



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The port of San Pedro, Calif., in 1944 regained its position as the leading U. S. fishing port in weight of fish landed, according to figures released today by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries. Last year first place was held by Monterey.

A list of the ten leading fishing ports in the United States issued by the Coordinator's Office includes four Pacific coast cities and six cities on the Atlantic coast. These ten ports receive approximately one half of the nation's total production of fish and shellfish.

Leading all others in the volume of fish landed were three California ports, San Pedro, Monterey, and San Francisco, in the order named. Those ranking next in importance were Gloucester, Mass., Boston, Mass., Beaufort, N. C., Fernandina, Fla., San Diego, Calif., New Bedford, Mass., and Reedville, Va.

The California ports predominate because of the enormous landings of pilchards, which at Monterey and San Francisco comprise 90 per cent or more of the catch. In 1944, total landings at San Pedro were estimated at approximately 550,000,000 pounds, at Monterey about 488,000,000, and at San Francisco about 273,000,000. The San Pedro landings included, in addition to pilchards, approximately 100,000,000 pounds of mackerel, 60,000,000 pounds of tuna and small quantities of miscellaneous species.

Gloucester, for the second consecutive year, held first place on the Atlantic coast, with landings estimated at 189,000,000 pounds. Boston followed with 160,000,000 pounds. These ports are the nation's principal centers of fresh fish production, receiving haddock, rosefish, cod, pollock, flounders, and other species handled almost exclusively by fresh fish markets.

Beaufort, Fernandina, and Reedville, which held sixth, seventh, and tenth places, respectively, are ports devoted almost entirely to a single species, menhaden, which is caught in tremendous quantities on the Atlantic coast and is used principally in the production of animal feeds and industrial oils. Complete figures for 1944 production are not yet available, but are believed not to differ materially from the catch in 1943, which was as follows: Beaufort, 96,000,000 pounds; Fernandina, 93,000,000; Reedville, 73,000,000.

San Diego, which received some 84,000,000 pounds of fish in 1944, handles more tuna than any other species and is the principal port of landing for the large tuna boats that fish off Mexico and farther south.

New Bedford, Mass., continuing its rapid rise to prominence among Atlantic coast ports, received about 74,000,000 pounds of fish in 1944, compared with 62,000,000 in 1943 and 58,000,000 in 1942. Complete figures for earlier years are not available, but present landings are believed to be more than double those of 1940. Like Gloucester and Boston, New Bedford is a fresh fish center, with flounders the predominating species in the catch of New Bedford boats.