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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The leading United States fishing ports in 1945, in weight of fish landed, were San Pedro, Monterey, Gloucester, San Francisco, and Boston, in the order named, but in terms of the value of the landings Boston held first place, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported yesterday to Acting Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

Following the leading five were four ports on the east coast and one on the Pacific coast: Lewes, Del.; Beaufort-Morehead City, N. C.; New Bedford, Mass.; San Diego, Calif.; and Reedville, Va. These ten ports receive approximately half of the nation's total production of fish and other aquatic products.

San Pedro, which has held first place on the list of fishing ports for two years in succession, handled approximately 480,000,000 pounds in 1945, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The bulk of the landings at San Pedro are pilchards or sardines, although tuna and mackerel also are landed in considerable quantity at this port.

The enormous landings of pilchards are responsible for the high rank of Monterey and San Francisco, for at both ports this single species comprises more than 90 per cent of the landings. Last year Monterey received a total of 330,000,000 pounds of all species, while San Francisco's landings were 200,000,000 pounds.

The port of Gloucester not only has held the leading place among Atlantic Coast ports for three consecutive years, but in 1945 was one of the three

principal ports of the United States, it was announced. Gloucester, in third place, received 213,000,000 pounds, while Boston, fifth in rank, handled 138,000,000 pounds. These ports are the country's principal centers for the production of fresh fish, their landings consisting chiefly of haddock, rosefish, cod, flounders, mackerel, and other species handled almost exclusively by the fresh fish markets.

Although Boston's landings are smaller than Gloucester's by about 25,000,000 pounds, their total value is greater - \$23,790,000 as against \$11,184,000 for the Gloucester landings. Haddock and cod, which are the chief items in the landings at Boston, bring a higher price than the rosefish which makes up about 48 percent of the Gloucester receipts.

Three small towns on the Atlantic Coast - Lewes, Del.; the Beaufort-Morehead City area of North Carolina, and Reedville, Va. - are among the ten principal fishing ports because of their landings of a single species of fish - menhaden. Although the menhaden is not well known to the general public because its chief use is in the manufacture of meal, oil, and other byproducts rather than as food, it is caught in greater quantity than any other fish on the Atlantic coast. Landings of menhaden together with minor quantities of other species, totaled approximately 175,000,000 pounds at Lewes last year. Beaufort-Morehead City received about 143,000,000 pounds, of which probably 90 per cent was menhaden.

The rapidly growing port of New Bedford increased its landings from 75,000,000 pounds in 1944 to 101,000,000 last year, ranking eighth on the list of United States ports. Like Gloucester and Boston, New Bedford is a fresh fish center, flounders and haddock predominating in its landings.

San Diego, in ninth place, received about 100,000,000 pounds in 1945, with tuna its most important species. Because of its southern location, this port is the principal place of landing for the large tuna clippers that fish off the coast of Mexico and Central America.

Reedville, ranking tenth on the list, received about 80,000,000 pounds, almost entirely menhaden.

Among other ports with landings ranging between 40,000,000 and 80,000,000 pounds, Dr. Gabrielson mentioned Fernandina, Fla., which received about 74,000,000 pounds, chiefly menhaden; Astoria, Ore., with about 48,000,000 pounds; and Seattle, Wash. and Provincetown, Mass. with about 42,000,000 pounds each.

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