

# TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

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

One hundred and thirty-four vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during May 1948, twelve more than in the previous month, but eighteen less than were documented in May 1947, according to the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department. A total of 427 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft during the first 5 months of 1948, compared with 510 in the first 5 months of 1947. Twenty-one of the vessels documented during May were registered at State of Washington ports, Louisiana followed with eighteen, California and Alaska with fourteen each, and North Carolina with thirteen.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	May		Five mos. ending with May		Total
	1948	1947 <sup>1/</sup>	1948	1947 <sup>1/</sup>	1947 <sup>1/</sup>
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England .....	10	4	20	18	75
Middle Atlantic .....	5	12	18	31	70
Chesapeake Bay .....	3	5	14	22	97
South Atlantic and Gulf .....	57	35	180	170	490
Pacific Coast .....	39	61	130	169	411
Great Lakes .....	4	6	18	15	74
Alaska .....	14	27	42	74	47
Hawaii .....	2	2	5	11	23
Unknown .....	-	-	-	-	12
Total .....	134	152	427	510	1,299

<sup>1/</sup> Revised.

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

## Canadian Halibut Vessels to Land in Alaskan Ports

The President on June 19, 1948, signed the bill H. R. 6110 (P. L. 718) which authorizes Canadian vessels to land halibut in Alaskan ports. United States Collectors of Customs in Alaskan ports of entry were instructed by the Treasury Department to permit Canadian halibut vessels to land halibut and sablefish beginning July 1, 1948. The full text of the law follows:

Public Law 718 -- 80th Congress  
Chapter 549 -- 2nd Session  
H. R. 6110

An Act

To permit the landing of halibut by Canadian fishing vessels to Alaskan ports, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding the provisions of section 4311 of the Revised Statutes (46 U.S.C.

251), Canadian fishing vessels engaged in the North Pacific halibut fishery only shall be permitted to land their catches of halibut and sable fish (black cod) in ports of entry in Alaska, upon compliance with applicable customs laws, during any period prior to January 1, 1950, in which the Secretary of State finds and so notifies the Secretary of the Treasury that United States fishing vessels engaged in the North Pacific halibut fishery only are granted comparable privileges in ports of British Columbia.

Approved June 19, 1948.

## Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, May 1948: Purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products by the Army's Quartermaster Corps during May 1948 for the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps amounted to 1,261,261 pounds valued at \$429,774.

## FAO Standing Advisory Committee on Fisheries

The Standing Advisory Committee on Fisheries for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), met in Washington on June 1 at the request of the Acting Director-General. The Committee is made up of ten technical fishery representatives, chosen by the Director-General to advise him on FAO fishery programs. They do not represent countries, but are named because of their knowledge and background in fishery matters. Nine of the ten members were present in Washington.

The Committee reviewed the work of the Fisheries Division and drew up recommendations for expanded divisional activity. The greatest attention was given to the most effective use of the limited funds available in operating a program aimed at increasing fish supplies.

On June 3, the Committee completed its report and presented it to the new Director-General, Norris E. Dodd, former Under Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The Committee is made up of the following:

Dr. D. J. van Dijk  
Chairman and Director  
Marketing Board on Fisheries Products  
Ministry of Agric., Fisheries & Food  
20 Wassenaarscheweg  
The Hague, Netherlands

Mr. Ray Gushue  
Chairman  
Newfoundland Fisheries Board  
St. John's, Newfoundland

Mr. A. W. Anderson  
Chief, Branch of Commercial Fisheries  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U. S. Dept. of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. B. Dineson  
Ministry of Fisheries  
16 Borgergade  
Copenhagen, Denmark

Mr. P. D. H. Dunn  
Fisheries Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment  
London, England

Dr. A. W. H. Needler  
Asst. Deputy Minister  
Department of Fisheries  
Ottawa, Canada

Mr. O. Brynjelsen  
Director of Fisheries  
Fiskeridirektoratet  
Bergen, Norway

Dr. Bains Prashad  
Fisheries Development Adviser to the  
Government of India  
New Delhi, India

Dr. C. von Bonde\*  
Director of Fisheries  
Beach Road, Sea Point  
Capetown, Union of South Africa

The Hon. Thor Thors  
Minister of Iceland  
Legation of Iceland  
Washington, D. C.

\*Not present at Washington meeting



## Large-mesh Net Tested by "Albatross III"

Preliminary studies of the escapement of small fish through a large-mesh cod end were made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service vessel, Albatross III. The vessel, on her third cruise, sailed on June 7 to Eastern Georges Bank and returned on June 11 to Woods Hole, Mass.

These studies, begun in the early 1930's, are an attempt to develop a method for allowing fish smaller than commercial sizes to escape. The nets used at present destroy large quantities of young fish. Mr. W. C. Herrington, former Chief of the North Atlantic Fishery Investigations, has shown that the use of a cod end with 4-5/8-inch mesh, stretched measure, would allow most of these small fish to escape. Mr. H. A. Schuck, biologist at the Woods Hole laboratory, estimates that during 1947 almost 17,000,000 baby haddock, too small to market, were discarded dead on Georges Bank alone. If these fish were left on the Bank until 1948, the industry could harvest at least an additional 30,400,000 pounds. At current prices, this poundage would bring the industry approximately an additional \$3,000,000.

One of the principal uncertainties about the use of the large-mesh nets is: Do the fish escape alive? The present series of experiments aboard the Albatross III is an attempt to obtain an answer. During Cruise 3, tows were made with a 1-1/2 Iceland net fitted with a 4-5/8-inch mesh cod end covered with a fine mesh cover. Large haddock were caught in the cod end and the small haddock went through the meshes to be caught by the cover. Both the haddock which were held in the cod end and those which escaped through it were tagged. Sixty haddock and two cod were tagged with a red and white celluloid disc attached by a pin to the gill cover. Rewards will be paid for the return of these tags to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

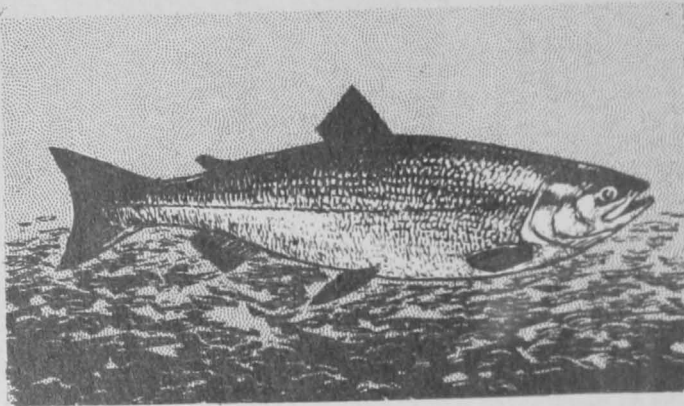
Rough weather made it impossible to handle the haddock gently when bringing the catch on deck. The fish were bruised and partly scaled. Therefore, it is planned to repeat the tagging on the next cruise.



## Pacific Sockeye Salmon Regulations for 1948

The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, on March 31, 1948, announced the 1948 sockeye salmon fishing regulations for the convention waters

of the United States and Canada, promulgated at the Commission meeting held in Seattle on March 31.



SOCKEYE SALMON

The Commission stated that: "The regulations were promulgated in an effort to build up this particular cycle of sockeye by providing ample escapement into the Fraser River watershed. Information based on previous cycles led the Commission to believe that this year's run would not be large, and the 1948 regulations are designed to enlarge its future cycle.

"Regulations set for U. S. convention waters are outlined as follows:

Opening date .....	July 18, 1:00 a.m.
Temporary closing date .....	August 13, 6:00 p.m.
Second closing date .....	September 1, 6:00 a.m.
Final closing date .....	November 10, midnight, regular salmon season closure outside the Initiative 77 line, and November 20, midnight, inside Initiative 77 line.
Gear restrictions: .....	Gill nets of less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches stretch measure mesh, unlawful on and after September 1, 6:00 a.m. Gill nets of 8 inches stretch mesh and over may operate during regular salmon season, provided that sockeye entangled therein are to be released unharmed immediately, if taken during sockeye closure. Purse seines unlawful to operate prior to July 18, 1:00 a.m., for all species in all waters.
Weekly closed period .....	36 hours, concurrent with regular salmon fishing weekly closed periods.
Unlawful possession of sockeye..	All periods closed to sockeye fishery in all convention waters.

"Regulations set for Canadian convention waters are outlined as follows:

Opening date .....	Areas 19, 20 and 21; July 18, 6:00 p.m.
Opening date .....	Areas 17, 18, and Fraser River district; July 28, 6:00 a.m.
Closing dates .....	To be based on catch equal to U. S. catch, including estimated Fall catch, and closed on 24 hours' notice by authority to be given Canadian Chief Supervisor of Fisheries.
Gear restrictions .....	Canadian fishermen may use no gill-net gear of mesh less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches stretch measure after September 13, 6:00 a.m.
Weekly closed period .....	72 hours, in all Canadian convention waters.
Unlawful possession of sockeye..	In Areas 19, 20, and 21 prior to 6:00 p.m., July 18;

In Areas 17, 18, and Fraser River District prior to 6:00 a.m., July 28; and,  
At such other times as may be ordered by Chief Supervisor."

The new regulations indicated that during all periods closed to the sockeye fishery it will be unlawful to possess any of this species taken from any of the American or Canadian convention waters.



## Proposed Changes in Railway Express Charges

The Railway Express Agency, Inc., on June 17, 1948, issued proposed classification changes which will become effective on or about September 1, 1948. These changes refer to minimum charges which must be added for ice in shipments of fresh and frozen fish and shellfish. Minimum charges for water ice will be in accordance with the proposed new classification:

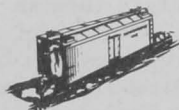
- (a) For fresh or frozen fish, excluding the items mentioned in (b), 50 percent is to be added to the net weight of the fish. At present, 25 percent is added.

In addition, a change is made with respect to the charge when dry ice is used and Rule 1(b) is to apply:

- (b) For crawfish, crawfish tails, crab meat, dressed frogs and frog legs, live or boiled lobsters, lobster meat, lobster tails, shrimp and shrimp meat, 75 percent is to be added to the net weight of the shipment. At present, 50 percent is added.
- (c) For mixed shipments of fish and oysters, 50 percent is to be added to the net weight of the shipment. At present, 25 percent is added.

In all these cases, the minimum addition is to be charged unless the actual gross weight is less at time of shipment. The Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that the increase will cost the industry about 1.2 million dollars or about 12 percent of the present railway express shipping costs. Interested shippers, desiring to enter objection to or otherwise comment on any of these classification changes had the opportunity to do so before August 1, 1948.

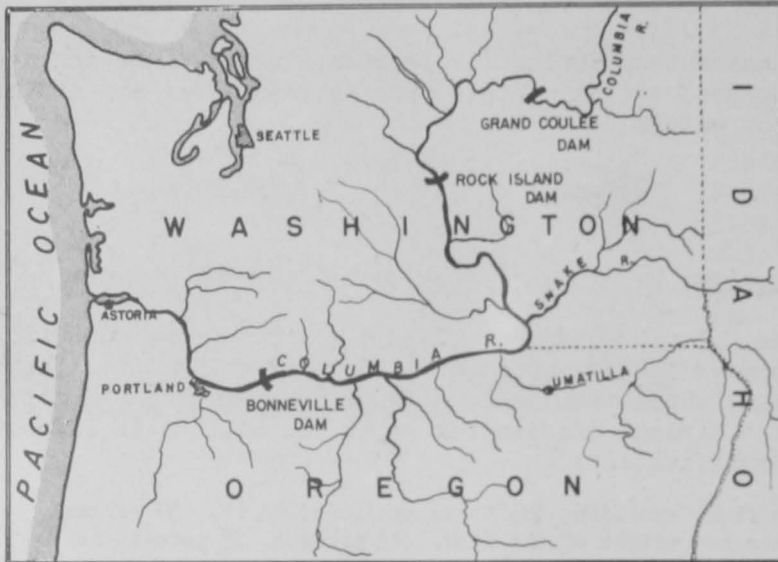
In the event that the Railway Express Agency, Inc., despite opposition of the shippers, will file the proposed changes with the Interstate Commerce Commission, a further opportunity will be available for shippers to protest these increases before that body.



## Salmon Restoration on Lower Columbia River

Development of salmon spawning grounds on Columbia River tributaries located below the McNary Dam was assured when President Truman signed the Army Civil Functions Appropriation Bill for 1949 on June 26, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced on July 9.

The bill authorizes the expenditure of \$1,000,000 for hatchery construction and river clearance by the Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating with the States of Washington and Oregon.



COLUMBIA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

The fund became available on July 1. It will be used to remove old dams, rock slides, and timber obstructions on tributary rivers. This will enable salmon and steelhead trout to migrate freely to rehabilitated spawning grounds.

Transfer of fish-spawning areas from headwater Columbia River streams to a number of lower-river tributaries has been made necessary by Columbia River Basin construction projects. Such dams as the McNary at Umatilla, Ore., to be completed within the

next four years, and the recently authorized power and navigation dams on the Snake River interfere with natural salmon and steelhead migratory movements.

Under the new Fish and Wildlife Service salmon restoration program, State fishery officials of Washington and Oregon will supervise the clearing of obstructions from the Columbia River tributaries and will operate their fish hatcheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service and the States will cooperate in rehabilitating old and constructing new hatcheries.



## West Coast Halibut Season Closed

The closing of the halibut season in Areas 1A, 3, and 4 was announced on June 17 by the International Fisheries Commission. The following is the notice issued by the Commission:

### NOTICE

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 announced that the closed season in Area 1A, Area 3 and Area 4 will begin at

12 midnight of the 11th day of July.

This will terminate all halibut fishing on the Pacific Coast of Canada and of the United States, including Alaska, until after the end of the closed season as defined in the said regulations.

Under the provisions of the aforesaid regulations, permits for the retention and landing of halibut caught incidentally to fishing for other species with set lines in any area will become invalid at 12 midnight of November 15th.

## INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSION

By

G. W. Nickerson, Chairman

Milton C. James, Secretary

June 17, 1948

This is the earliest closing date for these Areas in the history of the International Fisheries Commission. This year's West Coast halibut season was only 72 days long compared with 109 days in 1947. The 1947 season closed August 17, which was two days earlier than in 1946. The catch limits for Areas 3 and 4 remained the same as in 1947; namely, 28,000,000 and 500,000 pounds, respectively.

The closing of Areas 1A, 3, and 4 followed the trend established by the closing of Areas 1B and 2 on June 1. 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.

When complete data on production are available, they are expected to show that the 1948 catch will be somewhat larger than in 1947.



## Wholesale and Retail Prices

Sharp increases in prices of most farm products and foods were largely responsible for an increase of 0.4 percent in the wholesale index for all commodities on May 15 compared with the previous month, and an increase of 11.2 percent above

## Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		May 15, 1948	April 1948	May 17, 1947
<b>Wholesale: (1926 = 100)</b>				
All commodities	Index No.	163.5	+0.4	+11.2
Foods	do	178.9	+0.1	+11.0
<b>Fish:</b>				
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	+ 7.4
<b>Retail: (1935-39 = 100)</b>				
All foods	Index No.	210.9	+1.4	+12.4
<b>Fish:</b>				
Fresh, frozen, and canned	do	305.0	-0.7	+19.6
Fresh and frozen	do	261.3	-1.4	+14.9
Canned salmon: Pink	¢ per lb. can	52.4	+0.6	+29.7

the corresponding period a year ago, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. The wholesale index for foods followed the same trend

except that the increase was less and amounted to only 0.1 percent over the previous month, but was 11.0 percent over a year ago.

The average wholesale prices of canned pink and red salmon during May 1948 remained at the same levels as the previous two months. Canned pink salmon was, however, 68.7 percent, and canned red salmon, 17.2 percent higher than a year ago.

Retail prices of foods increased 1.4 percent as of May 15, 1948, and brought the retail food index for 56 large cities to 210.9 percent of the 1935-39 average, and 0.6 percent above the peak reached in January 1948, prior to the break in commodity market prices. The food index is now 12.4 percent above a year ago. The usual seasonal decline in the retail price index for fresh and frozen fish continued due to increased supplies and a slackening in demand. Fresh and frozen fish declined 1.4 percent compared with the previous month, but was 14.9 percent greater than a year ago. The average retail price of canned pink salmon continued to increase and was 0.6 percent over the previous month and 29.7 percent higher than the previous year.



## THE ELECTROSTATIC SMOKING OF SARDINES

In experiments on a semi-commercial scale, sardines were electrostatically smoked in unsealed cans. As the cans were conveyed through the smoking chamber, they formed the negative side of an electric field of 14,000 to 23,000 volts. In about 12 seconds passage time, the sardines were sufficiently smoked, and the conveyor carried the cans onward to be filled with oil and sealed.

Best results were obtained when the smoke passed from the smoke furnaces through a washing chamber--where soot and some of the moisture and acrid components were deposited--and then through a heater before entering the smoke precipitation chamber.

A pilot-plant apparatus was developed which is capable of smoking the sardines in the cans at a rate of 400 cans per minute. (Present methods of smoking require from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 hours, the rate of smoking depending on the amount of equipment and space available.) Several hundred cases of sardines have been electrically smoked in this apparatus and distributed commercially.

--Fishery Leaflet 270