

Gisborne.—An increase of 2,334 cwt. brings the total for this year to 13,260 cwt. This continues the steady increase in the quantity of fish landed at Gisborne, as shown in the table below. Of this year's total, 12,453 cwt. (93·91 per cent.) was caught by motor trawlers :—

—	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Total quantity landed	7,703	8,236	10,052	10,926	12,260
Tarakihi	5,641	6,308	7,547	6,864	8,907
Gurnard	1,244	1,167	1,549	1,444	1,117
Hapuku	289	359	358	775	857

Napier.—The annual increase in the quantity of fish landed at this port during the last four years has been continued this year. Of the total quantity landed (27,254 cwt.), 25,827 cwt. (94·76 per cent.) was caught by motor-trawlers. Last year the total for this method was 20,947 cwt. The motor-vessel which operated the Danish-seine method last year changed over to trawling at the commencement of fishing this year.

Motor line and net vessels landed a total of 1,415 cwt., of which 363 cwt. (355 cwt. blue cod and 8 cwt. hapuku) were landed by a Napier boat as a result of two trips to the Chatham Islands fishing-grounds. The total quantity of fish caught by motor line and net vessels on local grounds this year was 1,052 cwt., which is considerably more than last year's total of 238 cwt. This increase was largely made up of hapuku, which increased from 95 cwt. last year to 763 cwt. this year for this method of fishing.

The annual totals and main species over the last five years are given below :—

—	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Total quantity landed	17,865	19,194	22,249	23,525	27,254
Tarakihi	8,966	9,744	11,489	16,201	19,955
Gurnard	4,621	5,362	5,994	4,180	3,596
Sole	1,710	1,036	2,746	1,297	886
Hapuku	986	1,443	378	715	1,481

Wellington.—This year's total is 4,174 cwt. below that of last year, the two totals being 40,117 cwt. (1948) and 44,291 cwt. (1947). Two steam-trawlers operated and landed a total of 25,764 cwt., compared with 25,544 cwt. for this method last year. Of this year's total for steam-trawlers, the amount of tarakihi was 22,694 cwt. (88·08 per cent.). The total for motor-trawlers (1,132 cwt.) is well below the total for last year of 3,243 cwt. This drop is to be expected because three motor-trawlers operated during 1947, but only two during 1948, and one of these changed to the Auckland registry in August. The total catch for the Island Bay line-fishing fleet is 12,815 cwt. This is 1,896 cwt. below the corresponding figure for 1947. Out of the total of 12,815 cwt. caught by these line boats, 7,749 cwt. was hapuku and 3,013 cwt. ling. The total for net boats is down from 783 cwt. in 1947 to 400 cwt. in 1948.

The annual totals landed at Wellington over the past five years are given below :—

—	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Total quantity landed	14,019	31,554	39,744	44,291	40,117
Tarakihi	999	16,857	21,204	22,455	23,423
Hapuku	6,714	5,403	7,132	8,017	8,075
Ling	2,761	3,208	4,046	5,420	3,124
Hake	705	928	973	1,000	1,355