



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release DECEMBER 31, 1959

### 1959 COMMERCIAL FISH CATCH DATA INDICATE TWO NEW RECORDS

Commercial fishery data available at the Department of the Interior indicate that:

The domestic fish catch will exceed five billion pounds for the second time in history; (the record is 5.3 billion pounds in 1956; the 1958 catch was 4.73 billion pounds.)

The catch of menhaden, 2.180 billion pounds, exceeded the previous record of 2.1 billion pounds in 1956.

For the first time, the catch of fish used for other than human food will exceed that used for human food.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, states that the huge total catch is due to the big increase in the catch of menhaden. Menhaden is the Nation's most important industrial fish. The 1959 harvest of this species is more than half a billion pounds greater than the 1958 harvest. This catch more than offset, in poundage, the decreases in salmon, of over 100 million pounds; California sardines, 130 million; tuna, 35 million; Maine herring, 45 million; ocean perch, 13 million; haddock, 9 million pounds.

The other than human food category includes menhaden which makes up 43 percent of the catch; Alaska herring, 2 percent; other species used for pet and other animal food; mussel shells manufactured into buttons.

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