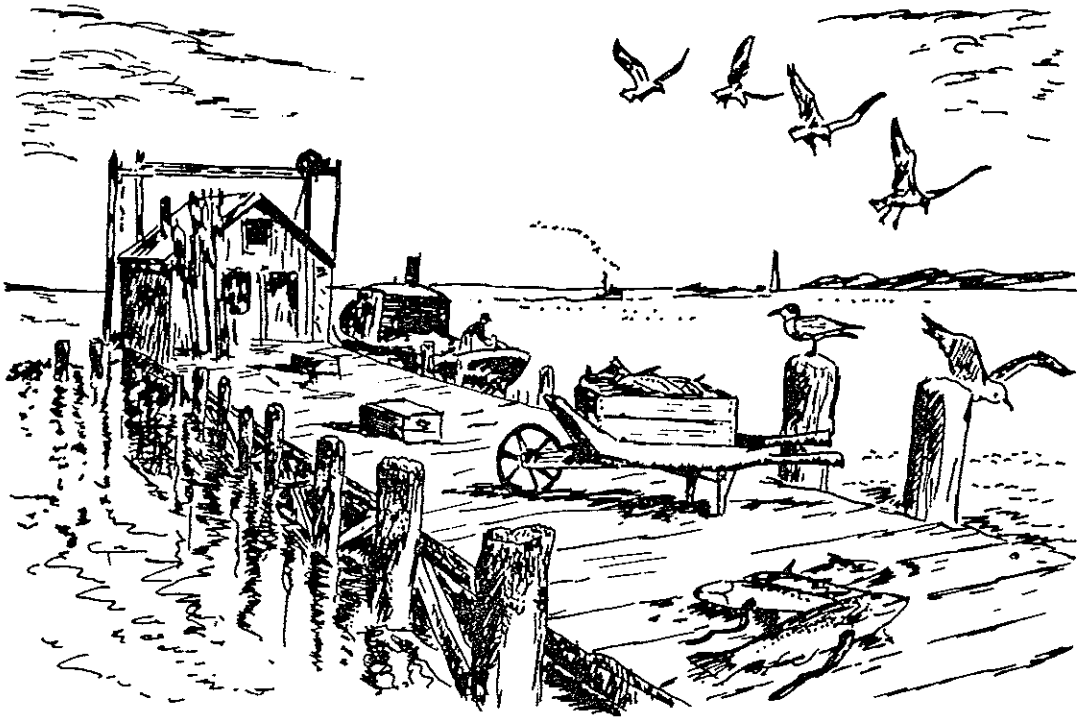
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND RECREATION



WISCONSIN'S GREAT LAKES COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR 1974

BUREAU OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Fish Management Section Report Number 86

MARCH 1976

COMMERCIAL FISHING STATISTICS

A mandatory reporting system requires licensed commercial fishermen and rough fish contractors to report their catch and other pertinent data each month. Great Lakes fishermen report the kind of gear used, the number of nets or feet of net lifted, the amount by species of fish taken and their value, and information relating to the location fished and the time the nets were in the water.

These data are compiled at Department of Natural Resources at Bayfield and Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and stored for computer processing in Madison as well as at the Great Lakes Fishery Laboratory of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Fish and Wildlife Service facilities in Ann Arbor are the repository for commercial catch statistics for all United States waters of the Great Lakes.

LICENSE SALES TRENDS

Great Lakes--Commercial Fishing License Sales

Lake	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Michigan	225	244	235	250	266	280	283
Superior	56	56	46	31	20	19	20

License sales for Lake Michigan have responded in recent years to recovery of the whitefish stocks and to increased market prices for fish in general. In addition, many licensees are persons with other major sources of income who have chosen to supplement this with seasonal income from commercial fishing.

License sales for Lake Superior have responded to initiation of limited entry regulations in 1967, followed by licensing guidelines introduced in 1971. The number of licenses on Lake Superior has now stabilized at 20.

PRODUCTION TRENDS

The following are brief interpretations of trends based on review of recent years' catch records. Commercial harvest is related to changes in management programs, market conditions, and biological phenomena.

In 1972 a gill net fishery was started by Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. Two licensed commercial fishermen of Indian heritage are fishing under their treaty rights and their catches are, therefore, included in a separate table relating to Indian commercial fish production. It is not possible at this time to accurately state the validity of estimates of the Indian commercial fish harvest.

LAKE MICHIGAN

Alewife

Alewife production in 1974 reached an all time high from Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay with a total of 39,725,524 pounds being produced. This was 8,427,296 pounds more than the previous high produced in 1973. Although market reports do not predict substantial increases, the 1975 production may increase to over forty million pounds with the addition of new and bigger trawlers to the present fleet already working the waters of Lake Michigan. The alewife fishery was valued at $525,194 in 1974.

Bullheads

The commercial harvest of bullheads from Lake Michigan increased only 99 pounds over the 1973 catch with a 1974 total of 33,257 pounds being produced. All of the bullheads produced are taken in southern Green Bay, most of them coming from fyke nets. The total value of this fishery in 1974 was $4,165. Increased markets could definitely increase the total catch of this species as there are many other areas of Lake Michigan and Green Bay where bullheads could be harvested.

Burbot

Burbot production reached an all time high in 1974 with a total harvest of 205,826 pounds. This was 91,859 pounds greater than the 1973 harvest and 68,826 pounds higher than the previous high produced from Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan and Green Bay in 1917. The increase may not indicate as drastic an increase in relative abundance as production figures indicate, although burbot numbers have increased tremendously in the last ten years, especially in Green Bay. The increase is definitely related to fishermen being allowed the sale of 10% lake trout as an

incidental catch of their legal catch--burbot being used to increase their legal catch. The value of the burbot fishery was reported at $7,693 or less than four cents a pound.

Carp

Over three million pounds of carp were produced for the second year in a row from Green Bay. The 1975 catch was 35,940 pounds greater than the 1974 catch at 3,243,845 pounds. Most of the catch (2,555,900 pounds) was caught by haul seines, and 7 inch gill nets (577,431 pounds). The value of the carp fishery was $142,850 in 1974. With PCB contamination a serious problem in larger and older carp, the future harvest which takes place primarily in the winter months, is not very bright.

Perch

The 1974 commercial harvest of yellow perch was 834,924 pounds, a substantial increase over the 1973 production of 308,468 pounds. The value of the perch fishery was reported at $327,261 in 1974. This represents the best year for perch since 1964.

Over 90% of the 1974 catch was produced from southern Green Bay. Fyke nets and 2½ inch gill nets are the primary types of gear used to catch perch. With perch fillets demanding a minimum of $2.50 a pound, increased effort and pressure will be directed towards the perch fishery in 1975.

Walleyes

Walleyes were harvested at a slightly higher rate in 1974 with total production of 5,795 pounds. This was 2,121 pounds greater than the 1973 catch. The 1974 walleye fishery was valued at $3,921.

Regulations restrict this fishery to the waters of Green Bay where 99% of the 1974 catch occurred in WM-1 or southern Green Bay. Th principal methods of harvesting walleyes are 4½ inch gill nets which accounted for 64% of the catch and fyke nets which accounted for 33%. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been stocking walleye in recent years in Green Bay and it's possible that the stocking will increase the commercial harvest in 1975.

Northern Pike

Northern pike production decreased by 8,557 pounds from the 1973 catch with a 1974 harvest of 22,705 pounds valued at $5,694. Regulations restrict this fishery to Green Bay where 70% of the catch is produced from fyke nets fished on the southern and western shores of the Bay.

Smelt

Smelt production in 1974 was reported at 336,483 pounds and valued at $15,301. The 1974 catch was more than double the 1973 catch and the highest since 1969. In 1973 59% of the harvest was from Green Bay, compared to only 27% in 1974 with a shift in production to WM-4 which accounted for 69% of the total 1974 catch.

Pound nets are used during spring spawning runs to harvest most of the smelt produced and accounted for 86% of the 1974 catch. One fisherman out of Algoma using pound nets, harvested 65% of the 1974 catch producing 217,825 pounds. Smelt production is related more to market conditions than to relative abundance.

Chubs

Chub production in Wisconsin waters in 1974 was reported at 1,251,978 pounds, valued at $744,295. This is a 33% decrease from the 1973 catch and is the lowest harvest since 1943. Chub production, which reached peaks of over 6,000,000 pounds in 1953 and 1968, has shown a steady decline since the 1968 production.

Most of Wisconsin chub production (90%) was produced from the ports of Sheboygan, Port Washington, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha. Small mesh gill nets (2½ inch stretch measure) is the principal gear for this fishery. Because of drastic declines in production and catch per effort, the chub season is presently closed except for a 120,000 pound assessment fishery. This assessment fishery will be conducted out of the above ports plus the port of Two Rivers.

Sheepshead, White Bass, Catfish

Sheepshead, white bass, and catfish are harvested incidental to the perch fishery in lower Green Bay. Ninety-nine percent of these fish are harvested by means of fyke nets with the other 1% accounted for by shallow trap nets. All of the catch was reported from statistical district WM-1 and specifically southern Green Bay.

The commercial harvest of white bass from Lake Michigan waters in 1974 was reported at 3,815 pounds, valued at $764. This is a decrease of 38 pounds from the production in 1973. Sheepshead showed a decrease of 672 pounds over 1973 and was reported at 1,941 pounds with a value of $155. The other incidental species, catfish, showed an increase of 1,622 pounds over the 1973 production with a reported harvest of 1,743 pounds and a dollar value of $461.

Suckers

Sucker production in Wisconsin waters in 1974 was 311,700 pounds valued at $8,787. This is a decrease of 137,803 pounds from the 1973 harvest. The waters of Green Bay are the principal areas of production for this species showing 85% of the harvest. Most of these fish are taken incidental to the perch, whitefish and alewife fishery. This is reflected by the gear used with fyke nets representing 36% of the catch, 4½ inch gill nets with 28% and trawls accounting for 25%.

Herring

Lake herring showed a substantial increase in production over 1973 levels with a catch of 6,112 pounds valued at $2,172. This is a 3,006 pound increase over 1973. Lake herring are taken incidental to the whitefish fishery in Door County waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. This area contributed 83% of the harvest, with the majority of the fish taken in 4½ inch gill net. The remainder of the catch came from the Racine-Kenosha area which accounted for 17% of the harvest and were taken in small mesh gill nets incidental to the perch fishery.

Whitefish

Over one million pounds of whitefish were harvested commercially in 1974; 1,174,208 pounds valued at $978,252, an increase of 425,000 pounds over 1973 and the best catch since 1948. The bulk of the commercial harvest occurs in the Door County area. Gill nets (4½" stretch) and pound nets are the principal methods of harvesting whitefish accounting for over 95% of the catch in recent years.

Research conducted by the Department of Natural Resources in 1973 and 1974 indicates good recruitment of age II and III fish and very few lamprey scarred fish. The outlook may not be too bright however, as whitefish have proven to be cyclic in population numbers over the years, and combined with increased fishing pressure a decline in catch per effort has been observed. Continued research may provide the answer to why these cycles occur.

Menominee Whitefish

Menominee whitefish production for 1974 was 9,437 pounds with a value of $4,665. This is less than 1973 when 12,873 pounds were harvested. It is not sought extensively by commercial fishermen due to its low market value. Lake Michigan waters along Door County account of 99% of the catch. No changes in this fishery are expected in 1975.

SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY MONTH FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN ALL DISTRICTS

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	3705	4034	4464	362340	4474096	12407409	9993715	2822574	1552232	3254048	3175120	167178	39725524
BULLHEADS	1257	833	1147	58	107	5193	4397	3863	6592	7827	1828	155	33257
BURBOT	29305	37828	15898	9736	5043	12233	8068	2272	5936	23559	3390	52558	205826
CARP	239325	244622	338480	253645	712587	550061	438290	323610	95688	23878	22620	1039	3243845
CATFISH	0	0	0	0	31	415	590	330	321	55	0	0	1742
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	209583	126213	91295	58396	45612	52352	54553	50221	48924	42890	71590	41890	893519
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	54680	43168	38698	31531	27315	25747	27123	25679	22480	20801	18783	5724	341729
CHUBS ANIM. FOOD	1500	935	800	925	2770	4865	860	910	1200	1020	635	310	16730
LAKE HERRING 1	436	433	550	1136	959	75	64	72	209	1138	0	1040	6112
LAKE TROUT LEAN	1269	312	72	309	2736	63	85	1433	6188	3039	466	6522	22494
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	12	0	184	383	78	0	0	0	0	0	196	853
NORTHERN PIKE	3628	1969	335	0	1956	2110	1026	3414	4004	3048	926	289	22705
SHEEPSHEAD	0	0	0	0	10	561	830	435	105	0	0	0	1941
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	161	1173	1396	282211	23320	454	753	5627	6073	4504	10004	807	336483
SUCKERS	5864	9024	18888	52068	93655	32388	27931	25440	28374	12501	2227	3340	311700
WALLEYE	25	0	10	0	155	507	270	691	2165	1825	91	56	5795
WHITE BASS	0	0	0	0	22	619	564	413	989	675	333	0	3615
WHITEFISH	26738	40162	49532	98037	126715	89055	122912	190807	123768	124403	0	182079	1174208
MENOMINEE	0	0	0	45	212	5203	1967	1243	301	91	9	366	9437
YELLOW PERCH	7549	6279	4905	380	21238	68719	113053	152901	195885	165468	75662	22885	834924
TOTAL	585025	516997	566470	1151001	5538922	13258107	10797051	3611935	2101434	3690970	3383684	199104	34719263 9

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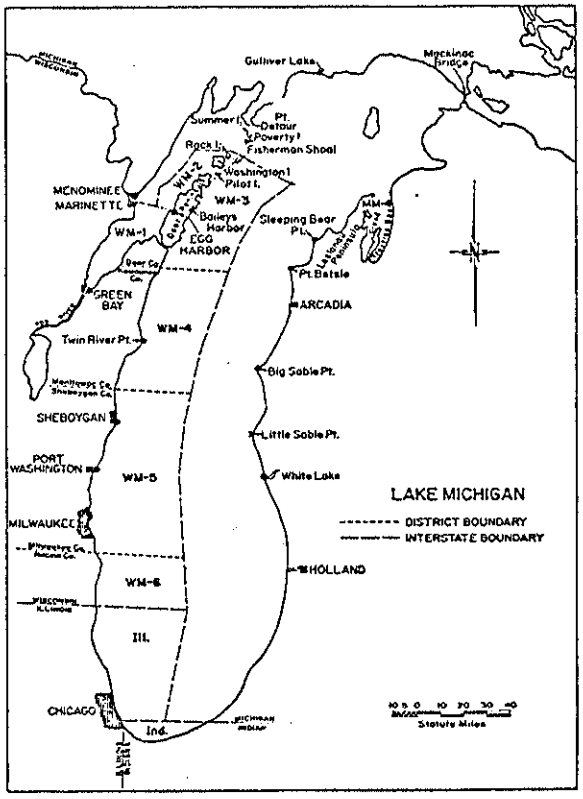

SPECIES DUCTION IN POUNDS BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN ALL DISTRICTS

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	147435	0	4109	0	0	16306730	0	768435	47805	0	0	22451010	39725524
BULLHEADS	0	1467	0	0	0	0	15	0	62	31713	0	0	0	33257
BURBOT	220	7519	0	137722	41	0	233	0	756	59335	0	0	0	205826
CARP	0	148	35500	1817577431		0	823	0	0	70969	2555900	0	1257	3243645
CATFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1731	0	0	0	1742
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	7190	881989	0	308	0	0	0	0	3990	0	0	0	42	893519
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	1385	340219	0	41	0	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	9	341729
CHUBS ANIM. FOOD	0	12780	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3950	0	0	0	16730
LAKE HERRING 1	364	1339	0	4342	0	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	1	6112
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	2523	0	19944	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	22494
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	75	0	778	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	853
NORTHERN PIKE	0	532	0	6207	0	0	76	0	204	15684	0	0	2	22705
SHEEPSHEAD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1931	0	0	0	1941
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	4382	14350	0	15844	0	0	290107	0	0	0	0	0	11800	336483
SUCKERS	260	14383	0	87755	6400	0	7312	0	6718	111311	700	0	76861	311700
WALLEYE	0	32	0	3754	0	0	29	0	63	1917	0	0	0	5795
WHITE BASS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	3793	0	0	0	3815
WHITEFISH	321	823	0	1029926	0	0	138264	4874	0	0	0	0	0	1174208
MENOMINEE	0	9210	0	221	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	9437
YELLOW PERCH	519	480066	0	353	66	0	21392	0	47040	285283	0	0	200	834924
TOTAL	14641	1914890	35500	1313121583938		0	16765053	4874	827386	635427	2556600		22541209	47192639

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SPECIES PRODUCTION IN VALUES BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN ALL DISTRICTS

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	758	0	34	0	0	194928	0	11334	533	0	0	317607	525194
BULLHEADS	0	313	0	0	0	0	5	0	19	3828	0	0	0	4165
BURBOT	0	111	0	1909	0	0	25	0	19	5629	0	0	0	7693
CARP	0	3	1065	74	33898	0	16	0	0	1936	105818	0	40	142850
CATFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	458	0	0	0	461
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	4314	582458	0	198	0	0	0	0	2993	0	0	0	34	589997
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	416	153761	0	18	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	4	154225
CHUBS ANIM. FOOD	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	0	0	0	73
LAKE HERRING 1	151	280	0	1718	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	2172
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	1263	0	12690	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	13967
NORTHERN PIKE	0	150	0	1916	0	0	12	0	29	3587	0	0	0	5694
SHEEPSHEAD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	154	0	0	0	155
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	1051	2514	0	1900	0	0	9465	0	0	0	0	0	371	15301
SUCKERS	10	198	0	4160	320	0	141	0	116	2204	0	0	1638	8787
WALLEYE	0	23	0	2551	0	0	19	0	38	1290	0	0	0	3921
WHITE BASS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	760	0	0	0	764
WHITEFISH	277	749	0	869936	0	0	104111	3179	0	0	0	0	0	978252
MENOMINEE	0	4586	0	76	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4665
YELLOW PERCH	195	193730	0	140	25	0	8250	0	16445	108403	0	0	73	327261
TOTAL	6414	940911	1065	897320	34243	0	316998	3179	31027	128841	105818	0	319781	2785597

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SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY MONTH FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 1

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	1	3	0	462791	8682890	8359944	1473368	1115378	36	40	22	20094473
BULLHEADS	1257	833	1147	58	107	5193	4397	3863	6592	7627	1828	155	33257
BURBOT	15225	19017	10357	5807	3912	11313	5202	2015	5674	22959	3386	14559	119426
CARP	120495	244617	277420	239045	712498	549331	438265	323465	95184	23815	22620	1015	3047775
CATFISH	0	0	0	0	31	415	590	330	321	55	0	0	1742
CHUBS ANIM. FOOD	0	0	0	0	0	3950	0	0	0	0	0	0	3950
LAKE HERRING 1	350	325	469	1109	690	57	33	14	149	0	0	0	3396
LAKE TROUT LEAN	764	0	0	18	16	8	0	0	0	24	0	21	851
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
NORTHERN PIKE	3628	1969	335	0	1956	2110	1026	3414	4004	3048	926	289	22705
SHEEPSHEAD	0	0	0	0	10	561	830	435	105	0	0	0	1941
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	33	1054	71	69530	4413	394	88	65	1074	579	132	32	77465
SUCKERS	5831	8936	18847	51706	50086	31734	26748	9740	12833	5350	2225	1976	226012
WALLEYE	25	0	10	0	155	489	270	691	2165	1825	91	12	5733
WHITE BASS	0	0	0	0	22	619	564	413	989	875	333	0	3815
WHITEFISH	6794	8566	3440	15098	35354	35618	26266	2751	2142	1149	0	785	137963
MENOMINEE	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
YELLOW PERCH	7472	6131	2861	380	21238	59256	107724	149512	192781	157266	70697	11291	786609
TOTAL	161874	291449	314960	382751	1293479	9383949	8971947	1970076	1439391	224808	102278	30	15724567119

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SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY MONTH FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 2

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	70	13	1	0	18350	235820	404480	89928	96	34	0	0	748792
BURBOT	13980	18731	5541	3874	1031	920	2866	257	240	559	4	37999	86002
CARP	35290	0	61060	14600	89	120	25	145	314	42	0	0	111685
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	7
LAKE HERRING 1	23	22	40	15	44	18	31	8	40	3	0	327	571
LAKE TROUT LEAN	110	37	0	95	2425	0	0	1412	4895	1553	0	5088	15615
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	23	24	0	23	43	34	655	5319	4603	1773	0	96	12593
SUCKERS	33	68	41	73	95	350	180	14716	15272	5495	2	269	36594
WALLEYE	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	44	62
WHITEFISH	13676	27602	36650	45486	46065	46579	85307	185601	91839	39408	0	121393	739606
YELLOW PERCH	44	138	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	787	2378	5600	8981
TOTAL	63249	46635	103367	64182	68142	283859	493544	297388	117299	49659	2384	170816	1760524

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SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY MONTH FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 3

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	410	125	0	30	90	31	356	632150	0	28	0	50	633270
BURBOT	100	80	0	55	100	0	0	0	22	41	0	0	398
CARP	83540	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	190	21	0	24	83780
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	19037	5877	1469	871	2094	3148	705	0	0	0	0	0	33201
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	3064	460	99	40	434	1096	27	0	0	0	0	0	5220
LAKE HERRING 1	63	86	41	12	25	0	0	0	20	155	0	712	1114
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	0	0	38	181	22	37	21	1073	1239	0	959	3570
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	0	0	168	343	46	0	0	0	0	0	196	753
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	105	0	29	325	934	2	0	0	104	42	0	129	1670
SUCKERS	0	20	0	189	474	14	1003	967	269	1656	0	1094	5686
WHITEFISH	6268	3994	9442	37453	45296	6814	11339	2455	29112	83846	0	59697	295916
MENOMINEE	0	0	0	45	212	5196	1967	1243	301	91	0	366	9421
YELLOW PERCH	33	10	0	0	0	2035	3392	2676	20	0	0	10	8176
TOTAL	112620	10657	11080	39226	50183	18404	18826	639512	31111	87119	0	63437	1082175

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SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY MONTH FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 4

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	0	0	353850	3832330	3221290	1175890	623750	432530	2542510	2041935	855420	15079505
CARP	0	0	0	0	0	610	0	0	0	0	0	0	610
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	11937	8695	7585	4758	3000	5335	4823	5230	5283	5895	5266	2935	70742
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	1705	1350	1455	1585	1365	1951	2208	1976	1985	130	1489	720	17919
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	0	0	1296	212218	17820	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	231334
SUCKERS	0	0	0	100	43000	290	0	0	0	0	0	0	43390
WHITEFISH	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
YELLOW PERCH	0	0	0	0	0	1149	601	129	0	3945	890	0	6714
TOTAL	13642	10045	10336	572511	3897515	3230669	1183522	631085	439798	2552480	2049580	859075	15450258

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SPECIE RODUCTION IN POUNDS BY MONTH FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 5

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	1200	3895	2760	4885	158385	267348	51915	2675	4220	710240	1096080	778545	3082148
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	77710	67721	52776	28977	24080	25967	27460	26104	24663	25680	17922	10070	409130
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	40801	37193	32984	25661	22046	21180	22533	21578	18645	18307	13124	4564	278616
CHUBS ANIM. FOOD	1500	935	800	925	2770	915	860	910	1200	1020	635	310	12780
LAKE HERRING 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
LAKE TROUT LEAN	370	275	56	89	10	6	15	0	26	43	12	2	904
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	12	0	0	40	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	0	0	0	115	110	23	0	0	0	130	287	15	680
SUCKERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
WHITEFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	675	0	0	0	675
MENOMINEE	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	9	0	14
YELLOW PERCH	0	0	0	0	0	3033	427	384	25	948	1588	4254	10659
TOTAL	121581	110031	89376	60652	207441	318500	103210	51651	49454	756368	1129657	797762	3795683

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY MONTH FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 6

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	2025	0	1700	3575	2150	30	1130	703	8	1200	37065	37750	87336
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	100899	43920	29465	23790	16438	17902	21565	18885	18978	11310	48402	28885	380439
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	9110	4165	4160	4245	3470	1520	2355	2125	1850	2364	4170	440	39974
LAKE HERRING 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	980	0	0	1030
LAKE TROUT LEAN	25	0	16	69	104	27	33	0	194	180	454	452	1554
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	0	95	0	0	0	1	10	243	292	1980	9585	535	12741
SUCKERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	17
WHITEFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
YELLOW PERCH	0	0	2010	0	0	3246	909	200	3059	2522	109	1730	13785
TOTAL	112059	48180	37351	31679	22162	22726	26002	22223	24381	20536	99785	69796	536880

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 1

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	3544	0	3009	0	0	14456100	0	8205	47805	0	0	5575810	20094473
BULLHEADS	0	1467	0	0	0	0	15	0	62	31713	0	0	0	33257
BURBOT	220	7228	0	51731	41	0	115	0	756	59335	0	0	0	119426
CARP	0	143	35500	1060382941	0	0	0	0	0	70969	2555900	0	1257	3047770
CATFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1731	0	0	0	1742
CHUBS ANIM. FOOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3950	0	0	0	3950
LAKE HERRING 1	364	285	0	2742	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3396
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	24	0	827	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	851
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
NORTHERN PIKE	0	532	0	6207	0	0	76	0	204	15684	0	0	2	22705
SHEEPSHEAD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1931	0	0	0	1941
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	2578	1132	0	1698	0	0	72057	0	0	0	0	0	0	77465
SUCKERS	260	12184	0	47929	6400	0	6650	0	6718	111311	700	0	33860	226012
WALLEYE	0	32	0	3710	0	0	11	0	63	1917	0	0	0	5733
WHITE BASS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	3793	0	0	0	3815
WHITEFISH	321	135	0	104394	0	0	28239	4874	0	0	0	0	0	137963
MENOMINEE	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
YELLOW PERCH	519	431760	0	353	66	0	21384	0	47040	265288	0	0	199	766609
TOTAL	4262	458466	35500	223671389448		0	14584652	4874	63091	635427	2556600	0	5611128	24567119

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 2

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	0	0	792	0	0	253850	0	494150	0	0	0	0	748792
BURBOT	0	211	0	85673	0	0	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	86002
CARP	0	0	0	522110950	0	0	213	0	0	0	0	0	0	111685
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
LAKE HERRING 1	0	0	0	510	0	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	571
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	0	0	15615	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15615
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	0	10	0	12583	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12593
SUCKERS	0	138	0	36184	0	0	272	0	0	0	0	0	0	36594
WALLEYE	0	0	0	44	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
WHITEFISH	0	6	0	671415	0	0	68185	0	0	0	0	0	0	739606
YELLOW PERCH	0	8981	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8981
TOTAL	0	9346	0	823361110950		0	3227	0	494150	0	0	0	0	1760

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

SPECIES DUCTION IN POUNDS BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 3

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	812	0	308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	632150	633270
BURBOT	0	80	0	318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	398
CARP	0	5	0	235	83540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83780
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	0	32900	0	301	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33201
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	0	5179	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5220
LAKE HERRING 1	0	24	0	1090	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1114
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	68	0	3502	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3570
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	0	0	753	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	753
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	0	107	0	1563	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1670
SUCKERS	0	2044	0	3642	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5686
WHITEFISH	0	3	0	254117	0	0	41796	0	0	0	0	0	0	295916
MENOMINEE	0	9196	0	219	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	9421
YELLOW PERCH	0	8168	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8176
TOTAL	0	58586	0	266089	83540	0	41810	0	0	0	0	0	632150	1082175

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 4

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	6195	0	0	0	0	1389660	0	0	0	0	013683650		15079505
CARP	0	0	0	0	0	0	610	0	0	0	0	0	0	610
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	0	70742	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70742
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	0	17919	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17919
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	1709	0	0	0	0	0	217825	0	0	0	0	0	11800	231334
SUCKERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	390	0	0	0	0	0	43000	43390
WHITEFISH	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
YELLOW PERCH	0	6714	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6714
TOTAL	1709	101570	0	0	0	0	1608529	0	0	0	0	013736450		15450258

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 5

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	49548	0	0	0	0	207120	0	266080	0	0	0	2559400	3082148
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	0	409088	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	409130
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	0	278607	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	278616
CHUBS ANIM. FOOD	0	12780	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12780
LAKE HERRING 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	877	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	904
LAKE TROUT FAT	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	0	455	0	0	0	0	225	0	0	0	0	0	0	680
SUCKERS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
WHITEFISH	0	675	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	675
MENOMINEE	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
YELLOW PERCH	0	10658	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10659
TOTAL	0	762777	0	0	0	0	207345	0	266080	0	0	0	2559481	3795683

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

SPECIES PRODUCTION IN POUNDS BY GEAR FOR 1974

STATE OF WISCONSIN - LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT 6

SPECIES	1 INCH GILL	2 INCH GILL	3 INCH GILL	4 INCH GILL	7 IN GILL	10 IN GILL	POUND NET	D TRAP NET	S TRAP NET	FYKE NET	HAUL SEINE	SET HOOKS	OTTER TRAWL	TOTAL
ALEWIVES	0	87336	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87336
CHUBS NO 1 HUMAN	7190	369259	0	0	0	0	0	0	3990	0	0	0	0	380439
CHUBS NO 2 HUMAN	1385	38514	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	0	0	0	0	39974
LAKE HERRING 1	0	1030	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1030
LAKE TROUT LEAN	0	1554	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1554
SMELT HUMAN FOOD	95	12646	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12741
SUCKERS	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
WHITEFISH	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
YELLOW PERCH	0	13785	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13785
TOTAL	8670	524145	0	0	0	0	0	0	4065	0	0	0	0	536880

CUTOFF DATE FOR THIS TABLE WAS - 04/24/75

Production Trends of the Major Fisheries in Lake Michigan

Year	Lake Trout	Whitefish	Chubs	Herring	Perch	Smelt	Alewife
1940	2,508,550	199,196	817,689	1,205,865	1,771,065	1,790,098	0
1941	2,742,868	400,217	943,301	1,105,904	1,551,411	1,755,044	0
1942	2,692,696	279,336	1,030,205	693,608	1,865,643	1,116,708	0
1943	2,824,277	253,835	1,251,414	1,024,395	2,617,814	497,002	0
1944	2,851,642	343,061	1,647,310	712,193	2,475,717	4,344	0
1945	2,515,075	330,893	2,379,013	1,528,089	857,385	57,698	0
1946	1,648,408	734,044	2,607,865	3,001,913	935,192	201,044	0
1947	1,177,321	1,806,174	2,519,667	3,654,850	816,482	449,815	0
1948	540,101	984,390	2,507,137	5,100,334	1,003,574	504,321	0
1949	107,715	484,308	3,672,554	4,336,990	824,443	487,974	0
1950	16,768	258,836	5,604,296	4,045,951	747,307	791,900	0
1951	2,710	242,254	6,578,057	3,392,840	854,726	954,978	0
1952	596	289,435	6,775,125	5,959,117	1,247,648	1,072,206	0
1953	140	187,861	6,329,762	3,616,366	1,457,336	1,014,731	0
1954	56	196,676	5,885,738	3,775,757	1,476,615	1,040,706	0
1955	0	97,213	5,895,099	3,257,871	2,177,932	539,898	0
1956	0	18,295	5,723,846	3,070,398	2,161,627	1,472,460	0
1957	0	12,272	5,561,554	2,091,032	2,093,486	1,627,880	299,725
1958	0	9,219	5,353,509	1,318,153	2,308,826	2,933,230	950,221
1959	0	19,524	3,833,465	720,196	1,218,731	2,106,022	762,629
1960	0	67,784	3,809,063	147,579	1,793,836	1,060,417	691,076
1961	16	143,436	4,071,997	97,788	3,248,363	911,483	2,113,171
1962	64	79,112	3,721,625	60,941	2,787,046	458,266	3,347,493
1963	426	42,100	2,324,033	16,906	3,573,599	234,474	3,815,286
1964	117	192,931	2,233,616	13,282	2,839,493	166,253	8,409,986
1965	174	162,785	3,871,460	18,902	396,200	225,222	10,868,679
1966	97	141,201	3,983,302	19,824	241,258	91,457	23,930,726
1967	7,227	97,306	4,758,220	5,657	731,152	123,952	27,831,099
1968	4,837	65,824	6,222,572	20,194	271,249	129,556	18,156,290
1969	2,686	205,880	5,337,816	15,267	338,464	417,732	21,757,813
1970	3,403	304,649	5,007,124	10,318	425,961	276,224	27,478,679
1971	2,933	470,666	3,107,938	5,765	273,336	213,485	26,148,096
1972	3,318	696,810	2,245,358	2,209	324,909	88,091	25,824,662
1973	2,363	719,708	1,849,222	2,752	308,468	162,085	28,930,620
1974	23,347	1,174,208	1,251,978	6,112	834,924	336,483	39,725,524

LAKE SUPERIOR

Lake Trout

Sampling of the lake trout population for a research program has been carried on each year since 1962 and the total catch for this purpose is shown as the commercial production in the statistics. The season for commercial production of lake trout was closed in midyear 1962 and has remained closed since that time. The changes in catch figures shown since 1962 are due to adjustments in the research program and should not be considered as an indication of relative abundance. A very successful program of stocking hatchery reared trout and control of the sea lamprey brought the lake trout population up to a very high level of abundance in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Reduced stocking rates in the late 1960's led to a slight decrease in abundance. Decreasing abundance levels were accelerated by the added fishing mortality from Indian fishing activity. Inshore lake trout populations are now substantially depressed compared to the 1970 and 1971 population levels.

Siscowets

The fishery for siscowets, or fat trout, has been developing slowly over the past five years. This population recovered from the effects of sea lampry predation and re-established a self-sustaining population by 1971. Recruitment to this population is strong through several year classes. Market conditions has determined production levels during the past four years. Abundance of siscowets has been increasing as measured by catch per unit of effort data from commercial nets.

Whitefish

The commercial production of whitefish has remained fairly stable during the past four years. The high abundance in 1971-72 has been attributed to the exceptionally large 1966 year class. The 1967 and 1968 year classes appear weaker than that of 1966, but are followed by another strong year class providing for the increased production in 1974. At least two more years of good levels of whitefish production appears likely.

Chubs

A slight drop in chub production in 1971 was followed by a substantial drop in 1972, a small increase in 1973 and then a considerable drop in 1974. Catch per unit of effort continues to drop inspite of the fishery moving off the poorer production areas and concentrating their efforts on the best grounds. The smaller sized chubs have shown the greatest decrease in C.P.E. which indicates several more years of low production inspite of the high market value and excellent demand.

Lake Herring

Production and population abundance remains at record low levels. The record low catch for 1974 was due to a lower catch of reef herring in November and no effort on the deep herring during December. Nearly half of the 1974 catch was taken incidentally in sets made for chubs. The herring population is not going to provide any major contribution to commercial production in the foreseeable future.

Smelt

Smelt populations remain high and production has increased slightly over 1973. The smelt catch continues to be dependent mainly on spring weather conditions and on the capacity of local processing plants to handle the fish during the spring production glut period.

Suckers

Production of suckers is limited due to the very poor market conditions. Sucker populations are at high levels with strong spawning runs and consistent year class strength. These populations could provide substantially more commercial production than the 53,000 pounds reported this year.

Burbot

The burbot population is at a high level of abundance. Commercial catches are considerably higher than the 1,000 pounds reported by the fishery. This high quality food species is capable of sustaining a fairly large annual catch but no markets are available to the Lake Superior fishermen.

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Species Production In Pounds By Month For 1974 - Lake Superior
(Does Not Include Production From the Indian Fishery)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Burbot	43	32	—	50	—	—	—	—	—	132	724	—	981
Carp	—	—	—	755	480	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,235
#1 Chubs	—	—	—	3,974	12,650	12,616	11,089	10,847	10,700	9,452	17,120	30,864	119,312
#2 Chubs	—	—	—	9,078	34,859	25,007	16,599	16,788	19,150	14,182	31,229	69,893	236,785
Lake Herring	545	3,110	3,036	5,204	11,008	7,200	10,888	2,581	823	8,787	61,146	24,374	138,702
Lake Trt.-Lean	1,448	1,768	2,024	1,697	23,328	6,843	3,848	5,555	7,001	—	—	2,131	55,643
Lake Trt.-Fat	—	—	—	280	14,531	16,605	20,101	22,253	14,160	1,405	1,794	1,060	92,189
Smelt	3,410	12,276	18,687	16,346	427,674	—	—	—	—	41	100	67	478,601
Suckers	—	—	—	5,125	17,599	1,117	2,457	18,657	7,445	373	—	—	52,773
Whitefish	4,892	6,968	6,286	8,851	12,238	19,447	70,469	33,091	19,353	12,188	—	17,962	211,745
Menominee	—	—	—	—	—	120	—	—	—	2,023	9,587	1,265	12,995
TOTAL	10,338	24,154	30,033	51,360	554,367	88,955	135,451	109,772	78,632	48,583	121,700	147,616	1,400,961

Species Production By Gear For 1974 - Lake Superior
(Does not include production from the Indian fishery)

IN POUNDS:

	1½"	2½"	4½"	Pound Net	Trap Net	Total
Burbot	—	854	75	50	2	981
Carp	—	—	—	1,235	—	1,235
#1 Chubs	—	118,573	739	—	—	119,312
#2 Chubs	—	235,609	1,176	—	—	236,785
Lake Herring	45	136,283	1,844	—	530	138,702
Lake Trout - Lean	—	715	49,102	2,973	1,853	55,643
Lake Trout - Fat	—	17,271	74,918	—	—	92,189
Smelt	44,362	204	84	433,951	—	478,601
Suckers	—	173	14,532	22,724	15,344	52,773
Whitefish	—	107	80,128	112,678	18,832	211,745
Menominee	—	12,995	—	—	—	12,995
TOTALS	44,407	522,784	222,598	574,611	36,561	1,400,961

IN VALUE:

	1½"	2½"	4½"	Pound Net	Trap Net	Total
Burbot	$ —	$ 4	$ —	$ —	$ —	$ 4
Carp	—	—	—	17	—	17
#1 Chubs	—	50,560	315	—	—	50,875
#2 Chubs	—	78,128	390	—	—	78,518
Lake Herring	13	40,367	546	—	157	41,083
Lake Trout - Lean	—	475	32,653	2,642	1,232	37,002
Lake Trout - Fat	—	6,915	29,997	—	—	36,912
Smelt	2,746	13	5	26,862	—	29,626
Suckers	—	8	631	986	666	2,291
Whitefish	—	66	49,351	69,398	11,599	130,414
Menominee	—	3,575	—	—	—	3,575
TOTALS	$ 2,759	$180,111	$113,888	$ 99,905	$ 13,654	$ 410,317

Production Trends of the Major Fisheries in the Wisconsin Waters of Lake Superior. *Less than 500 lbs.

Year	Trout	Whitefish	Chubs	Herring	Smelt
1941	630,000	273,000	369,000	5,832,000	-
42	659,000	253,000	323,000	5,035,000	1,000
43	618,000	266,000	190,000	4,435,000	*
44	707,000	263,000	161,000	4,712,000	*
45	572,000	338,000	111,000	6,538,000	*
46	533,000	478,000	38,000	6,342,000	*
47	518,000	609,000	117,000	4,641,000	*
48	553,000	706,000	164,000	6,291,000	1,000
49	514,000	764,000	92,000	5,028,000	1,000
1950	591,000	520,000	6,000	3,953,000	1,000
51	504,000	183,000	6,000	5,347,000	1,000
52	521,000	139,000	18,000	5,890,000	45,000
53	450,000	170,000	36,000	5,356,000	21,000
54	435,000	326,000	73,000	5,594,000	22,000
55	553,000	501,000	94,000	4,359,000	72,000
56	479,000	544,000	115,000	4,164,000	114,000
57	287,000	288,000	170,000	3,155,000	138,000
58	258,000	88,000	581,000	2,485,000	349,000
59	182,000	121,000	767,000	2,833,000	384,000
1960	109,000	128,000	690,000	2,255,000	334,000
61	103,000	93,000	674,000	2,570,000	569,000
62	120,000	85,000	700,000	2,181,000	370,000
63	39,000	86,000	802,000	941,000	619,000
64	44,000	77,000	321,000	539,000	519,000
65	54,000	46,000	789,000	430,000	243,000
66	49,000	47,000	923,000	608,000	321,000
67	53,000	88,000	910,000	494,000	465,000
68	39,000	72,000	564,000	618,000	421,000
69	20,000	87,000	392,000	333,000	294,000
1970	54,000	131,000	647,000	174,000	516,000
71	46,000	225,000	599,000	283,000	485,000
72	36,000	207,000	394,000	193,000	329,000
73	43,000	182,000	430,000	192,000	445,000
74	56,000	212,000	356,000	139,000	479,000

COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN FISHERIES IN WISCONSIN WATERS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

Year	Lake Trout	Siscowet	Whitefish	Chubs	Herring	Walleye	Smelt
1972	47,000	4,000	47,000	8,000	3,000	50,000	--
1973	49,400	2,000	49,000	40,000	25,000	30,000	1,000
1974	52,000	16,000	50,000	38,000	20,000	12,000	1,000