



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1949

FWS AND TEXAS START MONTHLY FISHERY BULLETIN

Texas Landings, a new fishery bulletin, is the start of a series of monthly reports on the landings, gear used, and areas fished in commercial fishery operations in Texas waters, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports. The new bulletin is third in a series of monthly reports of commercial fishing in individual states.

The other states for which bulletins are issued by the Service are Massachusetts and Maine. Like the Maine bulletin, the Texas bulletin will be a cooperative report published as the result of the joint efforts of the FWS and the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission.

The new bulletin will include information on the bay and Gulf catch by species, the gear used in taking the fish, the area where the catch was landed, and the total catch by species and area of capture. Summary data on the landings for each month and cumulative totals for the current "fishery" year and the previous year will appear on the last page of each bulletin. The fishery year will be from September 1st to August 31st. The collection and publication of monthly statistics on the fisheries will provide the industry with data on the Texas fisheries many months earlier than they have been available in the past.

Two main items account for the increase in catch. Menhaden landings have increased 303 percent over the same month for last year, and shrimp landings are 35 percent above last September's mark. Menhaden comprise 7,352,000 pounds, and shrimp amounted to 4,916,788 pounds, of September's total catch of more than 12 and a half million pounds.

As far as shrimp are concerned, fishermen have been taking more of them because of the increased market for the brown Brazilian shrimp — which has been finding favor with consumers recently. The increase in menhaden landings reflects a resurgence of that fishery after 23 years during which none were taken in commercial quantities. The rise of the menhaden industry in Texas began last year — at which time a new plant for rendering the fish into meal and oil was constructed.

To receive copies of Texas Landings, or to be placed on the mailing list, requests should be addressed to the Division of Commercial Fisheries, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C. In Texas the distribution of the new bulletin is being handled by the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission at Austin.

X X X