



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Release to the PM's OF FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1945.

The New England fisheries have bettered last year's production records for the first quarter by 21 per cent, landing a total of 81,140,000 pounds of fish at the ports of Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Portland during the first three months of 1945, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes reported today. Last year's landings for the same period were 66,906,000 pounds.

Heaviest landings were reported at Boston, which received 37,187,640 pounds, followed by Gloucester with 28,050,444 pounds, New Bedford with 13,120,602 pounds, and Portland with 2,781,277 pounds.

Receipts at Boston amounted to an increase of 29 per cent over the first quarter of 1944; Gloucester landings were up 39 per cent; Portland, 12 per cent. New Bedford was the only major New England port to show a decline -- landings at that port fell off 15 per cent for the quarter.

North Atlantic waters furnish the bulk of the U. S. supplies of fresh fish. Annual production totals about 600 million pounds, marketed widely throughout the country. The peak of production comes during the spring and summer months, when weather conditions on the fishing banks are most favorable.

Because of the current shortage of other protein foods, demand for fish is exceptionally heavy, the Coordinator's Office reports. Present landings are rapidly absorbed by the market and less than normal quantities are being frozen for storage.

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