



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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RELATIVE SEASONAL SUPPLIES OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

An index to indicate relative seasonal supply, by kinds of products and points of origin, of 93 of the more important classifications of seafoods handled at the salt-water market in Chicago, has been compiled for this month's issue of the Fishery Market News, by Edwin C. Hinsdale, Fishery Marketing Agent of the Division of Fishery Industries, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

In the first column of the index of receipts by kinds of products appears the total annual receipts of each variety; in the second column the largest quantity of each item received during any one month is shown; and in the following 12 columns, covering the period from January to December 1939, are the receipts for each month for each variety expressed as percentages of its greatest monthly volume. The receipts during the month of greatest volume are represented as 100 percent in each case. The index system is exemplified as follows: Lake trout received totaled 5,085,482 pounds for the 12-month period and the largest monthly quantity of lake trout arriving was 965,118 pounds received during November; therefore, the basic index (100) for this item is listed for November. The indices for the remaining 11 months are computed as percentages of 100. During January, 275,414 pounds of lake trout arrived, and as this figure is 26 percent of the amount of

lake trout received in November, the index for January is 26. Indices for the remaining months are calculated in the same manner.

In the Chicago Wholesale Fish Market receipts, eight important items occurred throughout the year in fairly uniform or consistently large monthly quantities. These were buffalofish, carp, chubs, lake herring, lake trout, suckers, whitefish, yellow perch, yellow pike, frozen rosefish fillets, and shrimp. Other important items received each month but in amounts not consistently large or in abruptly varying quantities included bullheads, catfish, pickerel (jacks), sheepshead, frozen cod fillets, frozen haddock fillets, red snapper, hard clams, crab meat, and lobsters. Definitely seasonal items were blue pike, eels, sauger, smelt, halibut, salmon, shell and shucked oysters, and most of the frozen items. Of the latter items, some were made seasonal by periodicity of supply and others show large increases in certain months because of large shipments made to satisfy large seasonal demands.

A greater volume of fishery products was received in October than in any other month, and November was second, 7 percent behind the October total. The greatest poundage of fresh-water fish entered during March, with the amounts for October and November 6 percent and 7 percent less, respectively. October showed the largest volume of salt-water items handled, with September the second largest month, having a total 12 percent smaller. November brought the largest poundage of shellfish, leading December by 1 percent and October by 4 percent. February showed the least total volume for all classifications combined, and was the lowest period for receipts of fresh-water items. April receipts of salt-water products were the smallest in that classification, and March was the month of least activity in shellfish.

Fishery products were supplied to the Chicago Wholesale Fish Market in 1939 from 31 States, Alaska, and 8 Provinces of Canada. Indices have been determined which represent the comparative monthly contributions to the Chicago receipts from these points of origin. They have been determined and are presented in similar manner to the treatment of the receipts by products that is presented in the first part of this article.

Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, Alaska, and British Columbia furnished a fairly constant and consistently large supply of fishery products each month throughout the year. Other important points of origin, including the States of Florida, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Virginia, Washington, and the Canadian Provinces of Manitoba and Ontario provided supplies each month that were either not consistently large or that manifested abrupt variations one or more times during the year. The outstanding examples of points furnishing fishery products seasonally were New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

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