



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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With total production in the New England fisheries running well ahead of last year's figures, landings at several of the New England ports during May and June have broken all previous records, Charles E. Jackson, Assistant Deputy Coordinator of Fisheries, reported today to Coordinator Harold L. Ickes.

Landings at Gloucester during the month of June are expected to reach at least 30,000,000 pounds. Previously, the busiest month in the history of this port was July, 1944, when 27,553,000 pounds were landed.

The month of May brought the heaviest landings in its history into the southern New England port of New Bedford, when 194 vessels--including both otter trawlers and mackerel seiners--landed 15,254,000 pounds of fish. Landings of 1,224,000 pounds on May 29th broke all records for a single day's receipts at that port.

During the first 22 days of June, Mr. Jackson said, landings at Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Portland have exceeded those for the entire month of June last year. In June, 1944, 49,093,000 pounds were landed. Barring interruption of fishing by storms during the remaining days of the month, the total for June this year should be at least 60 million pounds, Mr. Jackson estimated.

New England landings since the beginning of the year now total approximately 230 million pounds, compared with 209 million for the same period last year, or a gain of about 10 percent.

Mr. Jackson reported that severe manpower shortages in the shore plants are impeding full production by the New England fisheries. In many cases, sufficient men are not available to process all the fish that could be caught and boats are lying over, awaiting their turn to unload. Every element of the industry has been asked to cooperate in a program to insure maximum utilization of the record catches.

As of June 1, total landings for the year at the various ports were as follows: Boston, 70,156,000 pounds; Gloucester, 68,923,000 pounds; New Bedford, 34,307,000 pounds; Portland, 6,067,000 pounds. With the exception of New Bedford, each of the ports is running ahead of last year's landings.