



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

### FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALASKA, 1940

Data on the catch of fishery products for the year 1940 in all sections of the United States and Alaska (except the Mississippi River and its tributaries) indicate a combined catch of 4,056,524,000 pounds, valued at \$98,635,000 according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 27, released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

As compared with the catch in the same sections during the preceding year, this represents a decrease of 9 percent in quantity and an increase of 2 percent in value.

The Pacific Coast section was the largest contributor to this catch with a production of nearly 1,500,000,000 pounds, valued in excess of \$29,000,000.

There were a total of 124,795 fishermen employed in making the total United States and Alaska catch, while an additional 90,215 were employed in fishery wholesale and manufacturing establishments, producing manufactured fishery products valued at \$167,212,798.

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### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF CANNED OYSTER PACK, 1941

Total production of the pack of canned oysters in 1941 in the United States amounted to 593,195 standard cases of 48 five-ounce cans, valued at \$2,879,027, according to a preliminary statement issued today from the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

This represents a decrease of 8 percent in quantity but an increase of 14 percent in value as compared to the previous years total.

Regarding the output by States, Mississippi led all States with a pack of 225,563 standard cases, valued at \$1,204,489. Washington ranked second, with a production of 167,597 standard cases, valued at \$670,627.

In addition to the regular pack there were 3,785 standard cases of smoked oysters, valued at \$30,944, which were produced in Washington and Louisiana.

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FISHERIES OF THE NEW  
ENGLAND STATES, 1940

Commercial catch of fishery products in the New England States during 1940 amounted to 626,054,100 pounds, valued at \$20,493,733, according to figures released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

This is a decrease of 6 percent in volume but an increase of 5 percent in value as compared with the catch in 1939.

With respect to the value of the catch, haddock ranked first, cod second, clams third, lobsters fourth, and rosefish fifth. The catch in Maine amounted to 88,088,000 pounds, valued at \$2,606,416; New Hampshire, 788,000 pounds, valued at \$105,204; Massachusetts, 510,938,000 pounds, valued at \$15,755,757; Rhode Island, 12,060,000 pounds, valued at \$966,152; and Connecticut, 14,180,000 pounds, valued at \$1,060,204.

The New England fisheries provided employment for 18,546 fishermen, 12,650 persons engaged in wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 186 persons employed on transporting craft.

The value of the manufactured fishery products of the 398 wholesale establishments amounted to \$23,324,155 compared with \$26,032,888, in 1939. Salaries and wages paid to employees of these wholesale establishments during 1940 amounted to \$7,547,395.

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FISHERIES OF THE MIDDLE  
ATLANTIC STATES, 1940

Catch of fish and shellfish in the Middle Atlantic States during 1940 amounted to 355,553,000 pounds, valued at \$7,650,957 to the fishermen, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 24, released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

As compared with the catch in 1939 this represents an increase of 27 percent in volume and 4 percent in value. An increase of about 100,000,000 pounds in the catch of menhaden, a very low-priced species of fish utilized exclusively for reduction purposes, is primarily responsible for the increase in value being incommensurate with the large increase in quantity.

Based on the value of the catch, oysters were the most important item of production, with clams and menhaden following in importance.

The fisheries of New York yielded 91,959,000 pounds of fish and shellfish, valued at \$4,216,224; New Jersey, 160,555,000 pounds, valued at \$2,956,946; Pennsylvania, 23,000 pounds, valued at \$2,373; and Delaware, 103,017,000 pounds, valued at \$475,414.

During 1940, direct employment in the fisheries was furnished to 7,737 fishermen, 5,880 persons in wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 215 persons on transporting craft. Salaries and wages paid to the persons employed in the 339 fishery wholesale firms in that area amounted to \$6,736,554, as compared to \$6,835,641 paid to employees of 378 firms in 1939.

The value of manufactured fishery products produced by these firms in 1940 amounted to \$15,815,684.

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#### FISHERIES OF SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF STATES, 1940

In 1940, there were 575,533,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at \$14,644,895 taken commercially in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, according to statistics released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

This is a decrease of 8 percent in quantity but an increase of 5 percent in value as compared with the catch during the previous year.

Shellfish were by far the most important product landed with respect to value. In 1940, the shellfish production was valued at \$3,842,000 to the fishermen, while the fish products amounted to \$5,803,000 in value to the fishermen. The catch of shrimp, amounting to 150,541,000 pounds, valued at \$5,893,000, ranked foremost in importance, with oysters and menhaden following in that order.

There were, in 1940, 27,941 fishermen engaged in the commercial fisheries of this area. In addition, there were 677 persons employed on transporting craft, and 18,926 persons employed in fishery wholesale and manufacturing establishments. There were 776 of these firms in 1940, as compared to 773 in 1939. The value of the products manufactured by the fishery wholesale firms in 1940 amounted to \$13,838,590, as compared to \$13,996,722 in 1939.

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#### FISHERIES OF PACIFIC COAST STATES IN 1940

Commercial catch of fishery products in the Pacific Coast States during 1940 amounted to 1,453,281,000 pounds, valued at \$29,255,930, according to figures released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

This is a decrease of 15 percent in quantity but an increase of 7 percent in value as compared to the catch in 1939.

With respect to the value of the catch, tuna ranked first, pilchards second, and salmon third. The catch in Washington amounted to 108,632,000 pounds, valued at \$6,354,287; that in Oregon, 54,202,000 pounds, valued at \$2,741,767; and in California, 1,290,446,000 pounds, valued at \$20,159,876.

The Pacific Coast fisheries provided employment for 25,183 fishermen, 19,109 persons engaged in wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 141 employed on transporting craft.

The value of the manufactured fishery products produced by 351 firms amounted to \$62,631,235, as compared with an output valued at \$60,097,926 in 1939. Salaries and wages paid to employees of these wholesale establishments during 1940 amounted to \$11,449,359.

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#### ANALYSIS OF 1941 CATCH IN NEW ENGLAND BY GEAR, AREA

Fishing vessels landing fares at Boston and Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Portland, Maine, during 1941 numbered 386 craft of 5 net tons capacity or greater, according to a release from the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

These vessels made 12,667 trips to the fishing grounds and were absent from port 48,893 days. The catch of edible fish landed at the three ports amounted to 473,536,097 pounds when the salted fish had been converted to the basis of fish caught or round fish as usually landed. This was an increase of 27 percent as compared with the catch made during the previous year.

Large otter trawls (those of 150 gross tons capacity or greater) accounted for 185,335,000 pounds or 39 percent of the total catch landed at the three ports. Medium otter trawl vessels (those of 51 to 150 gross tons) were second in importance, accounting for 159,793,000 pounds, or 34 percent of the landings, while small otter trawl vessels (those of 5 net tons to 50 gross tons capacity) accounted for 60,930,000 or 13 percent of the total landings.

Data on the number of trips made and days absent from port show that large otter trawls were absent from port an average of 9.3 days each trip. Vessels operating harpoons made trips averaging 18.5 days each; those operating medium otter trawls 6.6 days; those operating line trawls 3.9 days; and those operating small otter trawls 2.6 days.

The catch taken on Inner Grounds and landed at the three ports amounted to 77,263,000 pounds, or 33 percent of the total; that on Eastern Massachusetts, 59,474,000 pounds, or 13 percent; that on Central and Southwest Georges, 58,312,000 pounds, or 12 percent; and that on Western Side South Channel 40,023,000 pounds, or 8 percent.

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LANDINGS AT CERTAIN NEW  
ENGLAND PORTS, MARCH 1942

In 709 trips to the fishing banks, 222 vessels of 5 net tons capacity or over, landed 36,877,000 pounds of fishery products, valued at \$1,834,096, at the three ports of Boston and Gloucester, Mass.; and Portland, Maine, during March 1942.

Landings during the corresponding month in 1941 amounted to 35,427,000, valued at \$1,261,595, according to figures released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Landings at Boston amounted to 24,553,000 pounds, valued at \$1,420,089; those at Gloucester, 10,447,000 pounds, valued at \$348,756; and those at Portland, 1,877,000 pounds, valued at \$65,251.

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