



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ANNUAL SUMMARY OF 1941 BOSTON LANDINGS

A total of 305,360,000 pounds of salt-water fish, valued at \$11,682,000, were landed at the Boston Fish Pier and sold through the New England Fish Exchange during 1941, according to figures released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

These totals represent an increase of 21 percent in volume and 35 percent in value as compared with 1940, when 250,945,000 pounds, valued at \$8,654,000 were landed.

Fares were landed on 301 days during the year or an average of over one million pounds per day. Offshore vessels, practically all vessels over 50 gross tons, made 3,276 trips as compared with 3,159 trips in 1940, or an increase of 177 trips. Inshore craft, mainly under 50 gross tons, made 3,295 trips or 789 less than in 1940, but landed approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds more fish. Heavy increases in both rosefish and whiting landings more than made up for the fewer trips.

Larger type vessels operating mostly on offshore fishing grounds accounted for 88 percent of the total catch. Haddock continued to lead all species in volume with 51 percent for the large and scrod classifications combined. Next in importance was large, market, and scrod cod with 24 percent. Mackerel and pollock each contributed 6 percent, followed by rosefish with 5 percent.

Whiting led the inshore landings with 34 percent followed by rosefish 29 percent; pollock 9 percent; flounders (all species) 9 percent, and cod and haddock (all grades) each 3 percent.

Large and scrod haddock combined represent 54 percent of the total value of offshore vessels' landings. Other important species were cod (all grades) 22 percent; mackerel 5 percent; pollock 4 percent, and rosefish and sea scallops each 3 percent. Landings by inshore vessels show whiting first with 26 percent of the total value; followed by rosefish with 23 percent; haddock 14 percent; cod and flounders (including blackbacks, dabs, gray sole, lemon sole and yellowtails) each 12 percent; and pollock 9 percent.

In most instances volume, value and average prices were greater in 1941, with only few species showing major declines. Cusk fell off 44 percent in quantity and 30 percent in value; hake 19 percent and 16 percent;

halibut 21 percent and 14 percent; and wolffish 21 percent and 14 percent respectively.

These species are mainly caught on trawl lines. There were fewer line trawlers in operation which largely accounts for these appreciable decreases. This type of fishery has been steadily on the wane for several years and many of the vessels have either passed out of the fishery or have been converted to draggers. The landings of hake by inshore boats has fallen from over 3 million pounds in 1938 to only approximately 300,000 pounds in 1941, a decrease of 90 percent.

Swordfish landings slumped 37 percent in quantity and 16 percent in value compared with 1940. Only 11 vessels engaged in swordfishing in 1941 and landed only 53 fares as compared with 82 fares for 1940. Higher prices in other fisheries dissuaded the vessels from changing over to the more speculative swordfishing.

All prices were higher in 1941 with the sole exception of that for large cod which was only one percent less than during 1940. The weighted average price for all species increased 12 percent. Haddock scrod showed a remarkable increase of 70 percent in poundage and 95 percent in value. This phenomenal gain may be attributed to the large amount of round haddock scrod landed. Rosefish and whiting also made sensational increases of 80 and 157 percent respectively, in total values.

A monthly index of landings and values of the more important species by both offshore vessels and inshore craft, indicates that June led all other months with a total of 30,328,000 pounds landed, and October was the leading value month with a total of \$1,151,000.