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UNITED STATES STATISTICS  
ON THE FISHERIES OF THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC

Annual canvasses of the fisheries of the New England and Middle Atlantic States are made by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Data are obtained on the quantity and value of the catch by gear and waters, quantity of gear, number and type of craft, and number of fishermen. These data are published in summary form in annual bulletins and in more detail in the Service's Statistical Digests.

More detailed information is obtained on the landings at Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, and on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and in the State of Maine. In the major Massachusetts ports, data are collected daily on the quantity and value of the landings from each vessel, which are obtained from fish exchanges and dealers in each of the various ports. The captain or mate of each vessel is also interviewed for data on the "area of catch" and the "days absent" from port. On a selected group of Boston vessels, additional information regarding days fished in each area, as well as depth fished, is also obtained. This information is checked and coded in one or more of the Service's New England offices and then sent to the Washington office for tabulating. Tabulation is by means of an International Business Machine punch-card tabulating unit. The use of this unit enables the Service to obtain a large number of different tabulations of the original data without the use of an unduly large staff.

Approximately 10 persons (4 in Gloucester, 3 in Boston, 1 in New Bedford, 1 in Provincetown, and 1 in Portland) are now engaged in the collection of these data with 4 others employed part time in the Washington office preparing tabulations. The results of these tabulations are published in monthly and annual "Massachusetts Landings" bulletins, and annual summaries are published in the Statistical Bulletins. Special tabulations are also made for the use of the Service's Branch of Fishery Biology.

In Maine, the Service has a statistical agent who cooperates with the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries in collecting monthly data on the catch by species and gear. This information is published monthly and annually in bulletins entitled "Maine Landings". A part time employee is also employed in Portland, Maine, and data similar to that collected for the major Massachusetts ports are obtained. At present these data are not being published in detail, although the totals are included in the monthly "Maine Landings". The information is available to biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service in non-published form.

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The Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to be able to expand its statistical operations to a point where any data required for the proper management of the fishery can be furnished.

The following statistical bulletins and tabulations which are available as a result of this work are attached:

1. New England catch of certain species, 1919-1948.
2. Form for recording vessel landings.
3. Maine Landings, 1950.
4. Massachusetts Landings, 1950.

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NEW ENGLAND CATCH OF CERTAIN SPECIES, 1919-- 1948  
 (Expressed in thousands of pounds)

Year	Cod	Flounders	Haddock	Mackerel	Ocean Perch (Rosefish)
1919	89,076	15,541	89,853	16,225	54
1924	93,451	30,855	93,570	27,103	-
1928	90,336	50,274	237,708	42,722	126
1929	86,999	48,933	255,852	62,273	74
1930	101,632	49,165	264,549	50,701	117
1931	92,525	41,838	181,140	46,734	237
1932	86,276	37,489	150,468	60,088	125
1933	99,632	37,795	160,107	40,832	264
1935	120,334	38,734	194,606	61,950	17,157
1937	134,604	48,202	169,486	23,381	58,356
1938	118,385	46,835	157,935	39,347	65,005
1939	105,417	45,833	157,812	29,999	77,375
1940	82,289	57,572	141,194	35,970	85,142
1942	65,092	75,313	137,408	46,671	128,090
1943	65,540	66,193	117,216	53,487	114,737
1944	93,756	58,311	133,065	63,753	120,216
1945	141,072	61,310	147,195	50,189	131,834
1946	88,753	66,848	147,359	42,690	178,149
1947	64,040	67,533	162,102	47,348	146,587
1948	68,251	71,834	154,607	40,783	238,095