



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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The five leading U. S. fishing ports in 1942, in weight of fish landed were Los Angeles-Long Beach, Monterey, San Francisco, Boston, and Gloucester, in the order named. In point of value, however, Boston still tops the list, Harold L. Ickes, Coordinator of Fisheries, said today.

Los Angeles-Long Beach also can probably claim the world's leading fishing port in weight of landings. Ordinarily Hull and Grimsby, English ports which lie across from each other on the Humber river, are far ahead of other world ports in both weight and value of fish landed. Now, however, the war has made fishing in the North Sea difficult and it is believed that the landings at these ports have dropped materially. This is probably also true of the great Norwegian sardine port of Stavanger.

Other important European fishing ports which have probably dropped far down in rank are Wesermunde-Bremerhaven, Aberdeen, Boulogne-Sur-Mer, Hamburg and Cuxhaven. Some Japanese ports would undoubtedly rank high in receipts of fish but accurate information as to their standing would be difficult to obtain.

The California ports predominate because of the enormous landings of pilchards, which comprise 90 to 97 percent of the catch landed at Los Angeles, Monterey, and San Francisco. The relative importance of these three ports shifts from year to year, varying with the local abundance of the fish and economic conditions which affect the operations of the boats.

In 1942, total landings in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area amounted to approximately 530,000,000 pounds; at Monterey about 335,000,000; and at San Francisco more than 225,000,000.

Boston ranked fourth with landings of about 200,000,000 pounds. Boston's landings were valued at approximately \$12,500,000 in contrast to approximately \$11,500,000 for the greater weight of fish landed at Los Angeles. Leading species at Boston Fish Pier are haddock, cod, rosefish, and pollock, all "ground-fish" taken by otter trawlers.

Gloucester ranked fifth in importance, with landings of about 158,000,000 pounds valued at \$6,083,000. The greatly increased catches of rosefish during recent years have brought Gloucester into prominence. Gloucester is an important

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rosefish port for several reasons: This fishery is conducted mainly by small and medium otter trawlers. Large otter trawlers practically monopolize the Boston Fish Pier; smaller boats can be accommodated better at Gloucester. Also Gloucester is nearer the principal rosefish grounds. During several months of 1942 landings at Gloucester were actually larger than those at Boston. This happened during the peak months of the rosefish fishery.

In 1941 the town of Reedville, Va., ranked sixth as a fishing center because of the enormous poundage of menhaden brought to its reduction plants, and the towns of Beaufort and Morehead City, N. C. (combined) ranked seventh for the same reason. In 1941 Reedville received 186,000,000 pounds of fish -- more than the landings at Gloucester the same year. Beaufort and Morehead City handled 115,000,000 pounds in 1941. In 1942, the effect of the war on the menhaden fishery was such that Reedville's landings fell to 60,000,000 pounds and those of the North Carolina towns to 70,000,000 pounds. Direct causes were the requisitioning of boats by the Navy, closing of important fishing areas for national defense reasons, and manpower difficulties.

Landings at San Diego amounted to about 90,000,000 pounds in 1942. Principal fisheries here are tuna and mackerel; other species are landed in insignificant quantities.

Landings at Seattle in 1941 were about 75,000,000 pounds, and it is believed the 1942 figure was not far from this amount. Salmon, halibut, shark, cod, sablefish, and flounders are the principal species.