



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### LEADING FISHING PORTS IN 1946

The leading fishing ports in the United States in 1946, in weight of fish landed, were San Pedro; Lewes, Del.; Gloucester and Boston, Mass., and Reedville, Va., the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

In terms of the value of the landings, San Pedro held first place, followed by San Diego, Boston, New Bedford, and Gloucester, in the order named.

San Pedro, which has held the title of leading United States fishing port for three consecutive years, received most of the pilchards and mackerel landed on the Pacific coast and nearly half of the tuna. Landings at San Pedro in 1946 totaled approximately 475,000,000 pounds, with a value to fishermen estimated at \$17,000,000.

Lewes, Del. rose from sixth place in 1945 to second in 1946 because of the tremendous increase in the landings of menhaden. Lewes, exclusively a menhaden port, handled 276,000,000 pounds last year compared with 175,000,000 in 1945, becoming not only the first ranking Atlantic coast port in volume of landings but the United States center of the menhaden fishery.

Gloucester, among the three leading ports in the United States for two years in succession, received 218,000,000 pounds of fish. About 60 percent of the Gloucester landings consisted of a single species: rosefish. Compared with 1945, landings at Gloucester increased by about 2 percent.

Landings at Boston amounted to 159,000,000 pounds, consisting chiefly of miscellaneous ground fish like cod, haddock, pollock, and flounders. Although Boston's landings were smaller than Gloucester's, their total value was greater:

\$13,200,000 compared with \$11,200,000. This difference is due to the fact that haddock and cod, which are the chief items in the landings at Boston, bring a higher price than the leading Gloucester species, rosefish.

The phenomenally successful year in the menhaden fishery was responsible for bringing Reedville, Va., from tenth place among U. S. fishing ports in 1945 to fifth place last year. Reedville received approximately 147,000,000 pounds of menhaden, its sole fishery product, compared with 80,000,000 pounds in 1945.

Although San Diego, with about 125,000,000 pounds, ranked below the first five ports in volume of landings, the high value of the fish brought into this port entitled it to second place in terms of value. San Diego received more than half the Pacific coast tuna in 1946, considerable quantities of mackerel, and a variety of other fish in small quantities. The value of all fish landed here in 1946 was about \$15,000,000.

Fish landed at New Bedford--haddock, flounders, and other species for the fresh fish markets--were valued at \$11,800,000. Compared with 1945, the volume of landings at this port declined about 10 percent; from 101,000,000 pounds in 1945 to 92,000,000 in 1946.

The failure of the 1946 pilchard fishery in northern and central California caused the ports of Monterey and San Francisco, usually among the leading five to decline to less important positions this year. Both of these ports ordinarily handle an enormous tonnage of pilchards, but last year only small and scattered schools of these fish appeared in the area. San Pedro, on the other hand, enjoyed a highly successful pilchard season.

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