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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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OUTPUT OF FISHERY PRODUCTS SHOWS 1954 INCREASE

The pack of canned fish and shellfish in the United States and Alaska totaled about 860,000,000 pounds in 1954, as compared with 792,000,000 pounds in 1953, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay revealed today.

The 1954 pack was the third largest in history, exceeded only by the 1941 and 1950 outputs of 881,000,000 and 965,000,000 pounds, respectively, according to statistics compiled by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The largest individual increase was in the Pacific sardine pack which came to 60,000,000 pounds as against 3,000,000 pounds in 1953. The 57,000,000-pound gain was due to a return of this species to southern California waters after a virtual absence in recent years.

Production of canned tuna set an all-time record of 209,000,000 pounds in 1954, as compared with 189,000,000 pounds in the previous year. The 20,000,000-pound increase was due to a larger domestic catch and heavier imports of frozen tuna from Japan and Peru.

Canned salmon showed a 1954 pack of 194,000,000 pounds for a gain of about three percent over 1953. Bolstering the output were a 23,000,000-pound pack of sockeye salmon in the Puget Sound area--the largest since 1913--and a 28,000,000-pound pack of chum salmon in southeastern Alaska (as against 20,000,000 pounds in 1953).

Production of canned Maine sardines in 1954 came to about 61,000,000 pounds, for an increase of eight percent over the previous year.

Canned oysters showed about the same pack as in 1953 when approximately 6,800,000 pounds were produced.

Reports from the Pacific Northwest revealed heavy canning of oyster stew in that section, with a 1954 pack of more than 4,800,000 pounds as compared with 3,400,000 pounds in 1953.

American cold storage plants froze 303,000,000 pounds of fish and shellfish in 1954, for an increase of 27,600,000 pounds over the previous year.

Domestic production of ground-fish and ocean-perch fillets in 1954 totaled 126,000,000 pounds, as compared with 112,000,000 pounds in 1953. Production of fish sticks, manufactured chiefly from imported cod fillets, came to more than 50,000,000 pounds, as compared with 7,500,000 pounds in 1953 when this commodity was first introduced.

Preliminary figures on fishery byproducts show that fish-meal and fish-oil production in 1954 was about the same as in 1953 when 239,000 tons of meal and 20,300,000 gallons of oil were produced. As in 1953, menhaden accounted for more than 70 percent of the meal and 85 percent of the oil.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor agencies have collected, compiled, analyzed, and published fishery statistics since 1880. Figures on production, supplies, demands, markets, and prices are continually gathered and released by the Service to help the fishing industry in its operations and to guide governmental agencies in conserving the Nation's fishery resources.

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