



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The addition of 300 vessels to the U.S. fishing fleet would boost fish production by approximately one billion pounds, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes declared today.

Although actual needs of fish and shellfish are estimated at six to seven billion pounds for 1943, the industry has declared that, with available manpower and boats, not more than 3 3/4 billion pounds can be taken.

Most urgently needed are seiners for the sardine and menhaden fisheries, trawlers of all sizes for the New England groundfish fleet, tuna clippers, and shrimp trawlers.

Additions to the fleet can be made from two sources, the Coordinator pointed out; return of boats taken over by the War Shipping Administration and no longer urgently needed for war service, and the construction of new vessels to replace those which cannot be spared by the Army and Navy.

Immediately after the outbreak of war, a large number of fishing vessels were requisitioned for patrol, mine sweeping, food transport and other vital war services. The exact number taken out of active fishing has not been revealed, but it is known to have seriously hampered the industry, especially in certain branches.

The return of a few menhaden and sardine seiners and larger numbers of boats to the salmon industry was announced earlier this year, but the need of additional boats to bring in fish remains critical. The Coordinator's Office is assisting the fishing industry to obtain needed priorities for the building of new vessels, and a number are now under construction.

One large New England otter trawler and her crew can land 5,000,000 pounds of cod, haddock, rosefish, and other staple food fishes in a year, the Coordinator stated.

The fast, refrigerated tuna clippers are capable of ranging as far south as the Equator to bring in 2,000,000 pounds of choice tuna to the canneries in a season.

Potential annual catches of the newer menhaden and sardine seiners are highest of all, amounting to five to six million pounds for a menhaden boat, and six to seven million pounds for the sardine vessels.

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