UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

Guinan - 343-5634

For Release August 18, 1965

UNITED STATES FISH-CATCH UP SLIGHTLY IN FIRST HALF OF 1965

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries said today that preliminary figures on the United States catch of fish and shellfish during the first six months of 1965 indicate landings were about 50 million pounds greater than for a like period of 1964.

This, said the Bureau, is an increase of about 3 percent, but the United States continues to produce only slightly more than one-third its edible and industrial fishery requirements.

In 1964 the United States used some 12 billion pounds of fishery products of all kinds and produced only 4½ billion pounds.

The principal increase for the first half of 1965 was in the catch of Alaska salmon which at 165 million pounds was 66 million pounds ahead of the first six months of 1964. An abundance of red or sockeye salmon in Alaska was the primary source of the increase, the Bureau said.

A moderate gain in the shrimp catch on the Gulf coast was reported for the first six months of this year where the 68 million pounds taken was a gain of 6 million pounds. And the 4½ million pounds of shrimp landed at South Atlantic ports was an increase of 3 million pounds.

Landings of Maine sea herring totaled 10.5 million pounds from January through May 1965, marking a strong recovery from the poor early season in 1964 when the landings were only one-half million pounds.

Major species showing marked declines were tuna, menhaden, haddock, jack mackerel and Pacific mackerel. The tuna catch for the six-month period was 137 million pounds, down 18 million pounds from a year earlier.

Menhaden landings at mid-year were 611 million pounds, down 13 million pounds, compared with the first six months of 1964. The principal decline in menhaden landings occurred along the Atlantic Coast, where the catch was 16 percent below that of 1964 for the same period.

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