



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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United States production of fish and shellfish during 1945 amounted to approximately 4.4 billion pounds, a decline of less than one per cent from the 4.5 billion pounds caught the previous year, according to a preliminary estimate of production reported to Acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman today by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The total 1945 catch of fish and shellfish brought fishermen an estimated \$230,000,000, which exceeded the value of the 1944 catch - a previous record - by \$23,000,000.

The sharpest decline occurred in the nation's largest fishery, the Pacific coast sardine industry. The catch of sardines, known also as pilchards, was 1,136,000,000 pounds in 1944, but dropped to 832,000,000 pounds in 1945.

Largely due to the smaller pilchard catch, production in the Pacific coast states and Alaska fell from 2,171,000,000 pounds in 1944 to 1,829,000,000 pounds last year. Among other major fisheries of the area, mackerel and salmon showed declines which, however, were largely offset by gains in tuna and Alaska herring.

The catch of tuna rose to 183 million pounds, from 170 million in 1944. The gain in this important fishery was in part due to the return of some of the vessels that had been requisitioned for military service, the building of new boats, and the opening to fishing of certain areas closed during the war for security reasons, Dr. Gabrielson said.

The Alaska herring fishery also showed a gain - from 113 million pounds in 1944 to over 120 million pounds in 1945. Practically the entire catch of this fishery is utilized in the manufacture of oil and meal.

Production of salmon declined from 431 million to 420 million pounds while Pacific mackerel, a highly variable fishery, fell from 93 million to 60 million pounds.

Production on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in the Great Lakes and Mississippi River increased slightly from the 1944 level, totaling 2,546,000,000 pounds in 1945, compared with 2,333,000,000 pounds the previous year.

The major ports in the New England area had the busiest year in their history, handling approximately 568 million pounds, a gain of more than 100 million pounds over 1944. Landings at these ports consist chiefly of haddock, rosefish, cod, flounders, and other species sold in the fresh fish markets.

The menhaden fishery, heaviest producer on the Atlantic coast, showed some gain compared with 1944. The 1945 production was 740 million pounds; while in 1944, 685 million were caught. Menhaden are used principally in the manufacture of meal and oil.

Compared with the average of the past four years, more of the fish catch was utilized in the fresh or frozen state, while somewhat less went into the production of canned fish and byproducts, Dr. Gabrielson reported. About the same quantity - a relatively small amount - was cured. The 1945 catch was utilized as follows: 1.7 billion pounds went to the markets for fresh and frozen fish, 1.2 billion pounds were canned, 1.4 were utilized as byproducts, and 0.1 billion pounds were cured.

The pack of canned fish and shellfish declined approximately four per cent compared with 1944, Dr. Gabrielson said. Production in the major seafood canning industries in 1944 and 1945 was as follows:

	1945	1944
Salmon:	<u>Standard Cases</u>	<u>Standard Cases</u>
Alaska	4,302,895	4,893,059
United States	530,000	245,588
Total	<u>4,832,895</u>	<u>5,138,647</u>
Sardines:		
Maine	2,600,000	2,919,500
California	3,786,752	3,599,686

	<u>1945</u> <u>Standard Cases</u>	<u>1944</u> <u>Standard Cases</u>
Tuna	4,025,658	3,560,020
Mackerel:		
East coast	50,085	232,780
West coast	635,889	992,280
Shrimp	142,000	401,178