



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Production of most seafoods by fisheries of the Gulf coast showed definite gains during the first half of the year compared with the first six months of 1944, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes reported today.

Shrimp, the most valuable seafood product of the South, was up 16 per cent in the States from Alabama to Texas, inclusive, the Coordinator said. A total of 85,183 barrels of shrimp were received for canning and other purposes, compared with receipts of 73,340 barrels last year.

Production of hard crabs during the six-month period increased from 5,098,928 pounds in 1944 to 6,506,022 pounds this year. Production of soft crabs, a minor item, dropped from 16,252 dozen to 7,688 dozen. Fresh-cooked crab meat, however, increased from 436,908 pounds to 690,383 pounds.

The only major item to show a decline was oysters. Production during the first six months of 1944 was 459,306 barrels; in 1945, 395,477 barrels. The bulk of the southern oyster production is canned.

Salt-water fish, including chiefly mullet, red snapper, spanish mackerel, sea trout, red and black drum, blue runner, king whiting, and crevalle, totaled 2,889,420 pounds, compared with 2,546,271 pounds last year.

Production of fresh water fish showed a substantial gain: from 297,779 pounds in 1944 to 399,112 pounds this year. Principal fresh water fisheries in the Gulf area are those for buffalo fish, catfish, and gaspergou or fresh-water sheepshead. In June, production was chiefly catfish.

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