



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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TUNA AND SHRIMP INCREASE IN APPEAL TO THE AMERICAN CONSUMER

Tuna, which six decades ago was a throw-away fish, and shrimp, a popular seafood, have an increasing appeal to the American consumer, according to reports of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

In 1960, according to Fishery Leaflet 393, the preliminary review of the domestic fishing industry issued annually by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, the per capita consumption of fishery products in the United States was 10.5 pounds. This approximates the longtime average. Of this total, 2.05 pounds are credited to canned tuna, 1.42 pounds to ocean perch and groundfish fillets, cod, haddock, hake, cusk, and pollock, and 1.19 pounds to shrimp.

Ocean perch and groundfish fillet consumption since 1949 has varied from 1.29 pounds to 1.56 pounds. The use of canned tuna, however, has increased steadily from .9 pound in 1949 to the present 2.05 pounds. Consumption of shrimp has increased from .71 pounds to 1.19 during the same period.

Decreases in the catch of salmon and sardines compared with earlier years is reflected in decreased consumption of these products in recent years.

The total domestic catch was placed at 4.93 billion pounds valued at \$347 million to the fishermen. The tuna catch was 296.9 million pounds with a value of \$37 million and the shrimp harvest was 249 million pounds worth \$66.9 million. The industrial fish, menhaden, accounted for nearly 2 billion pounds of the 1960 catch.

The value of the catch to the processor was \$599 million; to the wholesaler, \$827 million and to the retailer, \$1,078 million. The retail value for the 1959 catch was \$1,075 million, despite the fact that the 1959 catch was somewhat higher than that of 1960.

World fishery data collected by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is included in the report. This shows that in 1959 Japan held its customary lead in the catch with nearly 13 billion pounds, live weight. Mainland China was next nearly two billion pounds back. The United States was third, just ahead of the U.S.S.R., with a harvest about half of that of Japan.

Fishery leaflet 393 is available at the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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