DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CHESAPEAKE BAY STATES
FISHERIES FOR 1940.

Commercial catch of fishery products in Maryland and Virginia in 1940 amounted to 320,736,000 pounds, valued at $7,456,000, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 19, released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

This constitutes a slight decrease as compared to the 1939 catch of 323,653,000 pounds, valued at $7,197,000.

Based on the value of the fishermen, market oysters, as in previous years, were the most important product, the catch amounting to 37,457,000 pounds of meats, valued at $3,217,000, an increase of 2 percent in volume and 18 percent in value as compared to the catch in 1939.

Other important products, following in respective order according to value were: crabs, 41,816,000 pounds, valued at $1,148,000; croakers, 41,724,000 pounds, valued at $615,000; menhaden, 143,227,000 pounds, valued at $549,000; and shad, 3,256,000 pounds, valued at $356,000.

The catch in Virginia, which included nearly the entire production of menhaden taken in the Chesapeake Bay area, amounted to 269,651,000 pounds, valued at $4,858,000, while the catch in Maryland was shown as 51,085,000 pounds, valued at $2,598,000. The fisheries in the Bay Region gave employment to 14,269 fishermen, 1,023 persons engaged in the transporting trade, and 12,331 persons engaged in wholesale and manufacturing establishments during 1940.

The production of manufactured fishery products (canned, cured, packaged, and byproducts) amounted to $10,944,000 as compared to $10,698,000 in 1939.

One new development in the Virginia fishery was the extensive growth of the sea mussel fishery. During 1940, the production of this item amounted to 2,213,000 pounds (309,000 bushels) valued at $88,500. Although the mollusk is not used directly for food purposes, it is being utilized because of its value as a source of Vitamin D-3 in poultry feed.

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P.N. 184584