



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Largely because of smaller runs of fish, the pack of Alaska canned salmon—the Territory's most valuable product -- is running about 20 percent below last year's production, the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries reported today.

The pack of all species of salmon in Alaska has reached a total of 3,120,000 cases by August 5, compared with 3,791,000 cases on August 7, 1943. The Alaska salmon season will be practically completed by the end of August, later catches amounting to only one or two percent of the season's production.

The relative scarcity of salmon was predicted last January by scientists of the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service, who reported that severe winter conditions in the spawning streams several years ago killed large numbers of the fish that would have returned this year as mature adults.

As predicted, the runs of pink salmon, mainstay of the fishery in Southeastern Alaska, have been disappointingly small in that area, with the pack to date less than half as large as last year. The Southeastern Alaska pack of all species is about 200,000 cases less than in 1943.

In Central Alaska, where the pre-season outlook was more favorable, a decline of only 100,000 cases is reported, with gains in the pack of chum and coho or silver salmon.

Western Alaska, which comprises the most important red salmon producing area in the world, fell slightly below the million-case pack that had been hoped for, with a total of 983,000 cases. Fishing is completed in all but a few scattered areas of western Alaska, but will continue for several weeks in other parts of the Territory.

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