



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## FROZEN FISH HOLDINGS DOWN 20 MILLION POUNDS

Stocks of frozen fishery products in public cold storage plants in the United States and Alaska declined 20 million pounds during March to a total of 78 million pounds on April 1, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today. This was a reduction of 49 percent from the 153 million pounds held in these freezers on January 1, 1947 and the lowest holdings reported since May 1, 1946. Each spring there is a seasonal decline in these stocks.

Freezings of fishery products during March totaled 8 million pounds as compared with 11 million pounds frozen during the same month a year ago.

Supplies of frozen fish will soon be supplemented by increasing quantities of fresh-caught fish as milder spring weather permits full operation of the fishing fleet, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Spring migrations of shad, mackerel, and striped bass are already making market supplies of these species more plentiful. Production of most other fresh fish will increase as the season progresses.

Principal items in the frozen fish inventory of April 1 were as follows: salmon, 9 million pounds - a decline of 3 million pounds since March 1 and of 10 million pounds since January 1; cod fillets, 7 million pounds, down 1 million from the previous month and 4 million since January 1; rose-fish fillets, 6 million pounds, a decline of 3 million since March 1, and 9 million since January 1. Halibut holdings, which totaled 3.3 million pounds, had declined 3 million pounds since March 1 and 10 million pounds since January 1. Shrimp holdings amounted to 5.6 million pounds, a drop of 2 million pounds during the month and 8 million pounds since the first of the year.

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