

The estimated total quantity and value of the principal classes of fishery products marketed in the year 1945 are as follows :—

				Quantity.	Value. £
Wet fish	..	..	..	331,773 cwt.	558,404
Whitebait	..	..	..	8,698 cwt.	97,418
Oysters—					
Dredged	..	..	..	76,038 sacks.	57,028
Rock	..	..	..	5,476 sacks.	9,583
Mussels	..	..	..	13,156 sacks.	4,607
Crayfish	..	..	..	15,924 cwt.	27,449
Toheroa (canned products)	..	..	..	85,682 lb.	5,003
Whale-oil	..	..	..	750 tons.	21,500
Total values	..	..	..	..	<u>£780,992</u>

The detailed landings are summarized in Tables I to IX (pp. 44 to 53).

The total landings of wet fish show an increase of 23,536 cwt. over the previous year's total of 308,237 cwt., while the total value has increased by £35,450. The quantity of oysters dredged from Foveaux Strait has increased by 12,089 sacks, and a decrease of 910 sacks is shown for rock oysters. The crayfish total is up by 2,074 cwt., but the mussel figures show a decline of 2,234 sacks.

In the most important group, the "wet fish"—*i.e.*, all the ordinary fishes caught by all methods of sea fishing—the annual totals for successive years are as follows :—

Year.				Total Quantity. Cwt.	Total Value. £
1934-35	..	..	..	331,415	294,267
1935-36	..	..	..	363,448	313,106
1936-37	..	..	..	363,128	360,406
1937-38	..	..	..	355,687	413,516
1938-39	..	..	..	356,114	424,643
1939-40	..	..	..	339,231	416,480
1940-41	..	..	..	328,594	440,308
1941-42	..	..	..	326,863	458,393
1942-43	..	..	..	311,971	442,976
1943-44	..	..	..	294,445	489,268
1944 ..	..	..	..	308,237	522,954
1945 ..	..	..	..	331,773	558,404

The total weight of fish caught is starting to climb up again, and it is hoped that the 1946 total will be up to that of 1935-36, which can be taken as a good pre-war year. With the return of those units still on service or undergoing overhaul and reconversion after war service prior to resuming their normal calling, it is felt that the position in regard to fish-supplies will rapidly become normal.

As last year's report contained an exhaustive comparative analysis of the fishing statistics over a period of years, there is no point in again labouring the position after so short an interval. It will be seen that most of the tables offer comparative figures. In 1946 or 1947 when the trade has settled down after the disturbed war years, another analysis of the situation can be made which may be of some value to those interested in the industry.