



TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

During March 1949, 67 vessels of five net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft--12 less than in March 1948, according to the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department. Florida led with 9 vessels documented, followed by Texas with 8 vessels, and Louisiana and California with 7 vessels each. During January-March 1949, a total of 175 vessels were documented as compared with 171 during the same period in 1948.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, March 1949					
Section	March		Three mos. ending with March		Total 1948
	1949	1948	1949	1948	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	-	-	2	3	52
Middle Atlantic	7	3	14	5	40
Chesapeake Bay	3	3	15	8	59
South Atlantic and Gulf	32	30	85	76	541
Pacific Coast	11	32	30	57	347
Great Lakes	7	1	15	3	51
Alaska	6	9	12	16	81
Hawaii	1	1	2	3	12
Total	67	79	175	171	1,183

Note: Vessels have been assigned to the various sections on the basis of their home port.



ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products

Among the procurement authorizations for commodities and raw materials announced during May 1949 by the Economic Cooperation Administration were included authorizations totaling \$12,704,000 for the purchase of fishery products (mostly canned fish), compared with \$647,000 during April. The amount authorized for the purchase of fishery products during May was the largest since the beginning of the ECA program in April 1948.

The total amount authorized through May 31, 1949, for purchases in the United States and Possessions totaled \$8,896,800.

On May 12, ECA announced the cancellation of an authorization of \$15,000 which was to be used to purchase sperm oil from the United States and Possessions for delivery to the French Zone of Germany. In addition, on May 17, a decrease of \$3,000 was announced in an authorization for the purchase of sperm oil from the United States and Possessions for delivery to the Netherlands. This latter reduction does not represent a decrease in quantity, but rather an adjustment in price.

ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products, May 1949				
Product	Country of Origin	Procuring Agency	Recipient Country	Amount Authorized
Fish, canned	U.S. & Possessions	Belgium-Luxembourg	Belgium-Luxembourg	\$ 2,100,000
" "	U.S. & Possessions	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	2,200,000
" "	U.S. & Possessions	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	2,650,000
" " (salmon)	Canada	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	650,000
" " (")	Canada	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	6,500,000
Total canned fish				12,100,000
Fish Meal	Portuguese African Dependencies	U.S. Dept. Army	Bizone Germany	500,000
Oil, whale (sperm)	U.S. & Possessions	U.S. Dept. Army	Fr. Zone Germany	104,000
Total for May 1949				12,704,000
Total ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products, Apr. 1, 1948-May 31, 1949				
Fish, canned	U.S. & Possessions & Canada	United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium-Luxembourg, Greece, Italy	United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium-Luxembourg, Greece, Italy	14,110,800
" , salted	Newf. & Canada	Italy & Fr. W. Indies	Italy & Fr. W. Indies	5,179,000
Fish meal	Canada, Iceland, Norway & Angola	Denmark, Austria, & U.S. Dept. Army	Denmark, Austria, & Bizonia	3,957,361
Oil, herring	Iceland	U.S. Dept. Army	Bizone Germany	1,694,000
" , seal	Newfoundland	France	France	257,600
" , shark liver	Latin America except Argentine & Brazil	France	France	250,000
" , fish	U.S. & Possessions	U.S. Dept. Army & Bur. Fed. Supply	Bizone & French Zone of Germany & Korea	487,000
" , technical fish	U.S.	U.S. Dept. Army	Bizone Germany	100,000
" , whale (includes sperm oil)	Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, & U.S.	Austria, France, & U.S. Dept. Army	Austria, Bizone & Fr. Zone of Germany	7,160,150
Vit. A (Commercial grade, for stock feed)	U.S.	Netherlands	Netherlands	567,000
Grand Total Authorized				33,762,911
1/Where the recipient country is shown as the procuring agency, the Government of the participating country or its authorized agents or importers do the purchasing.				
2/Except salmon and tuna.				

Purchases from the United Kingdom of sperm oil for the United States national stockpile were announced on May 20 by the ECA in Washington and London. The purchase was made with counterpart funds set up by the United Kingdom to match U. S. dollar grants under the European Recovery Program.

Also on May 31, the ECA reported progress in a month's study to meet the spirit and letter of the recent Congressional directive to assist small business. The directive instructs ECA to provide small independent enterprises with advance information, where practicable, on proposed ECA-financed purchases and also to inform prospective buyers in the ECA nations of the products of the small suppliers in the United States. In releasing the statement, the ECA Administrator said he is considering a preliminary recommendation which calls for the establishment of a small business advisory committee. The group would advise a director of a small business division to be created to administer this program.



Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, MARCH 1949: The Army Quartermaster Corps, during March 1949, purchased 1,588,166 pounds (valued at \$510,200) of fresh and frozen

fishery products for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for military feeding, compared with 1,434,866 pounds (valued at \$478,040) for February 1949 and 1,378,600 pounds (valued at \$555,168) for March 1948. Purchases for the first three months in 1949 totaled 3,954,229 pounds (valued at \$1,332,972) compared with 3,925,395 pounds (valued at \$1,526,894) for the corresponding period the previous year.



Fishery Biology Notes

BIOLOGISTS GROW LARVAE OF THE SOFT AND SKIMMER CLAMS AND OLYMPIA OYSTERS: The Director of the Service's Biological Laboratory at Milford, Connecticut, reports that he and his staff have managed to grow larvae of the soft clam (*Mya arenaris*) and the skimmer clam (*Mactra solidissima*) to the setting stage. They also grew to the setting stage the Olympia oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) to study some aspects of the larval behavior of larviparous oysters in anticipation of soon receiving a small quantity of the European oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) from the Netherlands. Larvae of the larviparous oysters are much easier to handle and to grow than those of the Eastern oyster. The former seem to be voracious feeders, using many varieties of plankton; in this respect they differ from the larvae of the Eastern oyster which are extremely selective in their food.

SEA LAMPREY SPAWNING SURVEY: The parasitic sea lamprey in the Great Lakes started spawning migrations into the streams during May, according to the Service's Branch of Fishery Biology. Over 5,200 lampreys have been trapped in the weir at the mouth of the Ocqueoc River on Lake Huron and over 500 have been captured in Hibbards Creek, Wisconsin, on Lake Michigan.

Conservation officials of all the Great Lakes States are checking all streams for lamprey runs. The presence of lampreys in 108 streams has been verified by the Michigan Department of Conservation.

"RED TIDE" STUDY: The Service's research vessel, *Pompano*, studying the "red tide" in the Gulf area, made its first full-scale trip from May 9 to 13. Eight stations ranging from the mouths of the principal rivers to approximately 100 miles off-shore, were occupied and worked. Data on type of bottom, transparency, water temperatures, surface salinities, pH, inorganic phosphate, and oxygen were secured.



FAO Part in Technical Assistance Program Forwarded to World Food Council

A report containing 57 proposals for expanded activities in technical assistance for economic development has been transmitted by Director-General N. E. Dodd of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to FAO member governments.

This report is in connection with the report on the same subject prepared by the secretariats of the United Nations and eight specialized agencies and transmitted by the Secretary General of the UN to the Economic and Social Council, in response to a resolution of ECOSOC. The ECOSOC resolution followed proposals for such a program in the fourth point of President Truman's inaugural address.

The FAO document embodies those portions of the general cooperative program agreed upon by the executive heads of the UN and the specialized agencies which refer particularly to work in FAO's field. FAO proposes work in the field of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural services, and economic and statistical services.

These FAO aspects of the general program will be considered by the Council of FAO at its meeting beginning June 13 in Paris, and with the Council's recommendation at the annual Conference of 58 FAO member governments in November.

The proposals submitted by FAO include the following for fisheries:

There is little definite information on which to base an estimate of potential increases in fish production, but they could undoubtedly be substantial without harm to resources. There is also room for very great improvements in the quality of fisheries products. But to achieve these increases and improvements on an extensive scale is peculiarly difficult. The industry is made up mainly of many individual units. Most fishermen are poor. Government fisheries services, except in a few cases, are rudimentary or non-existent. The use of age-old techniques is the rule rather than the exception. Modernization is confined to a few countries. The industry bristles with unsolved problems and unanswered questions in production and marketing, technology and economics.

Before FAO was set up, no organized attempt had been made to deal with these problems on a world scale. Therefore, the organization has had to begin at the beginning. The most urgent needs are for the development of forward looking policies by governments and the necessity for well-serviced administrations for executing them. In addition, and growing out of this, there is the need for direct technical advice in response to requests by governments, the training of many more technicians, more opportunities for technical education of fishermen, improvements in marketing, and the systematic collection of facts not now known about the world's fisheries resources.

In the economic development of underdeveloped countries, fisheries can play a considerable part in many cases. The limiting factor is the lack of trained personnel, and therefore, training and education are placed first in the proposed projects.

The following table of proposed projects in the field of fisheries suggests their nature and their initial costs:

	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Second Year</u>
Training and Education - Interchange of fisheries workers (3 technicians to be employed in the first year, and 3 in the second)	\$ 98,594	\$ 98,594
Training and Education - Expanding basic training facilities (4 technicians to be employed in the first year, and 4 in the second)	189,854	189,854



	<u>First Year</u>	<u>Second Year</u>
Development of national fisheries services (4 technicians to be employed in the first year, and 4 in the second) .	78,928	78,928
Expansion of fisheries advisory services (9 technicians to be employed in the first year, and 9 in the second) .	152,598	152,598
Experimental fishing craft (7 technicians to be employed in the first year, and 7 in the second) - costs for the first year to include grants of \$500,000 to governments	591,670	91,670
Fish production in small bodies of water (5 technicians to be employed in the first year, and 5 in the second)	96,410	96,410



FAO Studies Plans for Future Aid to Latin America

Preliminary to the establishment of an FAO regional office for Latin America, the Food and Agriculture Organization has forwarded to member governments there a review of the Organization's work program in Latin America during 1949, together with an outline of its longer-term plans for contributing to an expansion of the region's agriculture, forests, and fisheries, according to a May 9 FAO news release.

The note to member governments also asks their views on the best manner of bringing the Latin American governments together for a regional consultation in preparation for the Fifth Annual FAO Conference in Havana in November. Pre-Conference consultations of this sort are to be held in the main regions of the world. They will greatly aid the work of the full Conference when it considers the food and agriculture situation and its problems on a world-wide basis.

A Regional Representative for Latin America, representing the Director-General, will be appointed. At first, he will work out of FAO headquarters in Washington, making frequent visits to Latin American countries to discuss particular problems and the help FAO can give. Later a Regional Office, staffed initially with the Regional Representative, three liaison officers, and appropriate clerical assistants, will be established at a site in Latin America where facilities are best for the work of the office.

Meanwhile, the Director-General has had the advice of the Latin American Advisory Committee of the FAO Council, made up of the Council's four Latin American members (Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico), and a Latin American Liaison Office has been set up at headquarters. This office maintains close relationship with the permanent staff of the Latin American diplomatic missions in the United States and with the Latin American members of the FAO Council. It consults directly with officers of member governments through visits by the Liaison Officers.

Under this tentative set-up, work has gone forward along many important lines. With particular reference to fisheries, a representative of FAO's Fisheries Division is investigating the possibility of convening a conference to establish a Latin American Fisheries Council along lines similar to the council established last year in the Indo-Pacific area.

FAO has contributed several members to the joint FAO-UN Economic Commission for Latin American Working Party which has been surveying the 20 Latin American republics investigating shortages of agricultural requisites, including fisheries equipment.

Future Work Programs: With respect to future FAO programs in Latin America, the Director-General looks forward to the formation of a unified plan rather than a collection of projects, important as these may be. It is felt that effort should be directed towards establishing a scale of priorities which would permit FAO to develop projects in such a way that their benefits could be utilized to a maximum by member governments.

A principal objective of the pre-Conference regional consultation is to obtain a diagnosis of the food and agricultural ills of member nations so that they may take intelligent remedial action.

FAO points out that studies of this kind cannot be completed in a matter of months. Instead, it is desirable that this kind of study will be undertaken in each country as a continuing process to be perfected year by year, producing for each succeeding plan an improved basis, a higher degree of adjustment to the country's food and agricultural needs, and a higher degree of probability of execution.

As one means of giving impetus to the recommended studies, and of assuring effective relationships between FAO and individual member countries, it is suggested that a strong National Committee be maintained in each country. They would be of great value, too, in assuring effective cooperation between governments of the region. FAO National Committees are now established in Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.



Halibut Areas 1B and 2 Closed on June 3

The International Fisheries Commission announced on May 23, 1949, that Pacific halibut fishing in Areas 1B and 2 were closed at midnight June 3, 1949, in accordance with the following 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 April 28, 1949, the International Fisheries Commission has determined upon the date of

June 3rd 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 1 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 1B 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

The 1949 season for these areas (with a quota of 25,500,000 pounds) was 34 days long compared with 32 days in 1948, 39 days in 1947, and 42 days in 1946.

No closing dates have been announced as yet for other areas. The 1949 catch limits for areas 3 and 4 are 28,000,000 and 500,000 pounds respectively, the same as in 1948.



Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

The Department of State announced on May 20 the United States Delegation to the First Meeting of the International Whaling Commission which convened at London, England on May 30, 1949. The Delegation was as follows:

Chairman

Dr. A. Remington Kellogg, Director,
National Museum, Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Advisers

Charles I. Bevans, Deputy Assistant to the Legal Adviser,
Officer of Treaty Affairs,
Department of State.

Dr. Hilary J. Deason, Chief,
Office of Foreign Activities, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Department of the Interior.

The meeting was convened by the Government of the United Kingdom in accordance with the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. The Convention, which entered into force on November 10, 1948, was formulated at the International Whaling Conference held at Washington, D. C., in December 1946. Twelve countries have ratified or adhered to the Convention to date, namely: Australia, Canada, France, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Sweden, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, and the United States. All of these nations were represented at the meeting, except Panama. In addition, observers were present from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, and New Zealand, which signed the Convention but have not as yet ratified; and also from FAO and SCAP.

The meeting was concerned primarily with organizational procedures governing the work of the Commission; arrangements for the collection, coordination, and interpretation of whaling statistics; and the location of the office.

For the present, the office of the Commission will be at the Fisheries Department, St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, Westminster, London, S. W. The next meeting has been set for mid-July 1950 at Oslo, Norway.

Various committees were constituted which reviewed the restrictive and other Articles of the 1946 Convention and the Schedule attached thereto. Any alteration of the Schedule requires a three-fourths majority and comes into force only after being deposited for the various periods set out in the Convention.

Although a number of amendments to the Schedule were discussed, the only resolutions which the Commission passed by the necessary majority vote were with respect to the pelagic whaling season which was fixed from December 22 to April 7, instead of the existing December 15 to April 1.

Secondly, the Commission decided to relax to some extent the total ban on the taking of humpback whales south of 40° S. latitude. In the future, the taking of 1,250 humpback whales will be permitted in this area, in addition to the 16,000 blue whale units already established.

However, these alterations will not come into force until the Contracting Governments have been notified, and until the necessary periods for which the alterations have to be deposited have expired.

Dr. B. Bergersen of Norway was elected Commission chairman for a three-year term, and Dr. A. Remington Kellogg, of the United States, vice-chairman.

The main duty of the Commission, which was established under an Article of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling drawn up by 15 countries at the International Whaling Conference held in Washington in 1946, is to amend from time to time the provisions of the Schedule of the Convention which are, in effect, the regulations governing the conduct of whaling by the contracting governments. These regulations deal with conservation and utilization of whale resources generally, including:

- (a) Protected and unprotected species;
- (b) Open and closed seasons;
- (c) Open and closed waters, including the designation of sanctuary areas;
- (d) Size limits for each species;
- (e) Time, methods, and intensity of whaling (including the maximum catch of whales to be taken in any one season);
- (f) Types and specifications of gear and apparatus and appliances which may be used;
- (g) Methods of measurement; and
- (h) Catch returns and other statistical and biological records.



Meeting on Canned Tuna Standards Held

A meeting of the Food Standards Committee of the Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Agency, was held during the week of June 27 to consider and make recommendations as to definitions and standards of identity, standards of quality, and standards of fill of container for canned tuna fish, and for asparagus and peas.

The Committee received informal recommendations and suggestions from interested individuals in the affected industries, consumers and consumer organizations, state regulatory officials, and any other interested persons.

The open meetings of the committee are informal and should not be confused with the formal hearings required under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act before standards are adopted.



Oyster Harvesting Halted in Alabama

A year-round open season experiment on oyster gathering in Alabama coastal waters was ordered closed in late April by the Alabama Conservation Director with May 1 as the effective date, according to the April-May 1949 issue of Alabama Conservation. In an effort to determine the best means of taking the oyster crop, the Director on May 1, 1948, ordered a full twelve-month open season. The experiment indicated that such a season was not practical and not satisfactory for the state's seafood industry.

Closure of the season on oysters will not halt the Department of Conservation's efforts to rebuild the coast's sea food industry. An extensive planting program is being completed that will result in some 60,000 barrels of seed oysters being placed in the coastal waters as an aid to future production.

In addition, planting of shells has been undertaken as another method of increasing the oyster crop in Mobile, Portersville, and other oyster-producing waters.



Trends and Conditions in the Fisheries, First Quarter 1949

Supplies of fishery products in the continental United States during the first quarter of 1949 were sufficient to maintain per capita civilian consumption at about the same rate as a year earlier, according to the April-June 1949 issue of The National Food Situation of the Department of Agriculture. The net movement of frozen fish into domestic distribution channels during the January-March period was slightly larger than in the same months of 1948. Trade reports indicate that the flow of the major species of canned fish into consumer channels was more sluggish than in the first quarter of 1948.

Favorable weather and wholesale market prices in the eastern part of the United States, especially in the New England and Middle Atlantic States, resulted in a larger supply for the fresh fish market than in the first quarter of 1948. During the winter season of 1949, the quantity of fish frozen commercially for eventual food use was more than 2.5 million pounds below the total of 25.5 million pounds produced during January-March 1948. As far as the consumer retail market was concerned, this decline in freezings was more than offset by larger net withdrawals of fish from cold storage. The reduction in cold storage stocks between January 1 and April 1, 1949, was approximately 7.5 million pounds greater than the decline of 54.0 million pounds during the same period last year.

During the April-June quarter, the commercial catch and commercial freezing of fish for food use is expected to increase seasonally, and cold storage stocks will reach their low point of the year.

Domestic supplies of the major species of canned fish appear to be as great thus far in 1949 as they were during the corresponding period last year. Present supplies are expected to be sufficient to meet consumer demand at prevailing prices until the new pack starts moving to market in volume during the second half of the year. Supplies of canned tuna and sardines (including pilchards) are larger this year than in the same months of 1948, while those of salmon are smaller. With a decline in retail prices of canned tuna, more tuna may be consumed and somewhat less salmon.

Imports of frozen groundfish (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish) fillets during January-March 1949, while about 5 percent below those of January-March last year, are still large. Canned fish imports have been increasing during the past year but as yet are not sufficiently large in volume to have any adverse affect on the price of the domestic products.

Export outlets for practically all fishery products of the United States have been very limited compared to the prewar and war years. Prospects for this year are not favorable for larger exports than in 1948 because of the continued shortage of dollar resources in foreign countries, the need for conserving a large part of these funds for machinery and equipment, and the continued ample supplies of fishery products in producing countries that are willing to conduct trade on the basis of soft currency or barter.



Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations Collects Tuna Data

Locality of catch, catch composition, breeding conditions, and size and weight frequencies of various commercially-caught tunas, have been obtained from 21 long-line vessels by the Section of Biology and Oceanography of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations stationed at Honolulu, T. H. Lengths and weights of 231 individuals (largely big-eyed and yellowfin tunas) were added to the 650 records previously taken.

Members of the staff made a four-day trip to the Kona coast of Hawaii to study tuna fishing methods. The staff has continued morphometric measurements on tunas landed by long-line vessels at the Honolulu market. Though the number of fish brought in from April 18 through April 23 was small, catches landed during the last week of April showed a marked increase over those made during the earlier part of the month. Arrangements have been made with Hawaiian Tuna Packers for taking a series of morphometric measurements on skipjack landed at Kewalo Basin as the fish are brought into the packing plant. Computations will be completed in April on the comparison of the morphometric data for African and Central American yellowfin tuna. A joint project with the Territorial Division of Fish and Game resulted in the accumulation of 146 sets of morphometric observations from tunas taken near the Society and Marquesas Islands. Observations were made also upon their sexual maturity and food habits.



U. S. Pack of Canned Mackerel, 1948

The United States pack of canned mackerel (including jack mackerel) in 1948 amounted to 1,281,192 standard cases, valued at \$9,850,834 to the packers. This was a decline of 27 percent in volume and 34 percent in value compared with the previous year. Most of the decline occurred in California where the production was 458,225 cases less than in 1947. The Atlantic Coast pack of 262,219 cases, canned principally in Massachusetts, was the second largest in history.

The canners' average price per standard case in 1948 was \$7.69 compared with \$8.56 in 1947 and \$7.87 in 1946. The average price per case rose steadily from

Table 1 - Pack of Canned Mackerel (including Calif. Jack Mackerel), 1948 (Quantity and Value to the Cannery)			Table 2 - Pack of Canned Mackerel (including Calif. Jack Mackerel), 1948, By Size of Can and Case (Quantity and Value to the Cannery)		
State and Style of Pack	Standard Cases	Value	Size of Can and Case	Actual Cases	Value
California:			15-oz. net, tall (48 cans)	1,023,660	\$7,447,764
Natural ¹	955,251	\$6,972,308	15-oz. net, oval (48 cans)	121,084	1,003,276
In tomato sauce ..	63,722	569,623	15-oz. net (24 cans)	136,766	570,366
Total	1,018,973	7,541,931	14-oz. net (24 cans)	18,863	80,427
Maine	13,980	119,099	8-oz. net (48 cans)	8,043	50,749
Massachusetts ² ..	196,937	1,761,884	Other sizes (standard cases)...	54,973	698,252
Md. and Va.	51,302	427,920	Total	1,363,389	9,850,834
Total	262,219	2,308,903			
Grand Total ..	1,281,192	9,850,834			

1/Includes small quantity of fillets.
2/Includes small quantity of tail tips.
Note: "Standard cases" represent the various-sized cases converted to the equivalent of 48 1-lb. cans to the case, each can containing 15 oz. of fish.

a low of \$2.88 in 1940 to a high of \$8.56 in 1947. However, the 1948 price is lower than in 1946.

Mackerel were canned in 48 plants in California, 8 plants in Massachusetts, 6 plants in Maryland, 5 plants in Maine, and 1 plant in Virginia.

Table 3 - Pack of Canned Mackerel, 1939-48 (Quantity and Value to the Cannery)						
Year	California		Atlantic Coast		Total	
	Std. Cases	Value	Std. Cases	Value	Std. Cases	Value
1948	1,018,973	\$ 7,541,931	262,219	\$ 2,308,903	1,281,192	\$ 9,850,834
1947	1,477,198	12,571,059	277,752	2,447,574	1,754,950	15,018,633
1946	723,688	5,599,894	238,462	1,975,397	962,150	7,575,291
1945	638,191	3,590,614	54,557	456,077	692,748	4,046,691
1944	992,280	5,096,749	232,780	1,937,248	1,225,060	7,033,997
1943	831,660	4,379,996	105,591	891,207	937,251	5,271,203
1942	616,436	3,000,604	104,753	692,478	721,189	3,693,082
1941	843,719	2,947,233	91,282	556,485	935,001	3,503,718
1940	1,400,016	3,986,695	21,878	114,674	1,421,894	4,101,369
1939	878,890	2,498,428	10,499	90,267	889,389	2,588,695



U. S. Pack of Canned Tuna and Tuna-like Fishes, 1948

The production of canned tuna and tuna-like fishes in 1948 totaled 7,037,615 standard cases valued at \$112,610,296 compared with 5,894,495 cases valued at \$90,609,175 in 1947.

The total 1948 pack in Washington amounted to 90,253 cases, valued at \$1,643,697, while the production in Oregon totaled 482,637 cases valued at \$9,082,323.

The actual cases packed were as follows: 6,891,649 cases were packed in the No. 1/2 tuna can (48 cans to the case); 72,717 cases were packed in the No. 1 tuna can (48 cans to the case), each can containing 13 ounces net weight of solid or 12

Pack of Canned Tuna and Tuna-like Fishes, 1948 (Quantity and Value to the Cannery)

Species	California		Wash. & Oregon		Me., Md., & Mass.		1948 Total		1947 Total	
	Std. Cases	Value	Std. Cases	Value	Std. Cases	Value	Std. Cases	Value	Std. Cases	Value
Albacore	879,814	\$ 16,366,937	419,429	\$ 8,192,381	-	-	1,299,243	\$ 24,559,318	716,029	\$14,081,736
Yellowfin	3,891,612	60,262,399	126,341	2,090,436	-	-	4,017,953	62,352,835	3,162,175	47,381,523
Bluefin	1,148,778	2,378,079	-	-	-	-	1,148,778	2,378,079	447,853	6,933,961
Skipjack	1,026,706	15,905,662	23,732	389,842	-	-	1,050,438	16,295,504	969,181	14,327,124
Bonito	185,363	2,392,346	-	-	-	-	185,363	2,392,346	260,943	3,304,847
Yellowtail	188,776	2,238,982	-	-	-	-	188,776	2,238,982	185,998	2,211,000
Mixed species	27,780	437,075	3,388	53,361	26,729	\$360,288	57,897	850,724	82,321	1,106,066
Tonno, solid	89,167	1,542,508	-	-	-	-	89,167	1,542,508	69,955	1,262,918
Total, solid	3,919,132	64,881,667	388,099	8,032,772	26,729	2,360,288	4,333,960	73,274,727	3,789,266	61,231,243
" , flakes	2,518,864	36,642,321	184,791	2,693,248	-	-	2,703,655	39,335,569	2,105,229	29,377,932
Grand total	6,437,996	101,523,988	572,890	10,726,020	26,729	360,288	7,037,615	112,610,296	5,894,495	90,609,175
Grand total 1947	5,411,004	81,448,744	483,491	9,160,431	3/	3/	-	-	5,894,495	90,609,175

1/Includes a few cases of Atlantic Coast little tuna, packed in California.

2/Includes flakes.

3/Up until 1948, the production of tuna and tuna-like fishes on the East Coast was negligible.



Virginia Fisheries Trends, May 1949

Alewife Fishery: This season's opening price of \$12.00 per thousand for alewives to the fishermen has dropped to \$5.00 per thousand fish, according to a May 15 report from the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist stationed at Weems, Virginia. This drop was due partly to an oversupply and partly to the large percentage of "down-run" or spawned-out fish appearing in the catches during the first part of May. Fishermen, who formerly were able to sell locally all they caught, are now attempting to sell them anywhere within trucking distance. Commercial haul seining near the Chickahominy River dam has been stopped by the Virginia Commissioner of Fisheries.

All of Virginia's alewife canneries are limited as to the amount of fish they can handle. There are 13 plants in the Potomac-Rappahannock section and 1 on the Chickahominy. The largest of these are equipped to handle about 8 million and the smallest about 2 million fish per season; all are operating at capacity. A hint of the size of the alewife catch is found in the April production reports from the firms processing alewife cuttings—roughly twice the amount processed last year.

The production of salted alewives will be increased this season. Estimates by the trade predict twice the 1948 output when more than 8 million fish were salted. However, there will be a decline in pickled alewives as the demand for this product has dropped due to increasing imports of pickled herring.

Pearl Essence: Firms have again started to produce pearl essence in Virginia after a lapse of some years. The price paid for scales varies from 5 cents per pound at the canneries or salters to 12 cents per pound from the fisherman. The scales from the plants, since they are subject to drying and repeated handling yield less of the pearl substance than scales purchased direct from the fisherman at the time he lifts his net. Most of the alewife fishermen provide themselves with a scale net of fine mesh which is held under the main net. While the main net is being lifted, the fish are stirred about and many of the scales are thus rubbed off. A New York and a Maine company are represented in this Virginia industry.

Shad Fishery: The shad catch has not varied significantly from that of 1948, although prices have been consistently higher. The average weight of Virginia shad seems to have reached its lowest--in the Rappahannock River shad taken by both pound and gill nets averaged 3-1/10 pounds for roes and 2-2/5 pounds for bucks.

Menhaden Fishery: Many pound netters, who generally fish for croakers, have been bringing in catches of menhaden due to the scarcity of the former species. The menhaden are sold to processors and crabbers for \$3.00 to \$4.00 per thousand fish.

Menhaden oil has dropped to about 5 cents a pound from a high of about 22 cents a pound a little over a year ago. In contrast, the price of scrap and meal has remained high.

Practically all of the Virginia menhaden operators are planning on cooperating to have a plane scout for the menhaden schools during the coming season.



Washington and Oregon Fisheries Trends, May 1949

OTTER-TRAWL FISHERY: The West Coast otter-trawl fleet, on the whole, has been forced into almost complete inactivity since mid-April when decreases amounting up to fifty percent were announced on prices paid to the fishermen, according to a May 20 report from the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist stationed at Seattle. Union spokesmen report that only a few vessels are fishing out of Eureka. One company is expected to resume filleting operations upon the completion of plant improvements. Another company has reduced its fleet of 32 vessels to 6. These have been operated principally for livers, and only limited quantities of fish have been taken. Puget Sound trawl fish buyers have operated on a curtailed basis since the close of the Lenten Season.

In view of the recently reduced liver prices, operations of the remaining active fishing fleet may be curtailed even further. Little activity is expected in this fishery until the closing of the halibut season.

Union spokesmen report that an effort is being made to establish a uniform wholesale price scale for the West Coast trawl fleet.

COLUMBIA RIVER SALMON FISHERY: One of the most uncertain Columbia River fishing seasons, since the war, confronted the gill netters, cannery workers and packers as the spring salmon season got under way. Complicating the normal uncertainty as to the quality and run of salmon up the Columbia River, are the uncertain status of fish prices, market and management. Early reports indicate that the catches dipped below the 1948 season by 20 to 30 percent. This decrease, according to the packers, was attributed partly to early high waters in the Columbia. Gill netters started the season with a price cut of 7 cents per pound below the 1948 level. This marked the first fish price reduction in 17 years for the Columbia River gill-net fishermen's 100-year old industry.

Cannery workers, seeking a wage boost of 13 cents an hour, faced the possibility of taking last year's minimum price of \$1.18 cents an hour, and resumed work pending the outcome of the negotiations.

The packers started the season with a considerable portion of last year's salmon pack still on hand. Fish has become more difficult to sell. The usual

seasonal gains during Lent failed to boost the market or reduce large inventories. One company has already announced a cut of \$3.50 per case on fancy chinook for the 1949 pack, and it is expected that reductions will be made in the 1948 carry-over. Packers are hopeful that reduced prices will improve the movement of canned salmon on the markets throughout the nation. Most of the leading packers have engaged in seasonal production but two of the companies are planning only limited operations.

TUNA FISHERY: Early reports indicate that the 1949 tuna prices also will be far below last year. Prices of canned albacore, which was up to \$22.00 and \$23.00 per case last summer, dropped throughout the winter months, until some began selling at \$19.00, more moved at \$18.00 and \$17.00 and some even fell to a low of \$15.00 per case. Packers report that albacore sales made at reduced prices have been good and that inventories have been reduced. Early 1948 albacore landings which brought \$600 per ton went down during the season to about \$450. Indications are that early 1949 landings will be sold at a greatly reduced price.

ALASKA SALMON FISHERY: Wage agreements and fish prices in Alaska for the salmon fisheries were still uncertain at the middle of May, and negotiations were still being carried on. Cannery crews are being flown north this year.

A number of trade analysts are forecasting the Alaska pack to be the poorest since 1927 due to anticipated short or poor runs in several districts, fishing restrictions, heavy taxes, and the prospects of a weakening market. It is expected that 1949 will be the "cycle" or "big" year for pink salmon in Puget Sound and some estimates run as much as 800,000 cases.



1948 U. S. Per Capita Fish Consumption Increased

Americans ate three-quarters of a pound more fish and shellfish per person in 1948 than they did in 1947, the Service disclosed on June 3.

Service statisticians estimated the 1948 annual per capita consumption of commercial fishery products in the United States at about 11.5 pounds (edible weight), compared to 10.8 in the previous year (see table).

Because of a larger catch, higher imports, and decreased exports of fishery products during 1948, 240 million pounds (edible weight) more fish were available for consumption than in the previous year. Of this amount, the Service estimated that 132 million pounds were consumed and the balance went into increased stocks (principally canned fish).

The greater availability of canned fish to the general public, the more widespread marketing and use of frozen fishery products, and the greater promotion of fishery products by the industry and the Government, are credited for the increase.

Year	Lbs.
1948 (Est.)	11.5
1947	10.8
1946	11.0
1945	10.6
1944	8.9
1935-39 Average	11.1

Wholesale and Retail Prices

The wholesale index for all commodities on April 12 was 157.6 percent of the 1926 average, 0.5 percent lower than four weeks ago and 3.1 percent less than the comparable period in 1948. The wholesale index for all foods, which started to rise again in March, continued to increase and rose 0.8 percent compared to mid-March 1949, but it was still 6.5 percent lower than on April 13, 1948, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

Wholesale and Retail Prices				
Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		Apr. 12, 1949	Mar. 15, 1949	Apr. 13, 1948
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)				
All commodities	Index No.	157.6	-0.5	-3.1
Foods	do	164.2	+0.8	-6.5
Fish:				
Canned salmon, Seattle:		Apr. 1949	Mar. 1949	Apr. 1948
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	5.664	-4.2	+9.5
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	6.402	-3.0	0
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 lbs.	15.500	0	+6.9
Retail: (1935-39 = 100)				
All foods	Index No.	Apr. 15, 1949	Mar. 15, 1949	Apr. 15, 1948
Fish:		202.8	+0.6	-2.5
Fresh, frozen and canned	do	321.3	-1.4	+4.6
Fresh and frozen	do	261.4	-2.0	-1.3
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per lb. can	60.4	-0.5	+15.9

Canned salmon wholesale prices in April 1949 dropped below the average prices for March. Canned pink salmon in April declined 4.2 percent below the March price, but was still 9.5 percent above the April 1948 average price. Canned red salmon was 3.0 percent lower and had reached the same level a year ago.

Average retail food prices increased 0.6 percent from mid-March to mid-April, but were still 1.0 percent below January of this year and 6.5 percent below the high of July 1948. Retail fresh and frozen fish prices on April 15 were 2.0 percent below mid-March and 1.3 percent lower than mid-April 1948. April ushers in the heavy production season for fresh and frozen fish and accounts for the decline. Canned pink salmon prices dropped only 0.5 percent below mid-March, but were still 15.9 percent higher than a year ago. The combined fresh, frozen and canned fish index was 1.4 percent lower than on March 15, but still 4.6 percent higher than on April 15, 1948.

