



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The season's pack of Alaska salmon is still lagging behind last year's production by nearly half a million cases, according to figures released today by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries. The pack by August 11 had reached 3,230,111 cases, compared with 3,694,449 cases on August 12 last year.

Most of the decline has occurred in western Alaska, where the season's operations have now been completed. In the Bristol Bay area and along the north side of the Alaska peninsula the total pack was 704,553 cases, a drop of about 300,000 cases from last year.

In central Alaska the pack is slightly above the 1944 figure - 1,914,366 cases compared with 1,807,048 cases last year. In southeastern Alaska the season's pack to August 11 was 611,192 cases, compared with 860,365 for approximately the same period in 1944.

Although salmon fishing in the territory continues until the latter part of October, late season operations are scattered and about three fourths of the year's pack ordinarily has been made by the middle of August, officials of the Coordinator's Office said. On this basis, the total 1945 pack would fall between four and four and a half million cases, the smallest production since 1927. It is still possible, however, that heavy late-season runs of pink salmon in southeastern Alaska may carry the total figures somewhat higher.

A pack of less than average size had been anticipated this season on the basis of estimates, made by biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, of the probable size of the runs of salmon. The runs of red salmon in western Alaska have been found to be especially small every fifth year, the low points falling in year's divisible by five. Because of the weakness of this particular cycle of the salmon runs, fishing operations in western Alaska were greatly reduced this year as a conservation measure.

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