



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FIFTH RECORD BREAKING TUNA PACK REPORTED FOR 1949

The tuna pack for 1949 set a new high record for the fifth successive year, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today to Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. The 1949 pack was 7,200,000 cases--as compared to the 1948 record pack of 7,038,000, which in turn was 1,100,000 cases more than the 1947 record.

In addition to the large pack for 1949, approximately 600,000 cases of canned tuna were imported, principally from Latin America, making a total of 7,800,000 cases available for American consumption.

The average pack of tuna for the years 1935 to 1939 was 2,947,000 cases. Even during the war years 1940-45 the annual pack averaged only 3,400,000 cases.

The 1949 production of tuna would have been considerably greater if fishing had been uninterrupted throughout the year. However, as a result of disagreements between fishermen and canners over the price for tuna, tie-ups occurred in June and July and also during the fall months.

About 90 percent of all tuna canned in the U. S. in 1949 was canned in California. Most of the other 10 percent was canned in Washington and Oregon. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported that East Coast canners are increasing operations and may become a more important factor in total production in the future.

Tuna canned on the West Coast is caught principally off California and in Central and South American waters. However, in recent years, considerable quantities of albacore tuna have been taken off Washington and Oregon.

The operation of floating freezers, some of which have a capacity of over 1,000 tons, has recently been resumed following their tie-up with other boats last year. These ships go to the fishing grounds off Latin America to receive tuna direct from the fishing fleet and then carry the fish north to the canneries. During 1949, one freezer ship brought a load from Japan.

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