



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

Commercial catch of fishery products in the South Atlantic and Gulf States in 1939 totaled 627,917,000 pounds, valued at \$13,905,000, according to data released today in Statistical Bulletin No. 1423 by the Division of Fishery Industries, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Compared with the catch for 1938, this represents an increase in volume of 6,059,000 pounds, or 1 percent, and of \$832,000, or 6 percent, in value.

Based on value to the fishermen, shrimp was by far the most important product, with a catch amounting to 148,070,000 pounds, valued at \$4,847,000.

Based on volume of the catch, five species of fish and shellfish--menhaden, mullet, hard crabs, shrimp, and oysters--accounted for 537,349,000 pounds, or 86 percent, of the total yield of the fisheries.

North Carolina ranked first among the States in the South Atlantic and Gulf area with respect to volume of the catch. Production in that State amounted to 224,457,000 pounds, valued at \$1,890,000. In respect to value of the catch, Florida held top ranking with \$5,099,000 for a catch which totaled 198,261,000 pounds.

In the eight States comprising this region--North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas--employment was provided by the fisheries in 1939 to 49,453 persons. They consisted of 30,136 fishermen, 18,420 persons in wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 897 on transporting craft. During 1938, 48,300 persons were engaged in these fisheries. Salaries and wages paid to employees in the 773 fishery wholesale and manufacturing establishments during 1939 amounted to \$3,482,000, and the output of manufactured products from these firms was valued at \$13,997,000.

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