

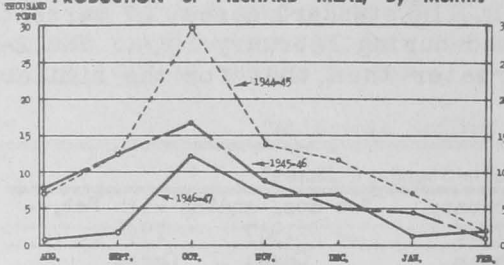
FISHERY BYPRODUCTS

Oil and Meal

PRODUCTION: The Pacific Coast pilchard (sardine) season which ended in February was one of the poorest in the history of that fishery, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 333. The total catch of pilchards during the season amounted to only 470,000,000 pounds, compared with 796,000,000 pounds in the previous season, and a 1935-39 average of over 1,200,000,000 pounds.

The production of pilchard meal (33,000 tons) was the smallest since 1931, while the yield of pilchard oil (4,500,000 gallons) was the smallest since 1932. The catch of pilchards in the San Francisco district of California during the 1946-47 season amounted to 2,846 tons, compared with 83,480 tons in the previous season. The catch in the Monterey district was 26,818 tons, compared with 142,282 tons a year ago.

PRODUCTION of PILCHARD MEAL, By Months



However, the catch in Southern California amounted to 198,011 tons--an increase of 28,067 tons over the previous season's production.

The February production of oil and meal by domestic firms was somewhat greater than a year ago, however, the total for the first two months of the year, (6,545 tons of meal and 270,815 gallons of oil), was far below the production in January and February of 1946. Decreased landings of rosefish in New England and pilchard in California were responsible for the declines.



Vitamin A

STOCKS AND PRODUCTION: Stocks of vitamin A in fish-liver oil on February 1 were reported at 44.8 trillion units, only 30,000 million units more than stocks held on the first of the previous month but 5 percent less than those of February 1, 1946, according to Current Fishery Statistics No. 337.

Production of vitamin A during January totaled 4.2 trillion units compared with 4.8 trillion units produced during January 1946. Receipts were up 8 percent while shipments were down 13 percent compared with the same month a year ago.

Receipts of livers during January amounted to 1,085,000 pounds, containing about 3.9 trillion units of vitamin A. During the same month of 1946, 1,310,000 pounds, having a vitamin A content of 4.8 trillion units, were received. Cod made up 46 percent of the total livers received and grayfish (dogfish), 21 percent. Although soupfin shark livers accounted for only 4 percent of the total receipts, their value was 35 percent of the total cost of all livers, and their vitamin A content was more than one-fourth of that total.

Stocks of Vitamin A in Fish-liver Oils, 1945-47

