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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The impact of the first week of the meat packing strike had only minor effect on the fishing industry, although if meat supplies continue to dwindle during the next week or ten days, demand for fish is expected to become brisk, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service reported today.

Information received from the Service's field offices in all parts of the country generally agreed that there has been no marked increase in landings of fish. In some areas, however, withdrawals of frozen fish from cold storage houses exceeded normal levels as wholesalers and restaurants stocked up in preparation for the expected demand.

The Seattle Fishery Market News Office reported that local meat supplies appeared adequate for several weeks, but that liberal withdrawals of fish were being made from freezers to supply southern and eastern markets.

In the southern Chesapeake Bay area practically no fish have been landed during the past week because of bad weather. Some increase in demand for fish, and "fairly large withdrawals" of frozen fish from storage were reported by the fishery office at Hampton, Va.

New York reported very light supplies of fresh fish, with the markets handling chiefly frozen fish, while the Chicago market was reported to show no effects of the meat situation.

With the fishermen's strike in Boston still in progress, supplies of fresh fish in that city are insufficient to meet local demands. Field representatives

of the Service in Boston said that withdrawals from one of the large freezers were five times as heavy as receipts. Some retailers are storing limited stocks for their own distribution, it was reported.

Reports from New Orleans, Jacksonville, and southern California indicated that fishery production and demand for fish had not as yet reflected the meat situation.

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