



# TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## Additions to the Fleet of U.S. Fishing Vessels

Forty-five vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during January 1948, compared with 64 during the corresponding month in the previous year, according to information received from the Bureau of Customs, Treasury Department. During January, California led with 13 vessels documented, followed by Louisiana with 7, Alaska with 6, and Florida with 4.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	January		Total
	1948	1947 <sup>1/</sup>	1947
	Number	Number	Number
New England .....	2	1	75
Middle Atlantic .....	-	4	70
Chesapeake Bay .....	1	5	97
South Atlantic and Gulf .....	18	30	490
Pacific Coast .....	16	14	411
Great Lakes .....	1	5	74
Alaska .....	6	2	47
Hawaii .....	1	3	23
Unknown .....	-	-	12
Total .....	45	64	1,299

<sup>1/</sup>Revised.

Note: Vessels documented by the Bureau of the Customs are craft of 5 net tons and over.



## Duty on Imports of Certain Fillets Increased

In accordance with the provisions of the tariff regulations concerning the imports of cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish fillets, etc., the Bureau of Customs increased the duty on these fillets from 1-7/8 cents per pound to 2-1/2 cents per pound, effective February 16. Heavy imports of these fillets in recent weeks have made it apparent that the first quarter quota of 6,233,000 would be filled on or shortly after that date. Since the quota on groundfish, including rosefish fillets, etc., is now on a quarterly basis, imports received after April 1 will again be at the reduced tariff of 1-7/8 cents per pound until the quota for the second quarter is exhausted.

On February 6, the tariff-rate quota for the calendar year 1948 of fresh or frozen fish fillets of cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish is 24,930,188 pounds.



## Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations for 1948

The International Fisheries Commission issued on March 6, 1948, the regulations for the Pacific halibut fishery. The 1948 regulations have the following changes from the regulations of 1947:

Section 2(a). The catch limit for Area 2, which includes the waters off the coasts of Washington, British Columbia and southeastern Alaska, is increased from 24,500,000 to 25,500,000 pounds. The catch limits for Areas 3 and 4 remain the same as in 1947; namely, 28,000,000 and 500,000 pounds, respectively.

Section 9(c). The description of the nursery area off the northern coast of Graham Island has been amplified to include the waters of Masset Inlet. This was done to remove any possible doubt as to the inclusion of these waters in the closed area.

The Memorandum on the 1947 Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, distributed last year, will apply in its entirety to the 1948 regulations except as indicated above.



## Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture reported 47,496 cases of canned fish purchased during January 1948, compared with 643,180 cases during January 1947. All of the purchases made during January were intended for European relief. No purchases were made by the Department in November and December 1947 and February 1948.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	January 1948		Jan. thru Feb. 1948 <sup>2/</sup>	
		Quantity	Cost <sup>3/</sup>	Quantity	Cost <sup>3/</sup>
<u>FISH</u>			Dollars		Dollars
Herring, canned <sup>1/</sup>	Actual cases	47,145	144,264	47,145	144,264
Whiting, " <sup>1/</sup>	" "	351	1,074	351	1,074
<b>Total .....</b>	" "	<b>47,496</b>	<b>145,338</b>	<b>47,496</b>	<b>145,338</b>

<sup>1/</sup>Actual cases contain 24-15 oz. cans.

<sup>2/</sup>No purchases during February 1948.

<sup>3/</sup>F.O.B. origin.



## Wholesale and Retail Prices

This is the 11th consecutive week of increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' comprehensive index which is at a new postwar high of 165.5 percent of the 1926 average. It is 1.8 percent higher than a month ago, 17.5 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, and about 1 percent below the May 1920 peak.

On the average, farm products were 2.3 percent higher than a month ago and 21.4 percent higher than the corresponding week last year.

The advance of 1.4 percent in retail prices of foods brought the food index for 56 large cities combined to 209.7 percent of the 1935-39 average to establish

a new high, 14.1 percent above a year ago, 124.3 percent higher than August 1939, and 13.4 percent above the peak of June 1920. Thirty-nine of the fifty foods increased in price. Mainly responsible for the index rise was the increase of 4.5 percent for the meats, poultry, and fish group. Prices of all items in this group, except bacon and salt pork, advanced although they usually decrease at this time of year.

## Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		Jan. 17, 1948	Dec. 20, 1947	Jan. 18, 1947
<u>Wholesale: (1926 = 100)</u>				
All commodities	Index No.	165.5	+1.8	+17.5
Foods	do	181.2	+1.7	+14.8
<u>Fish:</u>				
<u>Canned salmon, Seattle:</u>				
Pink, No.1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	5.140	+3.8	+61.0
Red, No.1, Tall	do	6.372	+1.5	+18.8
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 lbs.	14.50	0	- 3.5
<u>Retail: (1935-39 = 100)</u>				
All foods	Index No.	209.7	+1.4	+14.1
<u>Fish:</u>				
Fresh and canned	do	310.9	+2.8	+14.6
Fresh and frozen	¢ per lb.	44.5	+3.7	+ 3.0
Canned pink salmon	¢ per lb. can	51.8	+1.0	+47.6



## REPORTS ON GENEVA TARIFF CONCESSIONS

The schedules of tariff concessions agreed upon at the Fall 1947 Geneva Conference are being published as a supplement to *International Reference Service*. The Supplement consists of twenty separate reports, giving the schedules for individual countries.

Each report contains the country tariff numbers, a description of the products involved, the general rates of duty, the new agreement rates of duty, and the prewar imports of each product from the United States.

The reports will be issued separately between now and May 1, 1948. The countries to be covered and summary are:

AUSTRALIA	CHINA	SOUTHERN RHODESIA
BENELUX	CUBA	SYRO-LEBANESE CUSTOMS UNION
BRAZIL	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
BURMA	FRANCE	UNITED KINGDOM AND DEPENDENCIES
CANADA	INDIA AND PAKISTAN	NEWFOUNDLAND
CEYLON	NEW ZEALAND	WORLD TRADE AND TRADE WITH U.S. OF ALL
CHILE	NORWAY	SIGNATORY COUNTRIES

The reports will not be mailed automatically to subscribers of *International Reference Service*.

Persons wishing to obtain all the reports may order the series from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25 D.C. for an advance payment of \$2.00. The individual country reports will be mentioned in the Business Service Check List as issued and may then be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents at 10 cents each.