

U.S. Fish Catch \$454 Million Last Year

The value of the United States commercial fishing catch in 1966 was nearly 21% above the average for the previous 10 years, but total landings of 4.3 billion pounds were 435 million less than in 1965, according to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Value of last year's catch was close to \$454.4 million, and with few exceptions, prices to fishermen were significantly higher than in 1965.

Fishermen were paid nearly \$96 million for their shrimp catch—the first domestic fishery to approach the \$100 million mark.

Important species showing declines in catch from a year earlier were menhaden, tuna, shrimp, jack and Pacific mackerel, Atlantic and Pacific her-

(Continued on Page 8)

Fish Catch . . .

(continued from Page 1)

ring, and sea scallops.

Significantly greater catches of salmon, the best since 1949, a record production of king crabs, and increases in landings of anchovies, Pacific hake, Dungeness crabs and alewives partially offset the reduction.

Landings of menhaden, the principal species taken by United States fishermen, were the poorest since 1951. The 1966 catch was 1.3 billion pounds—400 million pounds less than in 1965, and was 30% of the total United States catch of all species. Menhaden, the most abundant of fishes along the Atlantic Coast, is converted into fish meal and oil.

The 1966 tuna catch was 267 million pounds—down 51 million pounds from a year earlier, and shrimp landings totaled 235 million pounds—9 million pounds less than in 1965.

King crabs taken in Alaska yielded a record catch of 159 million pounds in 1966, up 27 million pounds from the previous year. The fishery for these crustaceans has become Alaska's second most important fishery resource, behind salmon.

Salmon landings increased sharply because of the second successive good run of red salmon and an outstanding pink salmon production in the state.