

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Holdings of frozen fish and shellfish on March 1 were 72 per cent above the average for this season of the year, totaling 99 million pounds, according to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Although inventories of frozen seafoods have declined nearly 50 million pounds from their winter peak of 148 million pounds, reached on December 1, withdrawals have proceeded at a rate considerably less than normal. Last year, holdings on March 1 were only 53 million pounds.

Reports reaching the Fish and Wildlife Service since March 1 indicate that stocks of frozen fish, at least in some areas, have begun to move more rapidly this month, probably reflecting the Lenten demand. Heavy withdrawals during March were reported from Boston, where production of fresh fish has been sharply reduced by a labor disagreement, and from New York and Chicago.

Holdings of fishery products in cold storage and freezing establishments include 73 million pounds of salt water fish, 10 million pounds of fresh water species, and 16 million pounds of shellfish.

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