



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### FRESH FISH SUPPLIES ABUNDANT AS PRODUCTION PEAK APPROACHES

Fresh fish of practically every variety will be available in quantity during the April-June quarter as production climbs to peak levels for many sections of the industry, according to the Commercial Fisheries Outlook, a publication of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Oyster production, will cease during the quarter and the northern lobster catch will be at a seasonal low. Production of other shellfish, shrimp, sea scallops, hard and soft crabs, and soft and surf clams, will increase. However, Dungeness crab production on the Pacific Coast will hit a peak early in the quarter and then decline as the attention switches to other fisheries.

Salmon trolling in the Canada-Pacific Coast area is being delayed until April 15, by agreement. The halibut season, which last year was set for May 10, will open this year May 1.

The New England landings will follow the general big season pattern. Haddock and ocean perch, followed by flounders, sole and cod, will dominate the activities in that fishery.

Domestic landings of freshwater fish will also reach a seasonal peak. Receipts at Chicago should approximate 15 million pounds for the quarter.

Production of canned sardines in Maine will be lower if the usual pattern of lighter packs in odd numbered years repeats. Last year, the pack was good but it was not as high as in some previous years. The Pacific mackerel pack is usually low during this second quarter. In the tuna fishery, its usual pattern calls for increased landings and pack. Salmon canning will not get underway until the end of the quarter with the new supplies reaching the market in the fall.

The April-June issue of the Outlook, besides carrying advance indications of fresh and salt water fish harvest, also includes comparisons of the annual catches and cold storage holdings of the most common varieties of food fish for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956.

Copies of the Commercial Fisheries Outlook for April-June 1957, Fishery Leaflet 336ff, may be secured from the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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