



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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UNITED STATES FISH CATCH SHOWS GAIN

The United States' catch of fish and shellfish during the first six months of 1961 totaled about 1,692,400,000 pounds--up 241 million pounds over the same period a year ago--a gain of 17 percent, the Department of the Interior reported today.

Gains were recorded in landings of menhaden, tuna, salmon, haddock, ocean perch, Pacific mackerel, and scallops while declines were noted for jack mackerel, whiting and shrimp, data compiled by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the Fish and Wildlife Service revealed. The data were based largely on figures for six months or more but, in a few instances, reports were for a shorter period.

The biggest increase was in menhaden landings--227 million pounds more than for the first six months of last year. This year's market for fishmeal, one of the products from menhaden, is improved over a year ago, resulting in an increased fishing effort which has brought about this gain.

Tuna landings in California showed a gain of 16 million pounds up to July 15. Most of this is largely the result of a 39-million pound increase in the catch by purse seiners.

In Alaska, the Bristol Bay red salmon catch was a 5-year-age class of much bigger fish than a year ago. Last year, it took 15 to 16 fish to fill a case. This year it was done with 11 to 12. As a result, the Alaska salmon catch was 4 million pounds above a year ago.

Other fisheries showing gains for the first six months were: Haddock, up nearly 6 million pounds; and scallops, up nearly 800,000 pounds. Landings of ocean perch were up 4 million pounds compared with a year ago.

Shrimp landings in the South Atlantic and Gulf States during the first six months of this year were down 9.5 million pounds, 15 percent less than last year. Whiting landings through July 23 at Gloucester were off 11.2 million pounds and were less than 60 percent as great as a year ago. Landings of Pacific mackerel in California were 8 million pounds greater than for the first six months of 1960; however, those of jack mackerel dropped 12 million pounds.

A table of fisheries catch is attached.

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UNITED STATES CATCH OF CERTAIN SPECIES, VARIOUS PERIODS, 1961 AND 1960 1/

Species	Period	1961	1960	Total 1960
. (Thousand pounds)				
Anchovies, California	6 Months	2,100	1,610	5,057
Cod:				
Maine	5 "	1,100	1,568	2,897
Boston 2/	6 "	11,200	8,407	15,548
Gloucester 2/	6 "	1,400	1,874	3,199
Total		13,700	11,849	21,644
Haddock:				
Maine	5 "	1,100	1,530	3,834
Boston 2/	6 "	45,400	38,633	76,695
Gloucester 2/	6 "	8,200	8,795	12,107
Total		54,700	48,958	92,636
Halibut: 3/				
Alaska	6 "	12,500	14,283	21,351
Washington and Oregon	6 "	8,700	10,614	16,802
Total		21,200	24,897	38,153
Herring:				
Maine	5 "	40	1,966	152,327
Alaska	6 "	15,200	19,000	78,700
Industrial Fish, Maine & Mass. 4/	6 "	11,200	14,800	43,733
Mackerel:				
Jack	6 "	25,900	37,996	74,945
Pacific	6 "	17,300	9,232	36,808
Menhaden	6 "	768,100	541,232	1,999,000
Ocean Perch:				
Maine	5 "	33,700	26,934	78,258
Boston	6 "	300	430	1,481
Gloucester	6 "	29,300	31,981	61,673
Total		63,300	59,345	141,412
Salmon:				
Alaska	To July 27	137,000	133,000	213,000
Washington	5 Months	2/1,000	2/832	16,178
Oregon	3 "	2/100	2/68	5,582
Scallops, sea, New Bedford (meats)	6 "	9,700	8,927	19,353
Shrimp (heads-on):				
South Atlantic & Gulf States	6 "	52,300	61,781	236,938
Washington	5 "	300	559	1,801
Oregon	3 "	70	14	881
Squid, California	6 "	900	290	2,562
Tuna, California	To July 15	178,000	161,860	283,060
Whiting:				
Maine	5 Months	-	393	11,123
Boston	6 "	40	60	754
Gloucester	To July 23	16,000	27,199	63,112
Total		16,040	27,652	74,989
Total, all above items		1,388,150	1,165,868	3,538,759
Other (not listed)		304,250	285,110	1,391,241
Grand Total		1,692,400	1,450,978	4,930,000

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Landed weight. 3/ Dressed weight. 4/ Excludes menhaden.