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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS REPORTS UPSWING IN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FISH IN 1954

Americans ate one-third of a pound more fish per person in 1954 than they did in 1953, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today.

Service and Department of Agriculture statisticians who cooperated in assembling the data estimated that total consumption of commercial fishery products in the United States amounted to 1.8 billion pounds, or 11.1 pounds (edible weight basis) per capita in 1954. This compares with 10.8 pounds per capita in 1953 when our civilian population was almost 3 million smaller.

In total, the increase in the consumption of fishery products over 1953 amounted to 80 million pounds--equivalent to 150 million to 200 million pounds (round weight basis). Both domestic landings and imports of edible fishery products in 1954 were larger than a year earlier.

Consumption of fresh and frozen fishery products in 1954 increased about 53 million pounds over 1953. Canned products were up 27 million pounds. On a per capita basis, the use of fresh and frozen fish and shellfish amounted to 6.1 pounds--a small increase compared with the previous year. Canned products accounted for 4.4 pounds per person, likewise a slight increase over 1953. The edible use of cured products, estimated per capita at 0.6 pound, remained the same as in 1953.

The increase over 1953 in the consumption of fresh and frozen fish reflects in part the rapid growth of both the domestic demand and production of fish sticks. The civilian demand for canned fish was also maintained at a high level in 1954. The tuna pack was the largest in history, that of canned Pacific sardines was up significantly, and increases also occurred both for salmon and Maine sardines.

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