



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The percentage of the U. S. pilchard catch canned as food increased to 81 percent at San Francisco and 59 percent at Monterey during the industry's first month of operation under the new pilchard production plan, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes announced today.

Although the total tonnage of pilchards received at California ports was lower in August than in the same month last year, due to bad weather which kept fishing boats in port much of the time, the number of cases of canned pilchards produced in the state was four percent higher than for the same period last year.

The pilchard is the most important American fish in terms of pounds caught. It normally accounts for nearly one quarter of U. S. fish production. It is familiar to most Americans as the canned California sardine although it also contributes largely to the nation's supply of fish meal and oil.

While August landings of pilchards in California were disappointingly low, first reports of September production have been exceptionally good.

Statistics of pilchard operations to Aug. 31

		1943	1942	% Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Landings for season:				
Washington	(tons)	10,553	582	+ 1710
Oregon	(tons)	2,800	1,883	+ 49
Landings to Aug. 31:				
San Francisco	(tons)	20,927	32,268	- 35
Monterey	(tons)	26,558	30,673	- 14
Total California	(tons)	47,485	62,941	- 25
Total Pacific Coast	(tons)	60,838	65,406	- 7

(over)

	1943	1942	% Increase (+, or Decrease (-)
Canned Sardines:			
San Francisco (to Aug. 31) (cases)	61,057	62,476	- 2
Monterey (to Aug. 28) (cases)	206,272	194,859	+ 6
Total California (cases)	267,329	257,335	+ 4

Packing ratio to Aug. 28:

San Francisco (cases per ton)	2.9	1.6	+ 81
Monterey (cases per ton)	9.9	6.2	+ 59
Total, California (cases per ton)	6.4	3.5	+ 83

Oil Production to August 31, 1943:

San Francisco	796,657 gallons	Monterey	781,057 gallons
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Meal Production:

San Francisco	3245 tons	Monterey	3562 tons
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