

Cold Storage of Fish.—The holdings of frozen fish were rather high in 1949, the average monthly figure reaching 39,000,000 lb. as compared with 35,800,000 lb. in 1948.

The increased level was caused mainly by the difficulties encountered in the marketing of some species of fresh-frozen inland fish. Stocks of sauger, tullibee, yellow-pickrel, pike, etc., piled up in the last two months of 1948 and increased as the winter fishing operations progressed in Manitoba. During 1949, the Fisheries Prices Support Board purchased surpluses which were mainly disposed of as meal or animal food. Thus the inventories of inland species averaged 5,900,000 lb. monthly compared with 3,200,000 lb. in 1948.

Stocks of sea fish fresh-frozen were also slightly higher in 1949 than in the previous year, the monthly average being 30,500,000 lb. compared with 29,300,000 lb. Inventories of fillets of cod from the Atlantic Coast and of dressed cod from the Pacific Coast were slightly higher than in 1948 because of increased production in 1949. However, herring and mackerel holdings increased more significantly. It should be pointed out that a scarcity of bait was felt in 1948 due to the absence of herring for a few months on the Atlantic Coast.

The average monthly figure for frozen-smoked products was 2,600,000 lb., 700,000 lb. below that of 1948. A decrease in the production of smoked fish was reflected in the stock picture.

Seasonal variations normally occur in the stock position with a low in the spring and a high in the autumn. This follows naturally from the fact that the major part of the frozen fish is produced in the summer and early autumn months. Stocks piled up by autumn are intended to form the main supply of frozen products until the heavy production period of the following summer. In 1949, the low point was reached in May when inventories were 22,400,000 lb. and the peak in November when the figure was 53,700,000 lb. Occurrence of extremes coincided in time with 1948. The stock picture for the years 1948 and 1949 is summarized as follows:—

<u>Group</u>	<u>Average P.C. Contribution</u>		<u>Monthly Average</u>	
	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>
	<u>('000,000 lb.)</u>		<u>('000,000 lb.)</u>	
Fresh-frozen sea-fish.....	78.3	81.8	30.5	29.3
Fresh-frozen inland fish.....	15.1	9.0	5.9	3.2
Frozen smoked fish.....	6.6	9.2	2.6	3.3
TOTALS.....	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>39.0</u>	<u>35.8</u>

The main species of sea fish kept in cold storage are salmon, halibut, cod, haddock and herring; the most important fresh-water species are generally whitefish, pickrel and tullibee; the smoked fish consists mainly of herring, cod and haddock.

The above information refers to Canada with the exclusion of the new Province of Newfoundland. The frozen fish trade has developed significantly in that Province in recent years. From May 1, 1949, to the end of the year, the monthly stocks figure averaged 4,200,000 lb. The lowest figure was 2,900,000 lb. at Dec. 1, and the highest 6,000,000 lb. at Aug. 1. Inventories are almost exclusively confined to fresh-frozen sea fish in Newfoundland. Cod, haddock, rosefish and herring are the main species.