to the development of a market for rosefish fillets, which were sold as fillets of "ocean perch," "sea perch," and "red perch." The rapid growth of the fishery is indicated by statistics which show how, in the period between 1933 and 1936, the catch increased from 264,000 pounds to nearly 67,000,000 pounds.

The entire domestic catch of rosefish is taken off the New England States by otter trawls, and is landed almost exclusively at the ports of Boston, and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine. An interesting

development of the fishery has been the decline in volume of the landings at Boston, which fell from 49,400,000 pounds in 1936 to less than 20,000,000 pounds in 1940. While the Boston landings declined, there was a corresponding increase in the receipts at Gloucester, which amounted to over 57,000,000 pounds during the past year. Receipts at Portland, Maine, have grown steadily and reached a total of 6,657,000 pounds in 1940.

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