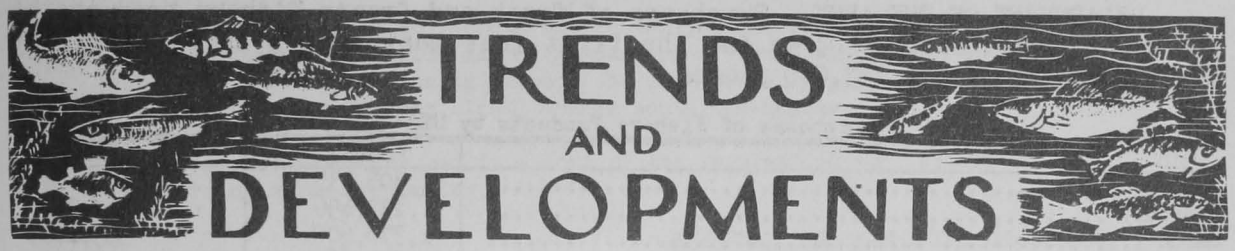


Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

One hundred twenty-two vessels were documented as fishing craft during April, fourteen less than in April 1947, but forty-three more than were documented in March of this year. A total of 293 fishing vessels were documented during the first four months of 1948, compared with 358 in the first third of 1947, according to information received from the Bureau of Customs, Treasury Department.

Sixteen of the vessels documented during April were registered at Louisiana ports; Washington followed with fourteen, Alaska with twelve, California with eleven, Texas and Oregon with nine each, and other States with lesser numbers.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	April		Four mos. ending with Apr.		Total
	1948	1947[1/]	1948	1947[1/]	1947[1/]
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	7	4	10	14	75
Middle Atlantic	8	7	13	19	70
Chesapeake Bay	3	2	11	17	97
South Atlantic and Gulf	47	40	123	135	490
Pacific Coast	34	51	91	108	411
Great Lakes	11	1	14	9	74
Alaska	12	27	28	47	47
Hawaii	-	4	3	9	23
Unknown	-	-	-	-	12
Total	122	136	293	358	1,299

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

Federal Purchases of Fish

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, May 1948: No purchases of fish were reported by the Department of Agriculture during May 1948 nor were any reported in May 1947.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	May 1948		Jan. thru May 1948	
		Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
FISH			Dollars		Dollars
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, " [2/]	" "	-	-	72,500	362,625*
Total	" "	-	-	121,381	515,698
Grand Total		-	-	-	517,724

1/Actual cases contain 24 - 15 oz. cans.
2/Actual cases contain 48 - 15 oz. cans.
*F.O.B. origin.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY: Purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products by the Army's Quartermaster Corps for the first four months in 1948 for military feeding amounted to 5,253,060 pounds.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USA*

1948	Pounds	Value
January	1,309,139	$ 509,674
February	1,237,656	462,052
March	1,378,600	555,168
April	1,327,665	457,540
Total January thru April	5,253,060	1,984,434

*Purchases made for U. S. Army, U. S. Navy, and U. S. Marine Corps.

Fishing Vessels Transferred to Mexican Registry

The table below shows the number of fishing vessels, formerly documented in the United States, which have been transferred to Mexican registry and flag from January 1, 1947 to May 27, 1948. These do not include vessels which may have been converted to fishing after transfer.

1947	48
1948:	
January	9
February	11
March	35
April	13
May 1-27	3
January 1-May 27	71
Total	119

Halibut Areas 1B and 2 Closed on June 1

The following notice was issued by the International Fisheries Commission on May 20, announcing the closing of Pacific halibut Areas 1B and 2:

N O T I C E

Under authority of the Convention between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada for the preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, and as provided by regulations effective March 6, 1948, the International Fisheries Commission has determined upon the date of

June 1st midnight

as that upon which Areas 1B and 2 as defined in the said regulations shall be closed to all halibut fishing except that provided for in Article I of the Convention.

Area 1B is defined to include all convention waters between a line running northeast and southwest through Cape Blanco Light and a line running northeast and southwest through Willapa Bay Light on Cape Shoalwater.

Area 2 is defined to include all Convention waters off the coasts of the United States of America and of Alaska and of the Dominion of Canada between Area 1F and a line running through the most westerly point of Glacier Bay, Alaska, to Cape Spencer Light, thence south one-quarter east.

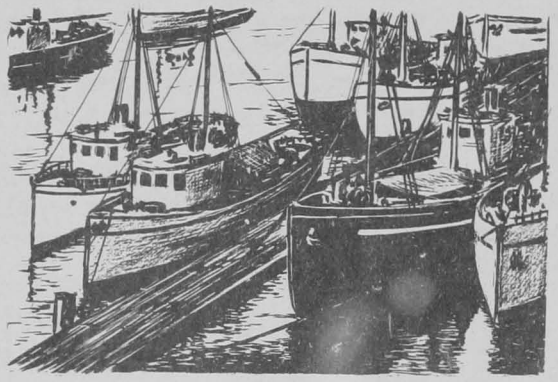
Reference should be had to a copy of the regulations for further details regarding these boundaries.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION
By
G. W. Nickerson, Chairman
Milton C. James, Secretary
May 20, 1948

This is the earliest closing date for Areas 1B and 2 in the history of the International Fisheries Commission. This year's season for Areas 1B and 2, with a quota of 25,500,000 pounds, 1,000,000 pounds over that set for 1947, was 32 days long compared with 39 days in 1947, and 42 days in 1946.

No closing dates have been announced as yet for other areas. The 1948 catch limits for Areas 3 and 4, which include that area west of Cape Spencer, are 28,000,000 and 500,000 pounds, respectively, the same as in 1947.

The 1948 halibut season is expected to be one of the shortest on record, although the catch is expected to be somewhat larger than last year.



HALIBUT AND SALMON FLEET - WEST COAST

The quantity of halibut that can be caught each year is set by international agreement between the United States and Canada. The 1948 quota is 54,000,000 pounds. In 1947, the season opened on May 1 and the quota of 53,000,000 pounds was reached on August 17. With more vessels engaged in the fishery this year, fishery experts believe that the quota from all areas may be attained by the end of July.

The Pacific halibut is an example of a resource which, after undergoing extreme depletion, was restored through careful study and regulation. As a result of the intensive fishery between 1910 and 1930, stocks of halibut in the North Pacific decreased alarmingly. Since 1930, management of the fishery by the United States and Canada under mutual agreement has increased the abundance and stabilized the fishery at a relatively high level of production. The annual yield is now about 10,000,000 pounds greater than under unrestricted fishing immediately preceding regulation and perhaps 20,000,000 pounds greater than if unrestricted fishing had continued.

Personnel Changes

BRANCH OF ALASKA FISHERIES

ALASKA APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED: To implement a new plan for closer coordination in the management of Alaska's valuable fishery and wildlife resources which the Fish and Wildlife Service put into operation on May 1, Albert M. Day, Service Director, announced the appointment on May 10, 1948, of George B. Kelez as Supervisor of Fisheries and Dan H. Ralston as Supervisor of Law Enforcement for the Territory.

The new supervisors will work under Clarence J. Rhode, recently appointed as Regional Director for the Service in Alaska.

Mr. Kelez, a native of Seattle, Wash., who has been with the Fish and Wildlife Service since April 1929 as a biologist engaged in Pacific salmon research, will be responsible for collecting information and data on which the annual commercial fishery regulations for Alaska will be based. His new duties will include the supervision of the Service's fishery biological research programs and activities in the Territory, the stream improvement program, the installation and operation of weirs, and spawning ground surveys.

In his new capacity, Mr. Ralston will have charge of the enforcement of laws pertaining to both fish and game in Alaska. He will supervise a staff of approximately 30 full time enforcement agents and 60 seasonal stream guards and patrol agents.

Mr. Ralston, a native of Oregon; has been with the Service since May 1942, as a wildlife agent at Ketchikan and Seward. Prior to that, he served for a year as Territorial highway patrolman and from April 1937 to April 1941 he was chief of police at Juneau.

BRANCH OF FISHERY BIOLOGY

FISHERY EXPERT ASSIGNED TO ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION: Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced on May 20 that the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Atomic Energy Commission have entered into an agreement for collaboration in planning work programs involving fish and wildlife studies of interest to the Commission.

Elmer Higgins, Chief of the Service's Branch of Fishery Biology, is being transferred to a new position in which he will devote full time to work involving the relationship of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service. In this position, Mr. Higgins will serve as a Special Assistant to Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and as Liaison Officer between the two agencies.

As an example of a joint problem that has already confronted the two agencies, Mr. Day cited the studies made in conjunction with the Bikini bomb tests to ascertain the effects of atomic explosions on the fishes--particularly the tunas--and other marine life in that area. Mr. Higgins served as Liaison Officer for the Service with the Joint Army-Navy group and assisted in planning and directing the necessary scientific studies.

Mr. Higgins, who was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1892, has been with the Fish and Wildlife Service since 1925. He received his A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of Southern California. In 1924, he was a graduate student in ichthyology at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.

From 1925 to 1946, he served as Director of the U. S. Biological Station at Key West, Fla., and was in charge of the Bureau's South Atlantic and Gulf Coast fishery investigations. On July 1, 1926, he was promoted to the position of Chief of the Division of Scientific Inquiry, which later became the Branch of Fishery Biology. In this position, Mr. Higgins has organized and directed the Federal Government's program of fishery research in Atlantic, Pacific, and inland waters.

He represented the United States Government as a member of the North American Council on Fishery Investigations from 1923, serving as an official delegate at various conferences of the Council. Since 1938, he has been secretary of this organization and is the author of numerous articles in scientific journals and trade papers.

DR. WALFORD TO SUCCEED ELMER HIGGINS: Appointment of Dr. Lionel A. Walford as Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Fishery Biology was announced on May 20 by Albert M. Day, Service Director.

Dr. Walford succeeds Elmer Higgins who has been assigned to special work with the Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Walford joined the staff of the former Bureau of Fisheries on July 1, 1936, as an aquatic biologist at Woods Hole, Mass. On November 1, 1937, he was transferred to Stanford University in California to specialize on Pacific pilchard studies.

In 1944, Dr. Walford was detailed to Washington, D. C. to compile and edit Fishery Resources of the United States, which was published in 1945 as Senate Document 51. This report to Congress contained the results of a survey of the marine and fresh-water fishery resources of the United States, its territories and possessions, made by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In September 1945, Dr. Walford became Assistant Chief of the Service's Division of Information. In April 1947, he returned to fishery research and since November 5, 1947, has served as Chief of the Section of Marine Fisheries of the Branch of Fishery Biology. In this capacity, Dr. Walford has directed marine fishery research investigations in the South Pacific, New England banks, northern New England, Middle Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Walford was born on May 29, 1905, in San Francisco, Calif. He received his A.B. degree in 1929 from Stanford University, Calif., and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in 1933 and 1935, respectively, from Harvard.

Since 1936, Dr. Walford has served as ichthyological editor of Copeia, the journal of the American Association of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He is also the author of Marine Game Fishes of the Pacific Coast from Alaska to the Equator, published in 1936, by the University of California Press.

State Department Appoints Fisheries Advisor

The Department of State announced on June 8 the appointment of Dr. Wilbert M. Chapman as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of State. Dr. Chapman will handle coordination of international fisheries matters for the Department. Since last fall, he has served as Director of the School of Fisheries of the University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. He will report for duty approximately July 1.

He was born at Kalama, Wash., 1910. He received a B.S. from the University of Washington in 1932, an M.S. in 1933, and a Ph.D. in 1937. He has been a Scientific Assistant with the International Fisheries Commission; a Biologist with the Department of Fisheries, State of Washington; an Aquatic Biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He was Curator of Fishes at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, from 1943 to 1947, but was on leave of absence in 1943 to the Board of Economic Warfare to supervise the development of fisheries in islands of the Pacific for the purpose of providing fish locally for American troops. In 1947, he traveled extensively to study the fisheries in England, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States on a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He became Director of the School of Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle, in 1947.

He is a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences; member of the Pacific Fishery Biologists, American Society of Ichthyologists, Institute of Food Technologists, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Western Society of Naturalists, Oceanographical Society of the Pacific, and Sigma Xi (National Science Honorary); and author of 80 odd publications on various subjects concerned with fish and fisheries.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Higher prices of farm products and most other foods were chiefly responsible for an increase of 1.9 percent in the wholesale index for all commodities on April 17, compared with the previous month, and an increase of 10.0 percent over a year ago, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. The wholesale index for foods followed the same trend and increased 4.4 percent over the previous month and 9.7 percent over the corresponding period a year ago.

Although wholesale prices of foods generally increased, the average wholesale prices of canned pink and red salmon remained at the same levels as the previous month, but canned pink salmon was 68.7 percent and canned red salmon, 17.2 percent higher than a year ago.

The increase of 2.8 percent in the retail food prices brought the retail food index for 56 large cities to 207.9 percent of the 1935-39 average, and less than 1 percent below the mid-January 1948 peak. This canceled most of the decline that occurred from January through March. Food prices normally advance about 0.5 percent from March to April, however, the usual seasonal decline in the retail index for fresh and frozen fish, and fresh, frozen, and canned fish took place. On the other hand, the average retail price of canned pink salmon increased 0.8 percent over the previous month and was 32.2 percent higher than the previous year.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit		Percentage change from--	
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)		Apr.17,1948	Mar.13,1948	Apr.12,1947
All commodities	Index No.	162.9	+1.9	+10.0
Foods	do	178.8	+4.4	+ 9.7
Fish:		Apr.1948	Mar.1948	Apr.1947
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	$ per doz. cans	5.171	0	+68.7
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	6.402	0	+17.2
Cod, cured, large shore,. Gloucester, Mass.	$ per 100 lbs.	14.500	0	+ 0.7
Retail: (1935-39 = 100)		Apr.15,1948	Mar.15,1948	Apr.15,1947
All foods	Index No.	207.9	+2.8	+10.6
Fish:				
Fresh, frozen, and canned	do	307.2	-2.0	+17.7
Fresh and frozen	do	264.9	-3.5	+11.5
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per lb. can	52.1	+0.8	+32.2

PLANTING AND MARKETING OYSTERS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

For a number of years, it was thought that the Pacific or Japanese oyster would not spawn in our waters, and the Japanese seed producers encouraged that belief. In 1936, however, temperature conditions were ideal, the oysters had probably become acclimated and a good set took place. Willapa Harbor, Washington, was covered with spat to such an extent, in fact, as to be a nuisance to some of the growers who, in paying for gathering oysters by the bushel, found that the spat on the marketable oysters decreased the number of grown oysters to the bushel and, as a result, tonging costs went up. Since that year, the Pacific oyster has spawned in other areas on our coast.

When the war cut off seed importation from Japan, oyster growers had to depend upon locally-grown seed. Each year, oyster shells, strung on wire, are hung upon racks in favorable areas for the catching of spat. Spawning varies from year to year, depending upon water temperature and other factors; in 1943, for example, there was a near failure resulting apparently from low water temperatures during that summer.

--Fishery Leaflet 52