



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The largest pack of tuna since 1940 is predicted by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries on the basis of recent reports from California, center of the fishery.

Officials of the Coordinator's Office estimate that the pack will be at least three million cases, compared with slightly less than 2½ million last year. Predictions are based on the fact that the early season pack, consisting largely of tuna caught by purse seiners in the Gulf of California, was 20 percent larger than the pack for the same period last year.

Tuna fishing during the last half of the year is carried on chiefly by the large clippers that operate in offshore waters, using live bait and catching the tuna with hook and line. Although the success of this fishery cannot be predicted as yet, California representatives of the Coordinator's office feel that with the strong early season lead, the total pack undoubtedly will be substantially larger than in 1943.

Because of heavy military purchases, the larger pack will not necessarily mean more tuna for civilians. Tuna, being delicately flavored and easily digested, is highly regarded for use in military hospitals.

The total pack of tuna during the first five months of the current year was 876,385 cases, compared with 485,095 cases for the same period last year.