



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1941 WHOLESALE FISH MARKET RECEIPTS IN CHICAGO

Over 65½ million pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products were received during January at the Chicago Wholesale Fish Market, according to annual summary figures released today by the Chicago Fishery Market News office of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. This represents an increase of approximately 10 percent over 1940. Approximately 2,554 trucks, 1,128 freight cars, and 793 express cars, fully loaded, transported the 65,569,000 pounds to the various receiving stations in Chicago.

Fresh-water fish receipts continued to predominate, increasing 5 percent in volume as compared with 1940. Salt-water fish manifested a 33 percent gain over the preceding year due mainly to greatly increased shipments of the various frozen fillets. Shellfish varieties, however, suffered an 8 percent decline to which lesser receipts of oysters and shrimp largely contributed.

Receipts by Types of Fish — 1941 and 1940

Item	Fresh-water fish		Salt-water fish		Shellfish, etc.		Total	
	Lbs.	%	Lbs.	%	Lbs.	%	Lbs.	%
1941	33,398,681	51	21,564,339	33	10,606,141	16	65,569,161	100
1940	31,746,777	54	16,198,298	27	11,487,482	19	59,432,557	100
Change from 1940	+1,651,904	+5	+5,366,041	+33	-881,341	-8	+6,136,604	+10

During 1941, 101 classifications of fishery products were received. These consisted of 41 salt-water, 39 fresh-water, and 21 shellfish and miscellaneous items, originating in 34 States, Alaska, and eight Canadian Provinces. The domestic total amounted to 45,872,000 pounds or 70 percent of the total receipts, an increase of 9 percent over the preceding year. The 1941 imported total--including the catch taken by U. S. vessels and shipped through Canada to the United States in bond--amounted to 19,697,000 pounds, or 30 percent of the total receipts, an increase of 14 percent over 1940.

Receipts by Methods of Transportation -- 1941

Item	Truck	% of		Express	% of		Freight	% of		Total	% of
		Trk	Total		Exp	Total		Frc	Total		
Classification:	Lbs.			Lbs.			Lbs.			Lbs.	
All	25,543,412	100	39	15,862,457	100	24	24,163,292	100	37	65,569,161	100
Fresh-water	15,986,109	66	51	10,624,102	67	32	5,788,470	24	17	33,398,681	51
Salt-water	6,063,780	24	28	4,049,493	26	19	11,451,066	47	53	21,564,339	33
Shellfish, etc.,	2,493,523	10	24	1,188,862	7	11	6,923,756	29	65	10,606,141	16
Domestic	21,991,200	86	48	11,040,936	70	24	12,840,152	53	28	45,872,288	70
Imported*	3,552,212	14	18	4,821,521	30	24	11,323,140	47	58	19,696,873	30

*Includes catch taken by U. S. vessels and shipped through Canada to the United States in bond.

The bulk of fishery products arrived in Chicago in 1941 by truck. Motor trucks accounted for 25,543,000 pounds or 39 percent; rail freight followed closely by transporting 24,163,000 pounds or 37 percent; while rail express carried 15,863,000 pounds or 24 percent. Motor trucks were utilized consistently throughout the year, good weather or bad, while the use of rail freight and rail express units fluctuated extensively. During the period from October to April, when great quantities of frozen fishery products are produced and shipped, large numbers of freight cars are consigned to the local market. Their use drops off at a gradual rate until, during the balance of the year and the season for greater productivity of fresh fishery products, rail express supplants rail freight.

Rail freight during 1941 increased 24 percent over 1940, with salt-water fish shipments via freight showing a gain of 72 percent, fresh-water fish shipments, a gain of 46 percent, and shellfish shipments, a loss of 16 percent. Motor truck shipments showed a total increase of 20 percent during 1941 with shellfish shipments increasing 81 percent (largely fresh and frozen shrimp, frozen squid, and frozen spiny lobster tails); salt-water fish shipments gained 53 percent, and fresh-water fish shipments 6 percent. With the apparent shipping trend toward a greater use of motor trucks and rail freight for all types of fish, rail express shipments declined 15 percent, with shellfish decreasing 35 percent, salt-water fish 19 percent, and fresh-water fish 10 percent.

The trend toward motor trucks and rail freight was not limited by the source of the shipments since domestic shipments by truck increased 18 percent and by rail freight 14 percent while those by express declined 11 percent. Similarly, imported shipments by freight increased 38 percent, and by truck 31 percent, but shipments by express declined 23 percent.

The three leading species, with respect to volume in 1941, were fresh and frozen halibut, shrimp, and lake trout. These same three varieties were the leading products received during 1940. Halibut, with a total of 8,426,000 pounds increased 10 percent over 1940, accounting for 13 percent of the total receipts. Shrimp, with a total of 7,026,000 pounds, declined 7 percent when compared with the 1940 poundage, but accounted for 11 percent of the 1941 receipts. Lake trout, with a total of 6,110,000 pounds, was 2 percent over the 1940 figure and, at the same time, accounted for 9 percent of the 1941 total.

Certain trends from the utilization of fresh fishery products to frozen fishery products were clearly manifested during 1941. For example, while fresh and frozen halibut accounted for 39 percent of the total salt-water receipts, fresh stocks received declined 22 percent and frozen halibut increased 35 percent. Similarly,

fresh shrimp receipts dropped 28 percent, as the frozen product gained 134 percent. Further indications of the trend to a wider demand for and greater usage of frozen fishery commodities are shown in the accompanying table.

SPECIES	PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM 1940	
	Fresh	Frozen
Lake herring.....	- 14	+ 85
Sauger.....	+ 32	+ 49
Whitefish.....	- 16	+ 32
Yellow perch.....	+ 15	+ 62
Yellow pike.....	- 6	+110
Cod.....	+ 58	Fillets + 83
Haddock.....	+ 19	Fillets +110
Mackerel.....	+ 8	+683
Salmon.....	- 43	+ 89
Whiting.....	- 15	Fillets +503

Of the 34 States in which the 1941 domestic shipments of 45,872,000 pounds originated, Massachusetts was the largest producer with a total of 9,016,000 pounds which represents an increase of 54 percent over the 1940 figure for this State. Massachusetts accounted for 39 percent of the salt-water fish and 5 percent of the shellfish receipts during 1941. Of the eight Canadian Provinces, British Columbia led with a total of 8,282,000 pounds, an increase of 7 percent over 1940, and accounted for 38 percent of the total salt-water fish for 1941. The leading sources of production for all types of fishery products were Massachusetts which shipped 14 percent of the 1941 receipts; British Columbia, 13 percent; Wisconsin, 12 percent; Manitoba, 11 percent; Michigan, 9 percent; Louisiana, 7 percent; and Minnesota, 4 percent. Shipments from these seven points of origin accounted for 70 percent of the 1941 receipts.

Indicative of the trend toward greater supplies of salt-water fish (particularly frozen stocks) and frozen shellfish was the fact that Texas consignments increased 72 percent over 1940. In like manner, Massachusetts shipments increased 54 percent; Washington, 33 percent; and New York, 22 percent.

The demand for frozen fish of both fresh-water and salt-water varieties, with considerable emphasis on the filleted product, was brought about largely by the necessity for supplying the requirements of the United States Army and Navy, and the growing needs of the industry in the inland regions of the North-Central States, northwest, west, and southwest of the Chicago area.

From a marketing standpoint increased consumption and widened distribution in both local and outlying areas have tended to increase competition, to improve shipping and packing methods, and, at the same time, to stabilize the marketing of fishery products, notably, the many fluctuations in wholesale market prices.