



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH SUPPLY TO BE PLENTIFUL THIS WINTER

A good supply of fish will be available for consumers during the winter and spring periods of low production by United States fisheries, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior reported today (December 20, 1946).

The Service's prediction was based on the large inventories of frozen fish and shellfish held in freezers throughout the country, which on December 1 reached a peak of 158 million pounds. By comparison, holdings were 150 million pounds a month earlier and 148 million pounds a year ago, the Service reported.

Service officials pointed out that cold-storage holdings of fishery products also approached the present level about the middle of last September, according to weekly unpublished figures. Because of the shortage of meat which became acute at about that time, however, inventories had declined to 147 million pounds by October 1, the official reporting date.

The previous high record for holdings as of the first of any month was reached September 1, 1946, when 152 million pounds were in storage.

Among fishery products now stored in quantities considerably exceeding those on hand last year are fillets of rosefish, cod, haddock, and pollock, halibut, sablefish and chum salmon. On the other hand, holdings of shrimp, lake herring, whiting, pink salmon and swordfish are considerably smaller than they were a year ago.

The inventories on December 1 included 126,967,398 pounds of salt-water fish, 10,828,126 pounds of fresh-water fish and 20,690,504 pounds of shellfish.

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