



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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New England's fishing industry in 1945 landed 566,802,000 pounds of fishery products at the major ports of the area, thereby breaking all previous records for production, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported today.

The landings in 1945 represent a gain of 23 percent over those of the preceding year, and surpassed the previous peak production of 1941 by about 30 million pounds.

Although the New England fishing fleet operated under great difficulties early in the war, owing to the loss of many trawlers to the military services, most of these boats have been replaced by new ones and many of the requisitioned boats have been returned, officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service said.

Fish caught by New England vessels - chiefly haddock, rosefish, cod, flounders, mackerel, whiting, and a few other species - supply the bulk of the country's fresh fish markets. Most of the catch is made in the Gulf of Maine, on Georges and other banks south and east of Cape Cod, and on the more distant Nova Scotian banks.

For the third successive year, Gloucester took the lead among New England ports, handling 214,097,000 pounds. Boston, in second place, received 187,594,000 pounds. Third and fourth places were held by New Bedford and Provincetown, Mass., with 100,555,000 and 42,610,000 pounds respectively. Portland landings amounted to 21,946,000 pounds.

Gloucester, New Bedford, and Provincetown all handled more fish than ever before in their history; Portland landings were about of average size; while

Boston was still far below its pre-war level, although showing some recovery from the low level of the war period.

Gloucester, center of the New England fisheries from the earliest days of the industry until about 1907, has now regained its former prominence chiefly as the result of the recent growth of the rosefish industry. Rosefish, along with haddock, is at present the mainstay of the New England fisheries. Much of the trawling for rosefish is done on grounds widely scattered throughout the Gulf of Maine. Gloucester enjoys a slight geographic advantage in being nearer these grounds than Boston. Also, the small and medium sized boats employed in fishing for rosefish find somewhat better docking facilities at Gloucester.

Phenomenal growth as fishing ports has been made in recent years by both New Bedford on the southern Massachusetts coast and Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod.

New Bedford landings jumped from about 50 million pounds in 1941 to over 100 million in 1945. New Bedford's growth as a port came about chiefly through the development of a fishery for yellowtail flounders off the southern New England coast. This port now receives about half the New England flounder catch, as well as large quantities of haddock and sea scallops, plus miscellaneous other species.

Provincetown, which formerly handled little but the catches of mackerel and whiting made in the local trap fisheries, through wartime boom in landings has become one of the top ranking ports of the area, with a fleet of about 45 small and medium sized trawlers or draggers. The chief species landed at Provincetown are whiting, flounders, cod, and mackerel. Located on the extreme tip of Cape Cod, this port has the advantage of a situation near good fishing grounds, so that catches can be brought to port promptly. Provincetown draggers fish in the adjacent Cape Cod Bay in winter, and in summer work the exposed ocean coast or "backside" of the Cape, an area noted for its dangerous shoals and lack of shelter for mariners.

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