

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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A record breaking pack of about five million cases of tuna in 1946 was predicted by the Fish and Wildlife Service today on the basis of the performance of the far ranging Pacific Coast tuna fleet so far this year.

During the first five months of 1946, the pack totaled 1,242,485 cases, the largest production for this period in the history of the industry.

The largest pre-war pack of tuna was made in 1940, when 4,188,000 cases were produced, according to officials of the Service. As a result of war conditions, the pack fell to about 2,500,000 cases in 1942, but rose to 4,237,000 in 1945.

Although some of the most productive tuna waters were closed during the war as a security measure, this so-called "area of vigilance" was reopened to the tuna fleet late in 1945. Tuna clippers, among the largest and fastest of all fishing boats, normally operate on the high seas as far south as Equatorial waters, sometimes even beyond. They are equipped for voyages of 4,000 to 6,000 miles and carry elaborate refrigeration equipment enabling them to remain at sea for as much as three months.

Because of their speed and size, many tuna clippers were requisitioned for military use during the war. However, the return of some of these vessels, plus an intensive program of vessel construction, have restored the tuna fleet to its full strength, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced.

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