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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CANNED FISH AND BYPRODUCTS INCREASE IN 1954

Canned fishery products and byproducts registered healthy advances in both volume and value in 1954, according to an annual summary report released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 1954 pack of canned fishery products, processed in 400 plants in 25 States and in Alaska, American Samoa, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, amounted to 867,986,000 pounds and was valued at \$331,027,000 to the packers. This is an increase of 10 percent in volume and eight percent in value compared with the previous year.

Fishery byproducts in 1954 were valued at \$81,571,000, a gain of 10 percent over 1953.

The 1954 gain in production in canned items can be attributed to increased packs of tuna, Maine and Pacific sardines, salmon, and the fish packed for pet food.

The pack of tuna and tunalike fishes exceeded that of any other item in both volume and value, and amounted to 10,889,000 standard cases (214,454,000 pounds), valued at \$142,149,000. Compared with 1953, this was an increase of 1,309,000 standard cases in volume, and \$15,891,000 in value. The tuna pack was worth 54 percent more than that of salmon which ranked second in value. Tuna was packed in seven States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and, for the first year, in American Samoa.

The pack of canned salmon in 1954 amounted to 4,163,000 standard cases (199,831,000 pounds), valued at \$92,281,000 to the canners--an increase of six percent in volume and 11 percent in value compared with 1953. The largest pack of sockeye salmon in the Puget Sound area since 1913, and an unusually large pack of chum salmon in southeastern Alaska were responsible for the gain.

Pacific sardines returned to southern California waters in 1954 after an almost complete absence during 1952 and 1953. The catch of 133 million pounds was used to produce a pack of 1,333,000 standard cases (59,969,000 pounds), compared with less than 64,000 cases in 1953. Had there been a market for additional supplies of canned sardines, it is estimated that the pack could have been doubled.

The pack of Maine sardines amounted to 2,935,000 standard cases (59,579,000 pounds), valued at \$18,153,000 to the packers. Compared with the previous year, this represented an increase of five percent in volume and seven percent in value.

In the byproducts field, a new record was attained through the production of 256,915 tons of fish meal, worth \$32,748,000. This was nearly 18,000 tons more than in 1953 and 13,000 tons above the previous 1936 record production.

The production of marine animal oils in the United States and Alaska during 1954 amounted to 22,144,000 gallons, valued at \$13,136,000 to the producers. This was an increase of nine percent in volume compared with 1953, but was only 55 percent of the record 1936 production when 39,902,000 gallons of oils were produced.

Other important byproducts produced during the year were marine pearl-shell, oyster-shell, and fresh-water products valued at \$15,843,000. Byproducts were manufactured in 227 plants in 25 States, Alaska, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico in 1954.

The Branch of Commercial Fisheries of the Fish and Wildlife Service has made annual surveys for statistics of the domestic production of canned fishery products and byproducts since 1921. The data collected include statistics on the production and value of each canned commodity by can sizes and trade classification.

Copies of the 20-page leaflet, Current Fish Statistics No. 1127, "Canned Fish and Byproducts—1954," are available without charge upon application to the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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