

## SECTIONAL REVIEWS

### Middle Atlantic

**NEW JERSEY:** Both production and market values of fishery products landed in most areas in New Jersey during May showed slight decreases from normal, according to the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist in New Jersey. Inclement weather was chiefly responsible for the decline in production.

Shad catches, particularly by pound nets, were considerably lighter than those of May 1945. The lighter shad runs were accompanied by the appearance of large schools of menhaden in New Jersey waters, a usual occurrence.

On the few days that weather conditions were favorable for intensive fishing operations, mackerel landings were more than normally heavy. It was reported that an unusually large quantity of these landings found its way to freezers.

Herring runs were so heavy during the month that this species very nearly became a drug on the market.

Scup were taken in comparatively large quantities late in May, with the result that market prices declined to a very low level.

Catches of whiting were heavy in both the pound net and otter trawl fisheries. Dealers were compelled to limit their purchases from otter trawlers to the amount they could afford to handle profitably.

Despite the increase in the number of fishing craft that have entered the commercial fishing industry in New Jersey during the past few months, it is doubtful if the total annual yield of fresh fish during this year will greatly surpass that of 1945.



### Chesapeake



**VIRGINIA:** The Virginia Commission of Fisheries, which ordinarily has jurisdiction over all tidal waters of the State, has assigned Back Bay to the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, which is primarily concerned with sport fishing and hunting, the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist in Virginia reports. This latter Commission has ruled that there shall be an open season for haul-seining in Back Bay from November 1 to March 31, that the maximum length of seines shall be 250 yards, and that the mesh shall not be "less nor greater than 3 inches." As this Commission, in its conservation activities, needs some of the fish for breeding, principally the large-mouth bass, it allows haul-seiners to retain them to sell for such purposes. All dead or damaged fish

must be discarded. The Commission pays 20 cents per pound for the bass. Live boxes measuring about 3 by 12 feet and accommodating about 400 fish are used to hold catches until the State collects them.

It is reported that the Bay has a rich supply of snapping turtles, and an effort is being made by local fishermen to find a market for them. Bay carp are plentiful and said to be of superior flavor to river carp. At any rate, they have been bringing a consistently higher price. Facilities have been provided to ship these fish alive, and carp pounds made of boards driven into the mud keep the fish in readiness for the aerated tank-trucks. The production of carp in 1945 has been estimated at 200,000 pounds, worth between 10 and 15 thousand dollars to the fishermen. Eels are abundant, but are not fished to any extent. Catfish also are in large quantity, as are white and yellow perch. Hard-shell crabs are present but not taken.

It is reported that an alewife cannery has been proposed for the James River, as alewives are caught in sufficient numbers in the river to supply such a cannery. Catches of alewives in the James have heretofore been shipped either to the fresh market, for what they would bring, or used as bait for catfish pots.



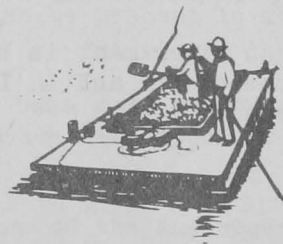
## South Atlantic

GEORGIA: The recent oyster season in Georgia continued the general decline in production that has been prevalent during the past few years, according to the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist in the South Atlantic States. Every year, according to available information, oysters have been getting less plentiful in this coastal State, where, with proper control and conservation, the sounds and rivers should have plentiful supplies. Since 90 percent of all oyster beds in the State are privately leased, the burden rests on individual lessees to furnish labor and shells for replanting. It is apparent that they will need aid from the State authorities if they wish to revive the producing areas.

Indications are that with proper supervision, protection, and planting, Georgia's oyster beds could again thrive within four or five years.

State laws forbid shrimp dragging in rivers at all times during the year, and in the sounds from December 15 to April 15, inclusive, and June 15 to July 15, inclusive.

Shrimp catches have run lower than average for the past two months, even though production is normally low in April and May. Vessels have averaged from 100 to 200 pounds per trip, whereas the normal trip should average approximately 300 pounds. The size generally marketed counts 31-35 shrimp per pound.



Several new vessels have been added to the fleets in the Brunswick and Thunderbolt areas, but optimism regarding the coming season is lacking due to the large number of small shrimp that was caught during the winter and early spring fishing.