DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RELATIVE SEASONAL SUPPLIES OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

An index to indicate relative seasonal supply, by species and months, of 101 of the more important classifications of seafoods handled at the salt-water market in New York City, has been compiled for this month's issue of the Fishery Market News, by Andrew W. Anderson, Marketing Specialist of the Division of Fishery Industries, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Disseminating current information on the production and marketing of fishery products through the medium of daily mimeographed reports is, perhaps, the most familiar of the services already rendered the fishing industry by the various field offices of the Fishery Market News Service. With increased knowledge of production and marketing gained through experience, and aided by improvements in methods of collecting and compiling information, most of the offices now issue weekly, monthly, and annual summaries of the data in the daily reports.

Often the summarized information is augmented by additional detailed data which time and space do not permit including in the daily releases. Much of this information is the first of its type ever made available to the fishing industry and is, therefore, of considerable utility in basic studies with respect to fisheries production, marketing, distribution, conservation, and legislation.

Analyses of the data accumulated over longer periods, are now being carried on in order to present factual information to the industry for use in solving its problems.

The new tabulation is derived from the 1939 annual summary recently released by the New York Market News office. In this statement, by columns, are listed the annual receipts of each variety and the greatest quantity received during any one month. The receipts during each month for each variety are expressed as percentages of its greatest monthly volume, the latter, of course, always being 100. For example, 16,621,223 pounds of flounders were received during 1939. Of this total, the greatest quantity, 3,148,254 pounds, was received in May. Consequently the index for May is 100. During January 629,651 pounds of flounders were received. This amount is 20 percent of that received in May. The index for January is, therefore, 20. Since the index for each of the remaining species is computed in a similar manner, it is a simple matter to determine the peak month or period for any species as well as its relative abundance throughout the remainder of the year.

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