



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

Commercial catch of fishery products in the Middle Atlantic States (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) for 1939 amounted to approximately 280,000,000 pounds, valued at \$7.4 million. Of these amounts, 246,000,000 pounds, valued at \$4.1 million, were for fish; about 34,000,000 pounds, valued at \$3.3 million, were for shellfish.

This is an increase of about 63,000,000 pounds in total volume, but a decrease of about \$860,000 in value, as compared with 1938 figures, according to statistics released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

New Jersey, top state for volume, landed 125,300,000 pounds of fish and shellfish, valued at \$2.7 million. New York, with 93,800,000 pounds valued at \$4.3 million, led in value of catch. Delaware's 60,900,000 pounds valued at \$417,000, compare with Pennsylvania's small totals of 14,500 pounds of fish worth \$2,200.

Based on value to the fishermen, market oysters were again by far the most important item, amounting to 11,700,000 pounds, worth \$1.8 million. Next five items, in order, were clams (6,700,000 pounds; \$757,200); flounders

(14,000,000 pounds; \$726,824); menhaden (148,600,000 pounds; \$688,592); haddock (13,200,000 pounds; \$466,748); and scallops (2,600,000 pounds; \$340,077).

These fisheries gave employment to 13,584 persons in 1939. They consisted of 7,740 fishermen, 5,693 in wholesale and manufacturing establishments and 151 on transporting craft. There were 13,983 persons employed in these fisheries in 1938.

In the producing areas of the four states in 1939, there were 378 fishery wholesale and manufacturing establishments; aggregate salaries and wages paid were \$6.8 million; and manufactured fishery products (canned, cured, packaged, and byproducts) were valued at \$16.4 million. This compares with 383 establishments in 1938, salaries and wages of \$7.4 million, and manufactured products valued at \$15.4 million.

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