



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Civilians will soon find canned fish becoming more plentiful on their grocers' shelves as a result of two developments - current heavy production in several of the major fish canning industries, and a sharp reduction in military requirements, Milton C. James, Acting Deputy Coordinator of Fisheries, said today.

Both the tuna and sardine fisheries of the Pacific Coast are increasing their pack substantially over last year. Although the pack of Alaska salmon, Maine sardines, and Pacific mackerel is somewhat below the 1944 figures, the fact that the Government has reduced its purchases drastically since VJ-Day will mean increased quantities of all kinds of canned fish for civilians, Mr. James said.

During the first seven months of this year the California canneries, which receive the bulk of the tuna catch, have packed 1,786,418 cases of tuna, compared with a pack of 1,522,920 cases during the same period last year. The 1945 pack is well above the average for this portion of the season during the past five years - 1,368,000 cases.

The Pacific pilchard or sardine fishery had registered a good lead over last year by the end of August. The year's total at that time stood at 1,029,790 cases, as against 908,266 last year. The new pilchard season began August 1. During the first month of the season the industry packed 403,823 cases, compared with only 251,476 cases in August 1944.

The pack of Alaska salmon, expected to fall below the average because of small runs of fish, totaled 4,241,897 cases by September 2, compared with 4,813,651 cases by the same time last year. Because of the recent reduction of Government purchases from 80 to 40 per cent of the pack, however, civilians this winter should see more canned salmon than for several years, despite the small pack.

Maine sardines and Pacific mackerel, according to the most recent reports received by the Coordinator's Office, also are behind last year's production. At the end of July the Maine sardine pack stood at 1,244,123 cases, compared with 1,487,341 in 1944. Pacific mackerel for the first seven months of 1945 totaled 61,077 cases, as against 86,818 in 1944. The months of peak production in this fishery are from October through December, however.

During the spring of 1945, Government requisitioning of salmon, pilchards, Atlantic sea herring, and Atlantic and Pacific mackerel amounted to 80 per cent

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