



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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1958 FISH HARVEST DROPS BELOW THAT OF 1957 BUT VALUE OF CATCH IS UP

The American commercial fish catch for 1958 was 4.626 billion pounds, or 152 million pounds below that of 1957, but the fishermen received about 29 million dollars more for their catch, according to data released today by the Department of the Interior.

The value of the 1958 catch as estimated now is \$380,000,000 or \$29 million more than in 1957, and \$11 million more than the record set in 1956. The preliminary data also indicate that the pack of fishery products canned for human food in 1958 totaled 740 million pounds, an increase of 90 million pounds over 1957.

Officials of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, say it will be several weeks before final figures and a more complete analysis of the harvest and pack will be available.

The heaviest decline in the catch was in the New England area where decreased haddock, whiting, and industrial fish landings helped to drop the annual harvest about 70 million pounds and in the Middle Atlantic area where lower menhaden catches contributed to the 300 million pound decrease in catch. While the catch of salmon was up in Alaska, production of herring declined and the total catch was about the same as in 1957.

To partially offset these losses, landings in Chesapeake Bay were up 43 million pounds, South Atlantic landings up 35 million pounds, Gulf landings up 68 million pounds. The California catch off the California coast was up 29 million pounds and the catch off Latin America by California fishermen was 18 million pounds above that of 1957. In these instances the sardine and tuna harvests were largely responsible for the increase. The State of Washington had landings 27 million pounds in excess of the 1957 catch while Oregon fishermen held even with the previous year.

The attached table and map provides a comparison by area.

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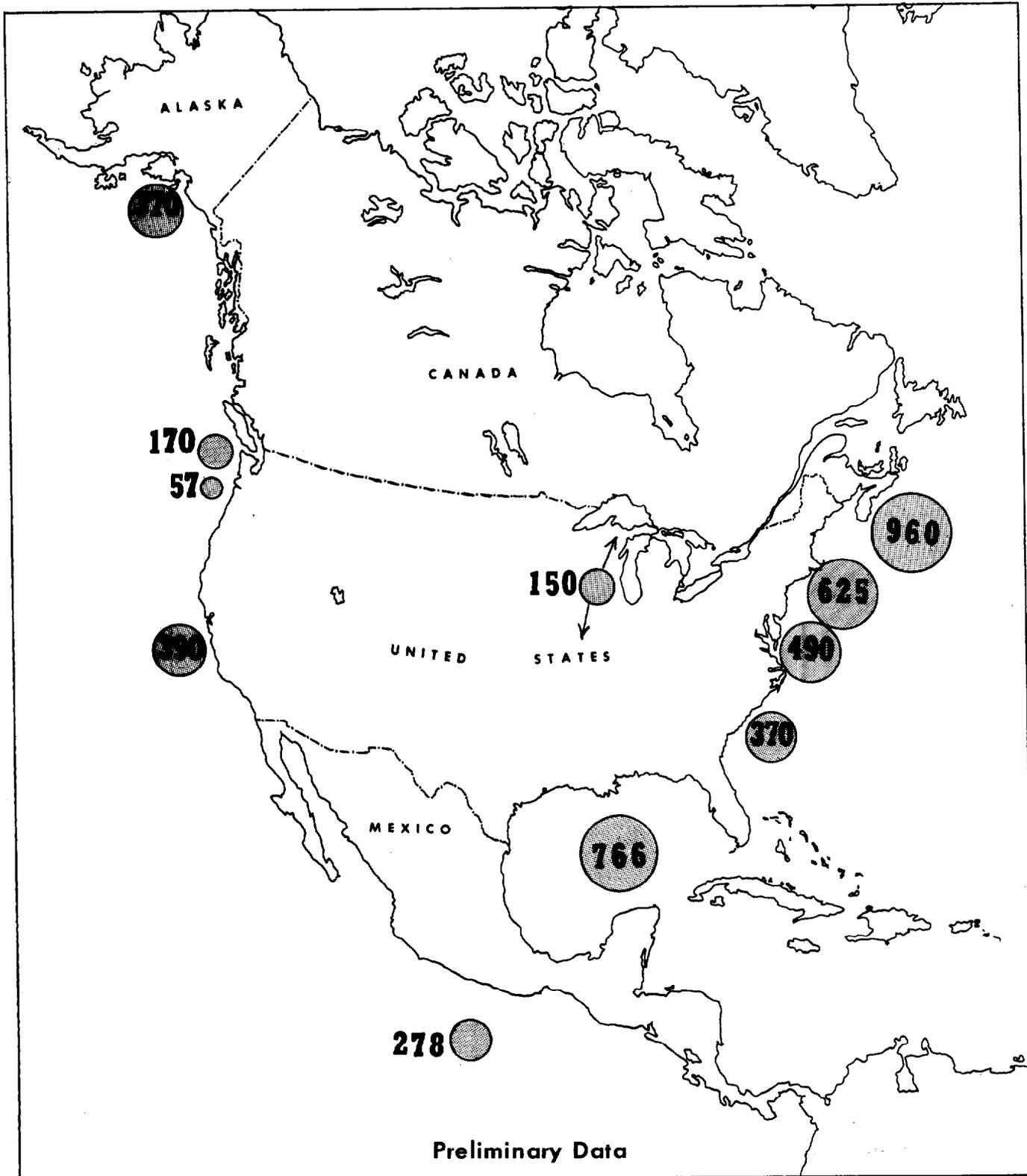
CATCH BY AREAS - 1958 AND 1957

Area	Pounds (1958) ^{1/}	Pounds (1957)
New England	960,000,000	1,031,000,000
Middle Atlantic	625,000,000	928,000,000
Chesapeake	490,000,000	447,000,000
South Atlantic	370,000,000	335,000,000
Gulf	766,000,000	692,000,000
Interior (Mississippi River and Great Lakes areas)	150,000,000	153,000,000
California:		
Off California	390,000,000	361,000,000
Off Latin America	278,000,000	260,000,000
Oregon	57,000,000	57,000,000
Washington	170,000,000	143,000,000
Alaska	370,000,000	371,000,000
Totals	4,626,000,000	4,778,000,000

^{1/} Preliminary.

UNITED STATES CATCH BY AREAS, 1958

(Figures represent million pounds)



Preliminary Data