

New England ports. Although they produce most of the domestic supply of packaged groundfish fillets, particularly the Massachusetts trawler fleet shrank 40 percent and its catch 30 percent between 1949 and 1961.

United States policy in the postwar years has encouraged the development of the international trade, including trade in fishery products. This country's growing market for frozen and canned fish, coupled with the high standard of living and prices, have stimulated fishing countries around the world to export their fishery products to the United States. Tuna from Japan and Peru, shrimp from Mexico, Panama, and about 40 other countries, fish meal and oil from Peru, Angola, and Canada, and groundfish and flounder blocks and fillets from Canada, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and West Germany are but a few examples unfortunately at the expense of the New England Groundfish Industry.

The slow and steady decline in the Groundfish Industry is dramatically reflected in the following charts and statistics.

U.S. PRODUCTION OF FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS, 1962 WITH COMPARISONS

Item	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Fish sticks (millions):					
Cooked.....	55,400	55,600	60,400	65,000	66,800
Uncooked.....	5,600	4,800	5,700	4,800	5,400
Total.....	61,000	60,400	65,100	69,800	72,200
Fish portions:					
Breaded:					
Cooked.....	3,400	5,500	3,300	11,000	14,000
Uncooked.....	16,400	29,200	39,000	46,800	62,300
Unbreaded.....	2,000	2,400	2,100	2,000	2,400
Total.....	21,800	37,100	44,400	59,800	78,700

U.S. PRODUCTION OF FISH STICKS AND PORTIONS, 1963-66

[In millions of pounds]

Item	1963	1964	1965	1966
Fish sticks:				
Cooked.....	77.0	77.3	67.8	74.1
Uncooked.....	4.3	5.2	5.8	5.2
Total.....	81.3	82.5	73.6	79.3
Fish portions:				
Breaded:				
Cooked.....	33.3	30.5	21.0	16.6
Uncooked.....	109.2	107.4	82.8	75.0
Unbreaded.....	4.1	2.6	2.5	3.0
Total (preliminary).....	146.6	140.5	106.3	94.6

While the comparative analysis of imported fresh or frozen groundfish fillets reveals a small decrease between 1965 and 1962, it is most important to note that blocks and slabs, which are made up mostly of groundfish fillets, have shown a 100 percent increase during the same period. Consumer trends, during the past few years, have shown strong acceptance of fish sticks, fish balls, etc., which are produced from groundfish blocks and slabs. Therefore, the overall picture indicates that imports are on the increase yearly, evidenced by the strong upswing in cooked fish products made from imported groundfish blocks, while conversely the New England groundfish market continues to decline.

New England accounts for more than 85 percent of the groundfish landed and the groundfish fillets processed in this country. The impact on this segment of the United States fisheries has become more serious each year since the Tariff Commission reported its findings to the President way back in 1956 and recommended an increase in the tariff rates as the following table will show: