



TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

Forty-seven vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during February 1948, compared with 71 during the same month in the previous year, according to information received from the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department. During January and February 1948, a total of 92 vessels were documented, compared with 135 during the same period in 1947, and 85 vessels during the first two months of 1946.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	February		Two mos. ending with Feb.		Total 1947
	1948	1947 ^{1/}	1948	1947	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	
New England	1	4	3	5	75
Middle Atlantic	2	3	2	7	70
Chesapeake Bay	4	3	5	8	97
South Atlantic and Gulf	28	32	46	62	490
Pacific Coast	9	25	25	39	411
Great Lakes	1	-	2	5	74
Alaska	1	3	7	5	47
Hawaii	1	1	2	4	23
Unknown	-	-	-	-	12
Total	47	71	92	135	1,299

1/Revised.

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

Changes in Alaska Management Announced

A new plan for closer coordination in the management of Alaska's vast fish, game, and fur resources will soon be put into operation, according to an announcement made on April 8, 1948, by Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Day, who met with the Alaska Game Commission and other Alaska personnel recently in Ketchikan, in announcing the plan said, "We are attempting to make the fullest possible use of our limited Alaska personnel."

Effective May 1, all Fish and Wildlife Service functions in Alaska, with the exception of those performed in the Fishery Technological Laboratory at Ketchikan and the fur-seal work on the Pribilof Islands, will be under the general supervision of a Regional Director for Alaska, whose headquarters will be at Juneau.

Under the Regional Office will be a supervisor of wildlife, a supervisor of fisheries, and a supervisor of law enforcement who will head a combined force of field agents.

In the Washington headquarters office, an Alaska Committee will be set up to assist in carrying out these plans.

Clarence J. Rhode, with many years of experience in the Alaska program, will be the new Regional Director, relieving Frank W. Hynes, who has requested the opportunity to devote his full time to fishery management problems.

Announcement of other personnel to head the new Alaska fish and wildlife set-up will be made at an early date, said Director Day.

Notes on the Fisheries of Virginia

AIRPLANE PATROL: Following the successful experiment of Maryland in airplane patrol for fisheries enforcement, Virginia has added a plane policeman to its official staff. The plane is stationed at Exmore on the Eastern Shore, from which it can reach any point in tidewater Virginia on short notice. Maryland has found that fines from plane arrests virtually pay the costs of plane and maintenance. Virginia's experience so far points to similar results.

WINTER CRAB-DREDGING: A greater number of vessels than in any recent year engaged in winter crab-dredging during the 1947-48 season which ended March 31. Hampton, once the principal port for crab-dredging, is now second to Cape Charles, which is convenient for shipping by truck to Crisfield where the majority of Virginia's winter-caught crabs are now used.

GILL-NETTING: Gill-netting for croakers is a new kind of fishing activity at Cape Charles and has made that port another good source of the readily-salable fish. This spring also saw the first gill-net fishery of any size for mackerel off the upper North Carolina coast. A large part of the catch was handled by Virginia dealers for shipment to out-of-State markets, especially in the north.

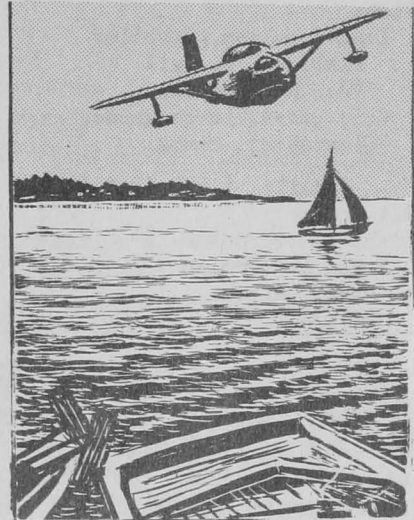
MODIFIED HAUL SEINE: The principal gear used by commercial fishermen in Back Bay is a specially-modified haul seine.

The typical Back Bay haul seine is about 250 yards long and a yard wide. It has a large stake fixed to each end and a series of smaller stakes attached to the net along its whole length which divide it into small pockets.

Two men fish the net from a motorboat. The stake at one end is thrust into the bottom in a water depth of perhaps 6 feet. Then the boat describes a wide circle paying out the net until the other end-stake is brought round to the first. As the net is hauled aboard, the fish are retained in the small sections or pockets formed by the series of light stakes. Carp is the principal catch, with catfish and two species of perch next.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

The wholesale index for all commodities on February 14 showed a decline of 3.5 percent compared with the previous month, but was still 11.6 percent higher than the corresponding period in 1947, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. Following the same trend, the wholesale index for foods declined 4.4 percent compared with the previous month, but was still 7.7 percent higher than the corresponding period in 1947.



(first
airplane
fisheries
patrol)

Although wholesale prices of farm products and foods dropped, the average wholesale prices of canned pink salmon rose 0.6 percent and canned red salmon 0.5 percent.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		Feb. 14, 1948	Jan. 17, 1948	Feb. 15, 1947
<u>Wholesale: (1926 = 100)</u>				
All commodities	Index No.	159.7	-3.5	+11.6
Foods	do	173.3	-4.4	+7.7
		<u>Feb. 1948</u>	<u>Jan. 1948</u>	<u>Feb. 1947</u>
Fish:				
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	5.171	+0.6	+67.0
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	6.402	+0.5	+19.4
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 lbs.	14.50	0	-3.4
<u>Retail: (1935-39 = 100)</u>				
All foods	Index No.	204.7	-2.4	+12.3
Fish:				
Fresh and frozen	do	276.3	+2.1	+14.1
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per lb. can	51.6	-0.4	+41.0

Retail food prices, influenced by the early February break in commodity market prices, declined 2.4 percent compared with the previous month, but continued to be 12.3 percent higher than the corresponding period in 1947. On the other hand, the retail index for fresh and frozen fish rose 2.1 percent compared with the previous month and was 12.3 percent greater than the corresponding period a year ago. However, the average retail price of canned pink salmon dropped 0.4 percent compared with the previous month, but continued to be higher than for February 15, 1947.

Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture reported 6,465 pounds of frozen fillets and 1,385 cases of canned fish purchased for the school lunch program during March 1948, compared with 150,058 cases of canned fish during March 1947.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	March 1948		Jan. thru Mar. 1948	
		Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
<u>FISH</u>					
Fillets, cod, frozen	lbs.	4,080	1,428	4,080	1,428
" , whiting, "	"	2,385	598	2,385	598
Total	"	6,465	2,026	6,465	2,026
Herring, canned ^{1/}	Actual Cases	-	-	47,145	144,264
Pollock, flaked, canned ^{2/}	" "	1,385	7,735	1,385	7,735
Whiting, canned ^{1/}	" "	-	-	351	1,074
Total	" "	1,385	7,735	48,881	153,073
Grand Total		-	9,761	-	155,099

^{1/}Actual cases contain 24 - 15 oz. cans.

^{2/}Actual cases contain 48 - 15 oz. cans.

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