



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW FISHING WATERS EXPLORED IN BERING SEA

A recent survey of fishing resources in the Bering Sea may result in an important new fishery, the Fish and Wildlife Service revealed today.

The trawler Deep Sea was chartered by the Service for the fishing survey. A large number of drags were made at various points and the results recorded. Extremely cold currents from the Gulf of Anadir, on the Siberian side, resulted in many drags that were unproductive. There were some areas, also, where ice-borne boulders and coral-like formations snagged and damaged the trawls. In many instances, however, the results were encouraging.

Drags made from Norton Sound to the southern end of Nunivak Island revealed rock sole, lemon sole, starry flounder, yellowfin sole, capelin, and cod of prime marketable size. The fishermen agreed that they had never seen any better cod than in this area. The cod were meaty and weighed up to 20 pounds to the fish. More work is obviously needed, however, to establish the actual abundance of cod and flatfish in this area.

To the south of Nunivak Island the drags showed a considerable increase in flatfish. There was a good showing of cod, though of poorer size and quality. The last haul produced 5,000 pounds of prime mixed flatfish, some very large, and about 3,000 pounds of cod—the latter ranging from small to very large.

Aside from actual catches of fish, such things as water temperatures, trawling conditions, weather encountered, and navigational difficulties and aids were recorded. These matters will be discussed in detail in a forthcoming report.

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