



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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'48 PER CAPITA FISH CONSUMPTION
UP 3/4 LB. OVER '47, F.W.S. SAYS

Americans ate three-quarters of a pound more fish per person in 1948 than they did in 1947, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disclosed today.

Service statisticians estimated the 1948 per capita consumption of commercial fishery products in the United States at about 11.5 lbs. edible weight, compared to 10.8 in the previous year. The 12 lb. per capita consumption figure listed for 1936 is the high record.

Because of a larger catch, higher imports and decreased exports of fishery goods during 1948, 249 million lbs. more fish (edible weight) were available for consumption than in the previous year. The catch increased 200 million lbs., primarily fish marketed fresh and frozen. Imports were up 65 million lbs., largely frozen fillets and shrimp and canned items. Exports decreased 109 million lbs., almost entirely canned fish and shellfish. Canned stocks of fish in the United States increased an estimated 100 million lbs.; frozen stock holdings, 17 million lbs.

The Service estimated that 132 million lbs. more fish were consumed in this country during 1948 than in 1947. It credited the increase to the greater availability of canned fish to the general public and the more widespread use of refrigerator equipment for marketing fishery products.

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