



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The growing importance of Chicago as a wholesale market for fish and other seafood products is demonstrated by statistics of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, which show that in the first 10 months of this year 68,566,622 pounds of fish and shellfish were handled by Chicago wholesalers - 76 percent up from the similar period of 1939, the first year in which such figures were collected.

The market for fish and shellfish in the Chicago area apparently is still growing rapidly: already this year more of these products have been handled than in the whole of 1942.

Despite Chicago's inland location, the greatest increases have been in salt water fishes. Imports from Canada have also shown a decided increase. Compared with last year, shipments of salt water species have risen 41 percent, while fresh-water species normally available from nearby areas have increased only 18 percent. Imports from Canada have gone up 37 percent while receipts from domestic areas have increased 18 percent.

Closely related to the trend toward fish from more distant production centers is a change in the method of transportation. Trucks, adapted to short, fast hauls from nearby waters, formerly brought in 30 percent of Chicago's fish. Reflecting the rubber and gasoline situation, truck transport has now declined to 22 percent, while rail express carries 45 percent of the shipments, and freight the balance.

Sharp increases in the quantity of fish shipped from British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia are evident in the Fish and Wildlife Service statistics. British Columbia ships principally halibut, salmon, and sablefish, and Alberta is a source of whitefish, lake trout, pickerel, and other fresh-water species. The Atlantic Coast of Canada supplies chiefly lobsters, mackerel, cod, and smelt.

Among domestic sources, considerably larger shipments were received from all of the Pacific Coast States and Alaska, as well as from Florida, Texas, Mississippi, Ohio, and Minnesota.

Shipments of halibut, which is normally sold in larger quantity than any other fish in Chicago, increased 39 percent compared with 1942. Receipts of shrimp, which usually rank second in volume, showed little change.

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An impressive number of comparatively new products made their appearance in Chicago markets this year. For example, wholesalers handled 148,000 pounds of squid, 94,000 pounds of shark meat, and 16,000 pounds of skate. Lingcod, a Pacific Coast fish not sold in Chicago last year, appeared this year in the quantity of 408,000 pounds, and mullet from the Gulf Coast is being handled for the first time in significant quantities. Such fresh-water species as sheepshead, carp, suckers, bullheads, and bowfin were sold in considerably larger quantity than last year.