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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SEMI-ANNUAL FIGURES SHOW DECREASE IN 1942 GULF CATCH

Production of 2,827,000 pounds of salt- and 264,000 pounds of fresh-water fish was reported for the first six months of 1942 for the principal production points in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by the New Orleans Fishery Market News office, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

In addition, these states produced 100,000 barrels of shrimp; 699,000 barrels of oysters; 18,000 dozen soft crabs; 5,751,000 pounds of hard crabs; 586,000 pounds of fresh-cooked crab meat; and 182,000 pounds of "Other Shellfish"---including processed crab meat, crayfish, frogs, sea turtle, squid, terrapin, turtle, and turtle meat---during the same period.

Compared with the first six months of 1941, the current year's production shows increases of 21 percent in salt-water fish, 1 percent in shrimp, 38 percent in soft crabs, and 65 percent in items listed under "Other Shellfish". These were offset, however, by decreases of 53 percent in fresh-water fish, 1 percent in oysters, 19 percent in hard crabs, and 11 percent in fresh-cooked crab meat.

The New Orleans 1942 summary indicates that the bulk of the shrimp and other fishery products were handled as fresh; the oysters and crab meat, for canning. Louisiana ranked, by far, as the greatest producing state; with Texas, least productive, contributing only salt-water fish, shrimp, and some oysters. Alabama was second in production among these Gulf states, outranking Louisiana over 3-to-1 in poundage of fresh-water fish handled.