



TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

During March, as in the first two months of the year, the documentation of fishing vessels was less than for the same period in 1947. Seventy-nine vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during March 1948, compared with 87 vessels in the same month the previous year. A total of 171 fishing vessels were documented during the first three months of 1948, compared with 222 vessels in the first quarter of 1947. Texas led with 16 of the vessels documented during March, followed by California with 15, and Washington with 14, according to information received from the Bureau of Customs, Treasury Department.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	March		Three mos. ending with Mar.		Total 1947
	1948	1947 ^{1/}	1948	1947	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	-	5	3	10	75
Middle Atlantic	3	5	5	12	70
Chesapeake Bay	3	7	8	15	97
South Atlantic and Gulf	30	33	76	95	490
Pacific Coast	32	18	57	57	411
Great Lakes	1	3	3	8	74
Alaska	9	15	16	20	47
Hawaii	1	1	3	5	23
Unknown	-	-	-	-	12
Total	79	87	171	222	1,299

^{1/}Revised.

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

Coast Guard Auxiliary To Check Motorboats

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will assist the regular Coast Guard by promoting safe motorboat operation through the Auxiliary's Nation-wide Courtesy



Inspection Program this summer, according to the Coast Guard Bulletin for April 1948. The purpose of the courtesy inspections is to provide owners with a check on the safety of their craft. The greater part of the 48 States is covered by Coast Guard Auxiliary Service. All the coastal States, Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific, the Great Lakes States, and the States in the Mississippi River Valley and along its tributaries have Coast Guard Auxiliary units.

Courtesy Inspection Procedure: Inspection officers follow this standard pattern of inspection procedure:

1. Courtesy inspections are made only when the motorboat is alongside of the dock or on the owner's mooring, and only by the owner's request.
2. Only a duly appointed inspection officer goes aboard the boat to be inspected.
3. Inspectors wear regulation Coast Guard Auxiliary uniform.
4. In the first part of the inspection, the equipment required by the Motorboat Act, including suitable running lights, life preservers or ring buoys, fire extinguishers, whistle or horn, bell, flame arrester on carburetors of gasoline engines, and ventilators with cowls for bilges and fuel tanks of gasoline-powered boats are checked. If in the opinion of the inspecting officer the boat passes this part of the inspection, an inspection sticker is issued, mailed to the owner by the division captain. The check sheet is left with the owner regardless of whether the boat does or does not pass.
5. In the second part of the inspection, the items not required by law, but considered important by the Coast Guard for safe operation are checked. These items are anchors, barometer, bilge pump, carburetor drip pan, compass, distress signals, emergency rations and water, local Coast and Geodetic Survey charts, first-aid kit and manual, ring buoys, lead line for sounding, mooring lines, and tools and spare parts.



Food and Agriculture Organization

COUNCIL IN SESSION: Important policy decisions affecting the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations were taken by the Council of FAO in a 2-week session in Washington, concluded April 17.

A special session of the full Conference of FAO, by acclamation, chose Norris E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, to succeed Sir John Boyd Orr as Director-General.

It is expected that the new Director-General will take office within a few weeks. His appointment runs through the close of the 1950 Session of the FAO Conference, and is renewable at that time for any period agreed upon mutually.

The new Director-General has been Under Secretary of Agriculture in the Government of the United States since April 1946. He has been associated with the administration of national farm programs since 1933.

In addition to broad experience in practical farming and in the official agricultural programs of his own country, Mr. Dodd has been closely associated with agricultural developments in the international field.

It admitted Turkey and Ceylon to FAO, bringing the total membership of the Organization to 57 nations.

The Council approved the reports of the Baguio Conferences on fisheries and nutrition. The Fisheries report included a recommendation that governments of the Southeast Asia area establish an Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council to work toward greater utilization of the resources of the seas.

One of the final acts of the Council was to designate Washington as the place for holding the fourth annual session of the FAO Conference. The Conference is scheduled to open November 15. The next session of the Council will be held November 1 to 15.

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ADDITIONS TO STAFF: Mogens Jul, Danish fisheries technologist, has joined the staff of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as head of the Technological Branch of the Fisheries Division. Since 1942, Mr. Jul has been head of the Research Laboratory of the Danish Department of Fisheries. He was, at the same time, professor of the Technical University of Denmark and co-director of the Institution's Food Preservation Laboratory. Since 1947, Mr. Jul has also been head of the Chemical Biological Division of the Danish Institute of Refrigeration.

One of Mr. Jul's first tasks in FAO will be to collect information in preparation for international discussions on the possibilities of establishing agreed standards for certain fisheries products entering into international trade.

All three branches of Fisheries Division of FAO are now in operation. The Economics Branch, directed by G. M. Gerhardsen, will shortly publish the first FAO Fisheries Yearbook. Mr. Gerhardsen is at present preparing a report on the salt fish trade. He is on leave from his post as head of the Fisheries Economics and Statistics Branch of the Norwegian Fisheries Administration.

J. L. Kask joined FAO staff in February 1948 as head of the Biological Branch and attended the Fisheries Conference at Baguio, P. I., with D. B. Finn, Director of the Fisheries Division, and G. L. Kesteven, FAO regional fisheries representative in the Far East.

Mr. Kesteven is, at present, engaged in coordinating the work of the four working committees--hydrology, taxonomy, biology, and technology--appointed at the Baguio Conference. These committees will be engaged in preparatory work of collecting information and coordinating research pending the ratification of the agreement to establish the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council.



Imports of Groundfish, Including Rosefish, Fillets

Imports of cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish fillets, etc., during April 1948 amounted to 4,762,171 pounds--145 percent more than the quantity received in April 1947. Total imports during the first four months of 1948 amounted to 16,569,666 pounds--a 127 percent increase over the corresponding period in 1947.

In accordance with new provisions of the tariff regulations concerning these imports, the Bureau of Customs increased the duty from 1-7/8 cents per pound to 2-1/2 cents per pound, effective May 10. Heavy imports in recent weeks made it apparent that the 6-months' quota of 12,466,000 pounds would be filled on or shortly after that date. Since the quota is now on a quarterly basis, imports received after July 1 will again enter at the reduced tariff of 1-7/8 cents per pound until the quota of 18,699,000 pounds for the first nine months of the year is exhausted.

International (Halibut) Fisheries Commission

The Canadian Government announced the resignation of A. J. Whitmore from the International (Halibut) Fisheries Commission and the appointment of Dr. Stewart Bates, Canadian Deputy Minister of Fisheries, to fill the position.



International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission

Announcement was made on April 8, 1948, by the Canadian Department of Fisheries that Olof Hanson, of Vancouver, B. C., has been named by the Government to succeed the late A. L. Hager, of Vancouver, as a member of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission.

The Commission was created by Canada and the United States about 10 years ago for the protection, preservation, and extension of the sockeye salmon fisheries of the Fraser River system. It has been responsible for such large scale undertakings as the construction of the fishways cut through the rocks at Hell's Gate Canyon on the Fraser to cure an obstructive condition which, over the years, had greatly diminished the sockeye run. Canadians already serving on the Commission are Thomas Reid, M. P., and A. J. Whitmore, Vancouver, who is also the Federal Chief Supervisor of Fisheries for British Columbia.

The new Canadian Commissioner has long been associated with the fishing industry in British Columbia although interested also in other important industrial undertakings. He has been president of several successful fishing companies and is thoroughly acquainted with the various branches of the salmon industry. For several terms, he served in the House of Commons but retired from political life in 1945.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

The wholesale price index for food continued to decline in March. Compared with the previous month, the decrease was 1.2 percent, but it was still 2.8 percent higher than the food index for the corresponding period a year ago, according to the regular monthly survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Average wholesale prices for canned salmon remained steady at the same levels as for February, but were still considerably higher than a year ago.

From mid-February to mid-March, retail food prices dropped for the second consecutive month to bring the food index for large cities combined to 202.3 percent of the 1935-39 average. This decline was slightly more than is usual for this season when food prices decrease by about 1 percent. Although food prices compared to the previous month dropped 1.2 percent, they were still 6.8 percent higher than the corresponding period a year ago.

The retail fresh, frozen, and canned fish index for March showed a slight decline of 0.4 percent compared to the previous month, but an increase of 17.9 percent

compared to a year ago. The fresh and frozen fish retail index dropped 0.7 percent compared with the previous month, but was still 10.6 percent higher than a year ago. Retail prices for canned pink salmon showed a slight increase but the rate of increase was too small to be significant.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		Mar. 13, 1948	Feb. 14, 1948	Mar. 15, 1947
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)				
All commodities	Index No.	159.8	+0.1	+7.8
Foods	do	171.2	-1.2	+2.8
Fish:				
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	5.171	0	+68.7
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	6.402	0	+19.4
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.				
	\$ per 100 lbs.	14.500	0	- 3.4
Retail: (1935-39 = 100)				
All foods	Index No.	202.3	-1.2	+6.8
Fish:				
Fresh, frozen, and canned	do	313.6	-0.4	+17.9
Fresh and frozen	do	274.4	-0.7	+10.6
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per lb. can	51.7	+0.2	+26.7

Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture reported the purchase of 72,500 cases of canned squid during April 1948 for U. S. foreign relief to Greece, compared with 6,465 pounds of frozen fillets and 1,385 cases of canned fish purchased during March 1948. No purchases were made in April 1947.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	April 1948		Jan. thru Apr. 1948	
		Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
FISH					
Fillets, cod, frozen	Lbs.	-	-	4,080	1,428
" , whiting, "	"	-	-	2,385	598
Total	"	-	-	6,465	2,026
Herring, canned ^{1/}	Actual Cases	-	-	47,145	144,264
Pollock, flaked, canned ^{2/}	" "	-	-	1,385	7,735
Whiting, canned ^{1/}	" "	-	-	351	1,074
Squid, canned ^{2/}	" "	72,500	362,625*	72,500	362,625
Total	" "	72,500	362,625	121,381	515,698
Grand Total		72,500	362,625	-	517,724

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

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

*F.o.b. origin.

