UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE — McMillan or Flanagan - Int. 5634

For Release to PM's, APRIL 24, 1962

PER CAPITA FISH CONSUMPTION HITS NEW HIGH IN 1961

Per capita consumption of fish in the United States increased to 10.9 pounds in 1961, a half pound more than in the previous year, the Department of the interior reported today. This increase was divided equally between "fresh and frozen" and canned items, according to the latest information just released by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

This information is included in a preliminary review just published entitled Fisheries of the United States, 1961," CFS Bulletin 2900, along with 1961 statistics on the United States catch, price indexes, manufactured fishery products, foreign trade, supplies of certain fishery products, fishery loan program, and world fisheries.

The supply of domestically produced fresh and frozen products declined substantially, the report shows, even though the annual harvest was the Nation's second largest--5.2 billion pounds. Imports were up sharply due to increased receipts of groundfish fillets and blocks and shrimp; however, both edible and nonedible imports established records.

The total amount paid to U. S. fishermen amounted to $358 million--nearly 4 million more than in 1960, but $15 million less than the record $373 million aid in 1958. The average price per pound was 6.94 cents, a low figure due to the record catch (2.3 billion pounds) of low-priced menhaden.

San Pedro, California, was the leading United States fishing port in 1961 with respect to both volume and value--416 million pounds with an ex-vessel value to the fishermen of $36 million.

The figures on the 1960 world catch--a record 83.2 billion pounds--recently compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations are included in the report. Five countries accounted for well over 50 percent of the total catch--Japan (16.4 percent), China (Mainland) (13.3 percent), Peru (9.4 percent), U.S.S.R. (8.1 percent), and the United States (7.5 percent).

Copies of this report can be obtained by writing the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

F.N. 6658-62

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