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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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TUNA PACK EXPECTED TO BREAK ALL-TIME RECORD WITH APPROXIMATELY 8,500,000 CASES

A record-breaking tuna pack of 8,500,000 standard cases for 1950 is in sight if production continues at the present rate, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman declared today.

Even if production should decline during the next two months, this year's pack will probably exceed that of last year by a million cases, Fish and Wildlife Service statisticians assert. In 1949, 7,290,000 cases of tuna were packed.

This will be the sixth successive year that a record has been established by the tuna industry. The average pack for the record-breaking years of 1944 to 1949 was 5,500,000. During the war, tuna production dropped--reaching a low of 2,500,000 in 1942. While 1940 had a record pack of 4,188,000, the 1935-39 average was less than 3,000,000.

Increased tuna production this year will only partially offset the loss in the production of canned salmon. The salmon pack this season, which was the smallest since 1921, was 75,000,000 pounds less than in the previous season. This year's increase in tuna is estimated at about 25,000,000 pounds.

Imports of canned tuna will also provide additional supply with nearly five times as much tuna being imported as in 1949. During the first eight months of this season, imports amounted to 15,863,000 pounds, as compared to 3,379,000 pounds last year at the same time. Foreign producers are hurrying their packs to the United States before the tariff of 22-1/2 percent ad valorem on tuna is increased to 45 percent on January 1.

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