



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release ON RECEIPT

### 1939 FISHERIES CATCH FOR PACIFIC STATES INCREASES

Commercial catch of fishery products of the Pacific Coast States of Washington, Oregon, and California for 1939 amounted to 1,713,826,000 pounds, valued at \$27,417,000. Of this amount, 1,682,764,000 pounds, worth \$25,384,000, were fish; 29,758,000 pounds, valued at \$1,997,000, were shellfish; and the remainder of 1,304,000 pounds, at \$37,000, covers whale products in California.

The total represents an increase of 187,941,000 pounds in volume over 1938; and with the exception of 1936 when 1,925,342,000 pounds were produced, is the highest figure on record since 1888 when statistical records were started, according to data released today in Statistical Bulletin No. 1425 by the Division of Fishery Industries, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior. Value for 1939 also shows an increase over 1938, of \$1,331,000, and ranks second to the 1937 figure of \$28,776,000.

The fish and shellfish catch for Washington totaled 155,812,000 pounds, valued at \$6,403,000; Oregon, 83,513,000 pounds, worth \$2,459,000; and California (including the whale products), 1,474,501,000 pounds, at \$18,555,000.

Based on value to the fishermen, tuna and tunalike fishes (albacore, bluefins, bonito, skipjack or striped tuna, and yellowfin) were the most important species, \$9,144,000 being received for the 181,215,000 pound catch. Following, in order, were: pilchard or sardine, \$6,856,000 for 1,240,975,000 pounds; salmon, \$4,162,000 for 74,811,000 pounds; and halibut, \$1,978,000 for 23,591,000 pounds.

Crabs, 14,671,000 pounds, were worth \$740,000, while 8,988,000 pounds of oysters brought in \$682,000, and 1,811,000 pounds of clams were worth \$222,000.

Whale products, from California, were divided as follows: whale oil, 689,000 pounds, valued at \$28,000; whale meat, 439,000 pounds, at \$7,000; and other whale products (including whale meal, bones, livers, scrap, and tankage) amounted to 176,000 pounds, worth almost \$1,500.

During 1939 these fisheries gave employment to 44,158 persons. They consisted of 25,002 fishermen; 19,001 in wholesale and manufacturing establishments; and 157 in transporting craft. During 1938, a total of 42,131 persons were employed in these fisheries. Salaries and wages paid during 1939 in 341 wholesale and manufacturing establishments amounted to \$11,384,000 while the manufactured products which resulted were valued at \$59,921,000.

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