



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

FISHERIES CATCH IN LAKES STATES DECREASES IN 1940

Approximately 5,100 commercial fishermen of the Lakes States--New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota--received \$5,623,000 for the 79,296,000 pounds of fishery products--spread among 30 classifications--which they caught in the Great Lakes and the International Lakes of Northern Minnesota during 1940.

Compared with the catch in the previous year, this shows a decrease in value of \$1,139,000, or 17 percent, and 5,939,000 pounds, or 7 percent, in volume, according to figures released today in Current Fishery Statistics No. 13, by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Based on value to the fishermen, lake trout was by far the most important item, \$1,608,000 being received for the 9,859,000 pound catch. Next five species, in point of value, were whitefish (common and Menominee), 4,720,000 pounds, at \$743,000; yellow pike, 6,067,000 pounds, at \$731,000; lake herring, 22,480,000 pounds, at \$486,000; blue pike, 5,073,000 pounds, at \$404,000; and chubs, 2,410,000 pounds, at \$375,000.

Michigan ranked first among the Lake States with respect both to volume and value of catch, with 26,231,000 pounds worth \$2,022,000. Ohio ranked next, with 18,996,000 pounds, at \$1,349,000.

By lakes, Michigan's 22,814,000 pounds worth \$2,050,000 ranked highest. Erie's slightly greater volume of 22,944,000 pounds were valued at only \$1,772,000, however. Lake Superior trailed third with 20,672,000 pounds worth \$904,000.

In addition to the commercial fishermen, these fisheries gave employment to 3,063 other persons in 1940: 33 on transporting vessels, and 3,030 in a total of 221 wholesale and manufacturing establishments. Salaries and wages paid to employees in these establishments amounted to \$2,843,000, and products manufactured by these firms were valued at \$4,243,000. A further total of 189 persons were engaged in the manufacture of \$149,000 worth of fishermen's manufactured products.

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