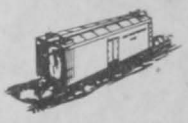
TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additional Increase in Freight Rates Requested

The railroads have supplemented their recent request to the Interstate Commerce Commission for an 8 percent increase in freight rates with a request for a further increase of 5 percent. In addition, they have asked that the Interstate Commerce Commission grant permission to place the 8 percent increase into effect immediately as an emergency measure. The original petition of the railroads has been set for a hearing commencing November 30. The request for an immediate emergency increase of 8 percent in freight rates will probably be acted upon prior to November 30.

The Department of Agriculture has filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission a reply to the railroads' supplemental petition. This reply requests that no emergency freight rate increases be granted and that the matter contained in the supplemental petition be set down for a full public hearing.



Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 117 vessels of five net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during September--45 less than in the previous month, but 16 more than in September 1947, according to the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department. Louisiana led with 27 vessels, followed by Washington with 20 vessels, North Carolina with 12 vessels, and Florida with 11 vessels. A total of 961 vessels received first documents as fishing craft during the first nine months of 1948 compared with 1,026 during the same period in 1947. Nearly two-thirds of the fishing vessels documented during the first nine months of 1948 had their home port in five States or Alaska. California led with 152; followed by Louisiana with 129; Washington, 114; Texas, 78; Florida, 73; and Alaska, 72.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	September		Nine mos. ending with Sept.		Total
	1948	1947 1/	1948	1947 1/	1947 1/
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	3	7	42	45	55
Middle Atlantic	2	5	36	49	64
Chesapeake Bay	9	9	45	63	83
South Atlantic and Gulf	68	47	423	359	486
Pacific Coast	29	26	299	348	415
Great Lakes	3	4	36	34	45
Alaska	2	3	72	104	123
Hawaii	1	-	8	23	28
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	1	1
Total	117	101	961	1,026	1,300

1/ Revised.

Note: Vessels have been assigned to the various sections on the basis of their home port.

Agricultural (Including Fisheries) Problems in Latin America

A coordinated attack on problems raised in Latin America by shortages of agricultural requisites has been launched by the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Shortages of fisheries equipment will also be covered.

This was made known October 15, through an announcement by the Acting Executive Secretary of ECLA, and the Director-General of FAO, of the establishment of a Joint Working Party from the staffs of the two organizations to study existing supply shortages which hamper the production and distribution of food in the Latin American region.

The Joint Working Party, composed of economists and experts in the field of agricultural requisites, started its field trip toward the end of October. The field survey will cover the 20 Latin American Republics, aiming at the development of agricultural production which not only will alleviate the food problem in Latin America, but which will make a substantial contribution to the world as a whole.

The Joint Working Party, similar to parties which are functioning in Europe and the Far East, arises out of a growing recognition of the close interrelationships between agricultural and general economic development in solving the world food problem.

Establishment of such a Working Party was called for by a resolution passed at the first meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America held in Santiago, Chile, in June. Following a suggestion made at the Third Annual FAO Conference in Geneva last year, the Director-General of FAO requested that a special item on "Coordinated Action to Meet the Continuing World Food Crisis" be placed on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations at its sixth meeting in March 1948. Accordingly, the Economic and Social Council invited specialized agencies and the Regional Economic Commissions to carry out coordinated studies aimed at developing suitable measures for the elimination of shortages of agricultural requisites.

It will be a primary function of the Working Party to organize available data, gather additional information, and to draw a general picture of the Latin American situation. A report will be submitted to the second session of ECLA and to the Council of FAO.

The FAO/ECLA Working Party includes a fisheries technical advisor, Mr. Mogens Jul, head of the Technological Branch of the Fisheries Division of FAO.

Albatross III Finds Groundfish off Davis Bank

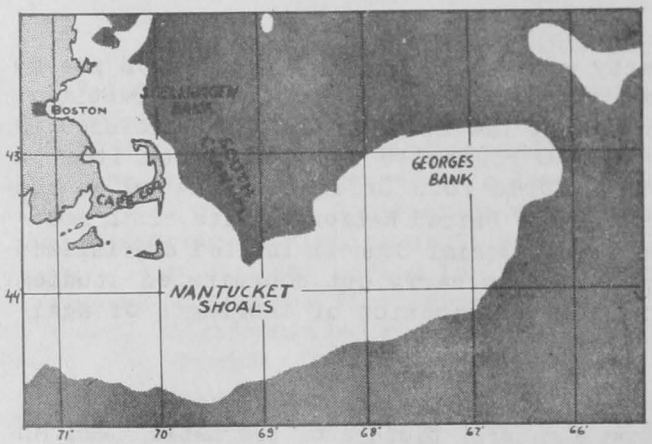
On its ninth cruise, September 8-10, 1948, the Albatross III found haddock, cod, whiting, and hake in commercial quantities off Davis Bank in 30 fathoms. This was the fourth in a series of cruises being made by the Service's research vessel to estimate the numbers of fish on Georges Bank and South Channel.

Evidence was found of fungus infection on the sea herring taken by the nets of the vessel. About ten percent of the 400 fish examined showed the characteristic skin eruptions. This disease has been very prevalent on herring all along the New England Coast for the past three years, but has not been reported from fish taken offshore.

The eighth cruise of the Albatross III was made on September 1, and was only a one-day trip, to demonstrate the methods used by the Service's scientists to study our North Atlantic fishery resources. A number of guests from interested agencies in Woods Hole, Boston, and New Bedford were invited to witness these operations.

Albatross III Completes Fish Census

The Service's research vessel, Albatross III, returned from its tenth and eleventh cruise (September 29-October 6 and October 14-19, respectively) to Woods Hole, Mass., after completing the first fish census of the region comprising Georges Bank, South Channel, and Nantucket Shoals. These were the last in a series of six cruises, begun in July, to survey the number of fish of commercial importance in the region. The survey constitutes one of the major accomplishments of the Albatross III during the summer and fall.



Georges Bank with the South Channel and Nantucket Shoals grounds, the principal fishing grounds for the fleets of Boston and New Bedford, comprises about 30,000 square miles of fishable bottom. This area is about equal to the area of the New England States, with the exception of Maine.

During the census cruises, the vessel occupied 110 different stations and made 145 successful hauls with the otter-trawl net. Stations were chosen so that all areas of the fishing grounds, whether fished commercially or not, were sampled in a representative fashion.

Data on the number, size, and age of all the commercial species taken were obtained from each haul. Temperatures of the sea water from surface to the bottom and other hydrographic data were taken at each station. Statistical methods, similar to those used by the various political and radio polls, will be employed in analysing the data collected.

No unusual quantities of the important commercial species were caught off Cape Cod, the area of these last two cruises. Whiting and white hake were the principal species taken. Some haddock and cod were caught and several small haddock from this year's spawning were brought up in the nets.

Preliminary experiments, under the direction of the Service's Technological Laboratory in Boston, on the freezing of fish at sea were started on these last two cruises. These experiments are designed to study the storage life and quality of fillets from fish frozen whole at sea, and defrosted, filleted, and refrozen at the shore plants. About 300 pounds of haddock and cod were frozen whole in the freezer of the Albatross III. A like amount was gutted and iced according to present commercial practice to compare with the frozen product.

It is expected that the census of Georges Bank, repeated periodically, will provide data on the relative numbers that result from commercial fishing, additions of young to the stock, hydrographic condition, and other factors which affect the fish populations.

California Studies Pacific Tuna Fishery

Ending a 9,000-mile voyage in Central Pacific waters, a marine biologist of the California Division of Fish and Game has brought back information on the mysterious albacore tuna, according to Outdoor California.

Now recognized as the State's most valuable commercial fish crop, albacore has been the subject of continuing study by the California Bureau of Marine Fisheries. The latest in a series of research investigations was a 6-week cruise of the Central Pacific with the Division's 100-foot vessel, the N. B. Scofield.

The exploration revealed albacore as far as 750 miles off the California Coast; yellowfin tuna weighing 8 to 30 pounds near Johnston Island; and albacore scarce in the Central Pacific. It was found that the Hawaiian Islands mark the northern boundary of large yellowfin and skipjack tuna populations.

The vessel embarked on another voyage November 1, for two weeks, in albacore research about 500 miles off the California Coast.

All evidence points to the fact that skipjack and yellowfin are tropical species, found in abundance off coasts and islands. Albacore and bluefin are believed to be temperate zone fish, visiting southern California and other coasts and islands seasonally.

The key to the albacore enigma is whether the fish found in California waters is a member of a larger population of albacore which makes the entire Pacific Ocean its home, according to the State Biologist.

Deputy Administrator Named for Philippine Fishery Program

Leroy S. Christey, of Tacoma, Wash., was appointed deputy administrator of the Service's Philippine Fishery Program, October 27, by the Service's Director.

Mr. Christey has been in the Fish and Wildlife Service (and its predecessor agency, the Bureau of Fisheries) since 1934, with the exception of the past three years. Since 1945, he has been employed by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation as manager of its exploratory fishing program.

He entered the Federal fishery service immediately after his graduation as an economics major from the University of Washington; did fishery research in Alaska until 1936; served for the next two years on the staff of the Seattle Fishery Technological Laboratory; in 1940, headed the field party of the Alaska Crab Investigation; during the war, was in the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries, and later chief of the Market Development Section in the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries.

Mr. Christey, who departs for Manila about November 1, will assist in the planning and administration of the Philippine Fishery Program and will act as an economic adviser to the Philippine fishing industry.

Established by the 79th Congress' Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946, the Service's Philippine Fishery Program has explored new fishing grounds, introduced new methods of fishing, and has advised the Philippine Government in the management and development of the Islands' fishery resources. Hugh W. Terhune is the Program's administrator.

Exploratory Operations of Washington

Owing to extremely stormy weather which made fishing impossible in the Bering Sea, the Service's Alaska fishery exploratory vessel, Washington, proceeded to the south side of the Alaskan peninsula the early part of October and fished in the vicinity of Pavlof Bay and Canoe Bay.

Indications of cod, lemon sole, and rock flounders were found in the vicinity of St. Lawrence Island. The fish were of good quality. Some turbot and mud sole were found 150 miles southeast of St. Paul Island, and two drags in the Akutan area produced turbot and rock flounders but practically no cod or king crab.

The vessel returned to Seattle the latter part of October where it will undergo extensive alterations in order to increase its efficienty as an exploratory fishing craft. (See Commercial Fisheries Review, November 1948, page 29.)

ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products

Among the procurement authorizations for commodities and raw materials announced by the Economic Cooperation Administration, procurement authorizations for fishery products for November, the leading month to date, totaled $4,185,000.

The aggregate authorized since the beginning of the ECA program on April 1, 1948, was $20,888,911.

ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products

Product	Country of Origin	Procuring Agency 1/	Recipient Country	Amount Authorized
	November 1948			
Fish, salted	Newfoundland	Greece	Greece	$ 1,090,000
	"	Italy	Italy	565,000
	"	"	"	565,000*
	Canada	"	"	185,000
	"	"	"	185,000*
	"	Greece	Greece	390,000
Total				$ 2,980,000
Fish meal	Canada	Denmark	Denmark	391,000
Oil, whale	U. S.	Netherlands	Netherlands	814,000
Total authorized in November				4,185,000
Total ECA Fishery Products Authorizations, April 1 - November 30, 1948				
Fish, canned	U. S.	Greece	Greece	128,800
Fish, salted	Newfoundland & Canada	Italy & Greece	Italy & Greece	7,259,000
Fish meal	Canada, Iceland, Norway & Angola	Denmark, Austria, & U.S.Dept.Army	Denmark, Austria, & Bizone Germany	3,457,361
Oil, herring	Iceland	U.S.Dept. Army	Bizone Germany	1,694,000
" , seal	Newfoundland	France	France	257,600
" , shark liver	Chile	Chile	France	800,000
" , technical fish	U. S.	U.S.Dept. Army	Bizone Germany	100,000
" , whale	Netherlands, Belgium, & Norway	Austria & U.S. Dept. Army	Austria & Bizone Germany	7,192,150
Grand Total Authorized				$20,888,911

*For delivery in first quarter, 1949

1/Where the recipient country is shown as the procuring agency, the Government of the participating country or its authorized agents or importers do the purchasing.

This is only a small percentage of the amount of trade in fish and fishery products for the 15-month period, April 1948-June 1949, which was to have been financed by ECA as announced by that agency at the beginning of its program. It was also estimated that the United States would ship 51.8 million dollars worth of fish and fishery products during the 15-month period, but for the first eight months, only $1,042,800 worth of shipments have been authorized.

Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, September 1948: Fresh and frozen fishery products purchased during September 1948 by the Army Quartermaster Corps for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for military feeding amounted to 1,571,665 pounds valued at $569,821. Of this total, a small amount (3,500 pounds) was destined for relief feeding. The total purchases to date, January through September, totaled 12,672,316 pounds valued at $4,501,819.

Food Situation in Europe 1/

The unused lands of the world capable of food production are no longer unlimited. Moreover, many of the existing lands are losing their fertility as the

1/Extracts from an address by Sir Herbert Broadley, Deputy Director-General of FAO, at Green Lake, Wisconsin, on September 13, 1948.

result of centuries of misuse and soil erosion and may have to be rested for long periods before they can provide their present outputs over a long future period. And in the meantime, populations are increasing at an alarming rate, while countries which previously supplied Europe with food are industrializing themselves in the vain hope that industrialization alone will mean a higher standard of life.

More mechanization, more up-to-date methods of farming, and increased use of fertilizers will all be needed in Europe. In these fields, FAO will be able to render help and advice.

But while Europe's land resources must be developed efficiently and with wisdom, the sea may provide new resources awaiting development. This will be particularly important if the pressure of population leads to greater and greater intensification of food production, and therefore involves an increasing drain on the soluble nutrients of the land.

To all intents and purposes, it is true that matter cannot be destroyed, and in a sense nothing is really ever wasted. On the other hand, even though not wasted, its availability may change. For instance, the continual inundation of the earth by the greatest of all solvents--water--has the effect of washing the end products of life into the rivers, the draining systems, and eventually into the sea, so that in the very long term, man must turn his attention to this great reservoir of energy and materials, and reclaim them for himself and the land. He may do this in two ways. First, he might utilize to a much greater extent the living products of the sea, and second, he might use it as an inexhaustible source for some of the chemical elements which he needs to maintain fertility of the land. And so the oceans, which first gave rise to life, may eventually become the ultimate source of its maintenance.

Increased Ice Charges by Railway Express Suspended

In connection with the request of the Railway Express Agency for increases in the ice charges, the Department of Agriculture, during the latter part of October, requested that the Interstate Commerce Commission suspend and investigate the tariff schedules containing these increases.

On November 19th, the Commission announced that charges for ice as filed by the Railway Express Agency in ICC-I and S-5612 were suspended.

Hearings concerning these charges will be held at Chicago, Ill., in January.

Personnel Changes

Branch of Commercial Fisheries

C. F. EVERS TO HEAD COLLEGE PARK LABORATORY: Clifford F. Evers, of Millburn, N.J., was named to head the U.S. Fishery Technological Laboratory at College Park, Md., on November 1.

Formerly technical director of the National Association of Frozen Food Packers, and a graduate from the University of Michigan in 1929 with a B.S. degree in chemistry, Mr. Evers succeeds to the position held by the late Dr. L. A. Sandholzer.

As head of the Fishery Technological Laboratory in College Park, Md., Mr. Evers will be in charge of six research projects: the determination of food values of cooked fishery products; the correlation of biological and spectrophotometric methods for determining vitamin A potencies; the determination of the rate of digestion of certain fishery products; the preparation of canned sandwich spreads for the school lunch program; the effect of fluctuating temperatures on the quality of frozen fish in storage and transit; and the identification of micro-organisms causing spoilage of fish and shellfish.

Proposed Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council

The Siamese Government has notified the Food and Agriculture Organization of its acceptance of the Agreement reached at Baguic, Republic of the Philippines, on February 28, 1948, for the formation of an Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council. France, the Philippines, and the United States also have accepted the agreement. When a fifth Member Government accepts, FAO will proceed to establish the Council. (See Commercial Fisheries Review, August 1948, page 17).

Washington State Landings, 1947

The 1947 production of fish, shellfish, and livers for the State of Washington totaled 146,477,625 pounds, an increase of 2,500,110 pounds over the 1946 total of 143,977,515 pounds, according to the 1947 Annual Bulletin of the Washington Department of Fisheries. The landings in 1947 consisted of 128,607,625 pounds of fish, 15,528,622 pounds of shellfish, and 2,341,378 pounds of livers.

Washington State Landings of Principal Species - 1947
(In thousands of pounds)

Fish:		Pilchard	2,850
Salmon:		True cod	2,451
Chinook or king	12,496	Sablefish (Black cod)	2,098
Chum or fall	6,774	Herring	1,195
Pink or humpback	51,846	Flounders	1,044
Silver or coho	11,948	Shellfish:	
Sockeye or blueback	1,336	Crabs	11,973
Steelhead	283	Clams:	
Total salmon	84,683	Hard shell	1,224
Sole	8,320	Razor	2,014
Rockfish	6,518	Livers:	
Halibut	5,887	Shark:	
Albacore tuna	4,243	Dogfish	1,834
Lingcod	3,456	Soupfin	70

The leading item was salmon, all species, with a total of 84,683,154 pounds of which 51,845,708 pounds consisted of pink or humpback salmon. Crabs was the next item of importance with 11,973,160 pounds, followed by flounders and sole with 9,364,235 pounds, and rockfish with 6,518,414 pounds.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

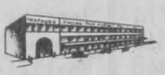
Reversing the upward movements of the previous months, the wholesale index for all commodities on October 12 showed a decline of 2.6 percent compared with September 14, but 4 percent higher than a year ago. Wholesale food prices continued to decline at a greater rate, and the October 12 index for all foods was 6.3 percent under September 14 and 0.8 percent under October 14, 1947.

The wholesale average price of canned pink salmon at Seattle during October 1948 was 1.1 percent higher than September and 25.5 percent higher than October 1947. The average price of canned red salmon remained steady and was 8.6 percent higher than a year ago.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit		Percentage change from--	
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)		Oct.12,1948	Sept.14,1948	Oct.14,1947
All commodities	Index No.	165.0	-2.6	+ 4.0
Foods	do	177.3	-6.3	- 0.8
Fish:		Oct.1948	Sept.1948	Oct.1947
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	$ per doz. cans	5.910	+1.1	+25.5
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	6.649	0	+ 8.6
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	$ per 100 lbs.	15.00	0	+ 5.3
Retail: (1935-39 = 100)		Oct.15,1948	Sept.15,1948	Oct.15,1947
All foods	Index No.	211.5	-1.7	+ 4.9
Fish:				
Fresh, frozen, and canned	do	325.9	+3.5	+13.8
Fresh and frozen	do	270.2	+2.3	+ 8.6
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per lb. can	59.4	+5.5	+23.8

The drop in retail food prices from mid-September to mid-October was much greater than the usual seasonal decline and marked the third consecutive month of falling prices for foods. The retail food price index on October 15 was 211.5 percent of the 1935-39 average, 2.4 percent below the peak reached in July 1948, but 4.9 percent higher than a year ago. The retail fresh, frozen, and canned fish index was 325.9 percent of the 1935-39 average, 3.5 percent higher than on September 15, and 13.8 percent higher than a year ago. The greatest increase was in fresh and frozen fish. The average retail price of canned pink salmon on October 15 also was 2.9 percent higher than the previous month and 23.8 percent higher than a year ago.



FISH OF THE PERSIAN AND OMAN GULFS

The total number of fishermen on the southern coast of Iran is estimated at 8,000. Merchants, in the several ports, usually contract with groups of 12 to 16 fishermen, furnishing them the necessary equipment. For the use of such equipment, the fishermen deliver to the merchants 50 percent of their catch. The remaining 50 percent is divided equally among the fishermen except that the crew captain or "Nav-Khoda" usually receives twice as much as an ordinary fisherman.

--Fishery Leaflet 304