

Reports

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Wealth from the Sea

Virginia Fisheries Laboratory

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WEALTH FROM THE SEA

During 1952, the latest year for which figures are available, Virginia produced 219 million pounds of sea food. The men who removed these shellfish and finfish from the water received 16 million dollars for their labors.

The following table shows that although menhaden are taken in greater quantity than any other product of the sea, oysters and crabs produce the greatest wealth. The table also gives further information about the more important sea foods landed in Virginia.

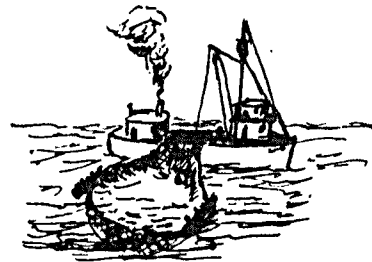
Products from the Sea - 1952

	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Value</u>
Oysters*	10,130,000	\$7,700,000
Crabs	35,745,000	1,700,000
Menhaden	90,930,000	1,100,000
Sea bass	9,778,000	1,080,000
Clams	1,128,000	670,000
Porgy	7,608,000	610,000
Shad	4,007,000	610,000
Alewives	28,841,000	465,000
Spot	5,916,000	338,000
Other sea products	<u>25,389,000</u>	<u>1,732,000</u>
Total	219,472,000	\$16,005,000

*Marketable oyster meats only

Educational Series, No. 5. Virginia Fisheries Laboratory,
Gloucester Point, Virginia.

THE VIRGINIA FISHERIES LABORATORY SERVES A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR SEAFOOD INDUSTRY (1952)

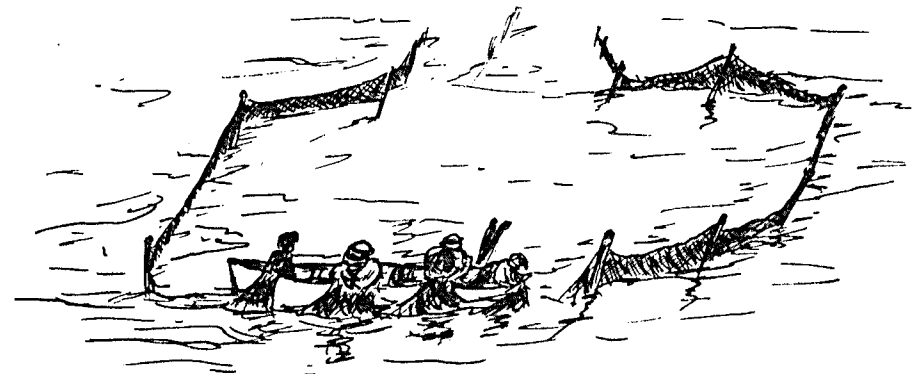


517 Menhaden fishermen,
using 18 purse seines,
landed 86 million pounds
of fish



1490 Gill
net fishermen, using 1267
gill nets, landed:

	pounds
shad	2,135,000
striped bass	261,000
mackerel	2,796,800



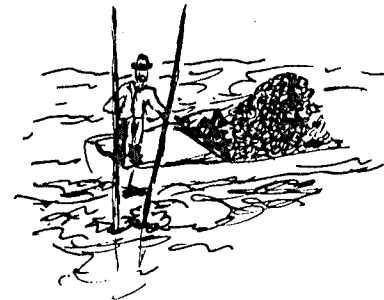
1053 Fishermen, using 936 pound nets, landed:

	pounds		pounds
river herring	27,440,000	croakers	1,409,000
menhaden	3,874,000	spot	794,000
sea trout	799,000	shad	1,559,000

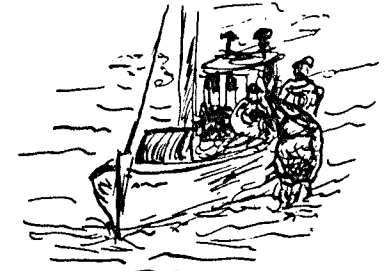


937 Fishermen, using 221 haul seines, landed:

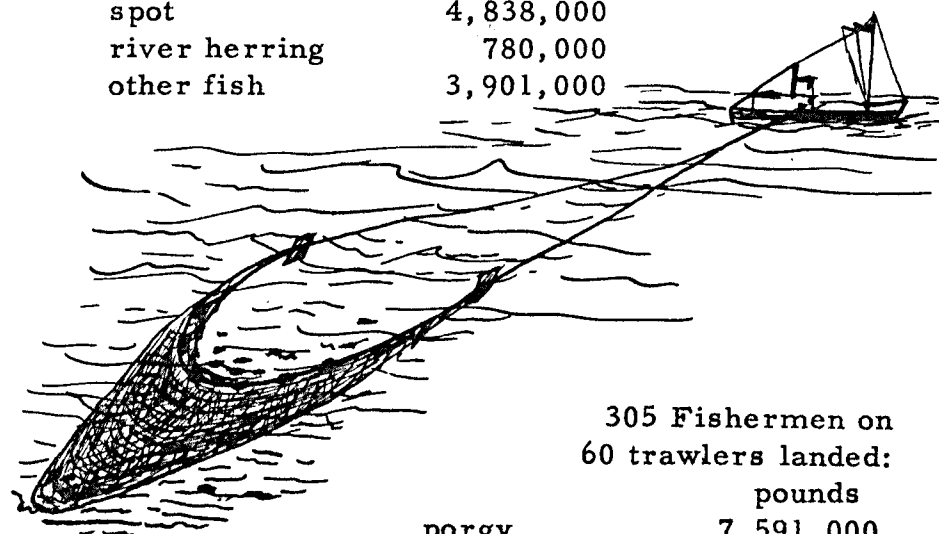
	pounds
croakers	1,485,000
spot	4,838,000
river herring	780,000
other fish	3,901,000



2942 Tongers removed
530,000 bu. of market
oysters and 1,961,000
bu. of seed oysters
from public rocks



Private oyster
planters dredged
2,460,000 bu. of
oysters from private
grounds



305 Fishermen on
60 trawlers landed:

	pounds
porgy	7,591,000
sea bass	9,673,000
croakers	730,000
flounders	1,065,000



Crabbers
using
several
different types
of gear, caught 64,831,400 pounds of
blue crabs

RESEARCH - THE BASIS FOR SOUND CONSERVATION

A sound sea food conservation program in Virginia demands that certain basic questions be answered:

1. What enemies are competing with or are destroying our oysters, clams, crabs, and finfish?
How can they be controlled?
2. How do changes in environment affect the marine animals man uses?
3. What marine resources are adversely affected by man's fishing?
4. How many fish and shellfish can man safely take for his use and still leave enough to assure their adequate reproduction?

What can you do?

The welfare of our salt water resources is dependent upon your attitude and actions as a citizen. You can help conserve these resources (a) by not wasting what you take from the water; (b) by learning what you can about their lives, habits, and enemies of our commercial species; and (c) by passing on to others the information secured through scientific research.