

FISHERY BYPRODUCTS

Oil and Meal

PRODUCTION: Small catches of pilchards in the Monterey district of California and no production whatsoever in the San Francisco Bay area during October held the domestic yield of fish meal for the month, by firms reporting to the Fish and Wildlife Service, to 20,123 tons, compared with 26,122 tons for October 1945. The production of fish oils showed a similar decline, totaling only 2,801,395 gallons during October, compared with 4,796,610 gallons in October 1945, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 308.

Because of the failure of the pilchard fishery in the Monterey and San Francisco districts, the peak production of fish oil during 1946 occurred in July, when about 4 million gallons were produced. Normally, the month of peak production is September or October, when large yields of pilchard, menhaden, and herring oils combine to raise the monthly production to from 5 to 7 million gallons.

The total yield of fish meal during the first 10 months of 1946 by firms which normally account for 94 percent of the production amounted to 149,494 tons, 5 percent below the yield for the same period in 1945, while the production of fish oils amounted to 16,574,408 gallons, 20 percent below the 10-month yield in 1945.

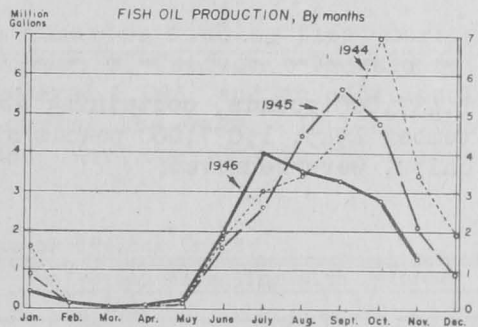
* * * * *

PRODUCTION: The failure of the pilchard (sardine) fishery in northern California continued to hold the yield of fish scrap and meal below the previous year. During November, 13,283 tons of fish scrap and meal were produced by firms reporting their operations monthly, compared with 15,535 tons in November 1945. The production of fish oils showed a similar decline, totaling only 1,330,637 gallons during November compared with 2,140,174 gallons in November 1945, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 312.

The total yield of fish scrap and meal during the first 11 months of 1946, by firms which normally account for 94 percent of the domestic production, amounted to 162,897 tons, 6 percent below the yield for the corresponding period in 1945, while the total production of fish body oils amounted to 17,944,196 gallons, 21 percent below the 11-month yield in 1945.

The greater percentage decline in the production of oils is accounted for by the failure of the northern California pilchard fishery, where the fish normally yield large quantities of oil.

Preliminary data indicate that the 1946 catch of menhaden, which may have exceeded 900 million pounds (1.3 billion fish), was the largest on record. The previous high occurred in 1922, when the catch amounted to 812 million pounds.



Vitamin A

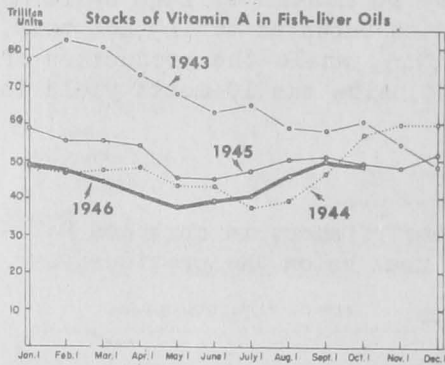
STOCKS AND PRODUCTION: Stocks of vitamin A in fish-liver oil on September 1 were reported at 49.5 trillion units, an increase of 6 percent above stocks held on August 1, but 4 percent less than those on September 1, 1945.

Production of vitamin A during August totaled 7.6 trillion units compared with 6.6 trillion units produced in August 1945. Total production during the first 8 months of 1946 amounted to 41.7 trillion units compared with 41.6 trillion units produced during the corresponding period of 1945.

Receipts of livers during August totaled 1,637,000 pounds containing about 6.9 trillion units of vitamin A. During August 1945, 1,437,000 pounds of livers, having a vitamin A content of 7.3 trillion units, were received, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 298.

* * * * *

STOCKS AND PRODUCTION: Stocks of vitamin A in fish-liver oil on October 1 were reported at 48.8 trillion units, a decrease of 1.5 percent below stocks held on September 1, and 1 percent less than those on October 1, 1945, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 303.



Production of vitamin A during September totaled 4.1 trillion units compared with 4.8 trillion units produced during September 1945. Total production during the first 9 months of 1946 amounted to 45.8 trillion units compared with 46.4 trillion units produced during the corresponding period of 1945.

Receipts of livers during September totaled 1,437,000 pounds, containing about 5.3 trillion units of vitamin A. During September 1945, 1,037,000 pounds of livers, having a vitamin A content of 5.1 trillion units, were received.

