

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Branch of Commercial Fisheries Program for Fiscal Year 1951

The Branch of Commercial Fisheries of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned with the activities and welfare of the commercial fisheries in the United States and its Territories. Functions of the Branch include:

- (1) Investigations to improve and develop methods for catching, handling, preserving, storing, and transporting fishery products and byproducts.
- (2) Determination of the composition, properties, and nutritive value of fishery products and byproducts.
- (3) Development and improvement of fish-cookery and preservation methods.
- (4) Studying problems of sanitation and plant operation.
- (5) Exploratory fishing to determine character and extent of resources, and to test, devise, and demonstrate the most effective gear and vessel types.
- (6) The collection, analysis, and dissemination of statistics on the production, processing, and storage of fishery products.
- (7) Conducting a Fishery Market News Service for the collection, publication, and dissemination of current information on fishery commodities.
- (8) Conducting an educational service to promote the free flow of fishery products in commerce and disseminate fisheries information.
- (9) Developing and increasing markets for domestic fishery products by conducting fishery promotional programs and assisting the industry in overcoming problems of production and distribution.
- (10) Economic research on costs, employment, labor, and prices in the fishery industries.
- (11) Collection of data on the activities of fishery cooperatives as required to assure their conformity with the provisions of the Fishery Cooperative Marketing Act of 1934.

For administration and operational purposes, the Branch is divided into six sections: Statistical; Fishery Market News; Technological; Economics and Cooperative Marketing; Exploratory Fishing and Gear Development; and Educational and Market Development.

The Branch's program by sectional functions, for the Fiscal Year 1951 (July 1, 1950—June 30, 1951), developed in accordance with the amount of funds appropriated by the Eighty-First Congress, is as follows:

STATISTICAL SECTION: Collects and publishes economic and biological data on the yield and value of our commercial fisheries, production of manufactured products, employment of fishermen and fishing craft, quantity of gear operated, and related

information. Also operates a consulting service for the fishery industries and government agencies requesting statistical data of the fisheries.

The field offices of the Statistical Section and their activities are:

Boothbay Harbor, Maine: Collects monthly data on landings of fishery products in Maine in cooperation with the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries. Conducts such additional surveys as are necessary to complete an annual general canvass of the fisheries of Maine and New Hampshire.

Gloucester and Provincetown, Mass.: Collect detailed daily information on landings of fishery products at the important Massachusetts ports of Gloucester, Boston, and New Bedford, and ports on Cape Cod, by species, gear, and area of capture. Data are collected in cooperation with the Market News Section and the Service's Branch of Fishery Biology. Conducts an annual general canvass of the fisheries of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

New York, N. Y., and Toms River, N. J.: Agents stationed in these ports conduct the annual fisheries canvass of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Connecticut. The New York Conservation Department cooperates by providing an employee to assist in the collection of Long Island fisheries statistics. The Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game also provides an employee to assist in the work in that State.

Weems, Va.: Conducts general canvass surveys of the States of Virginia and Maryland. In Maryland, the Department of Tidewater Fisheries cooperates by collecting the major portion of the catch data for that State.

Beaufort, N. C.: An agent is being assigned to Beaufort this year to conduct the general canvass surveys of the fisheries of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Surveys have not been conducted in these States since 1945. A cooperative arrangement is being entered into with the State of North Carolina for the purpose of developing a system for the collection and publication of current fishery statistics for that State.

Miami, Fla.: An agent is being assigned to Miami this year to survey the fisheries of Florida which have not been canvassed since 1945. A cooperative agreement is being entered into with the University of Miami and the State Conservation Department for the collection and publication of monthly and annual statistics on the fisheries of Florida.

New Orleans, La.: The two agents stationed at this port are responsible for conducting general canvass surveys of the fisheries of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama on the Gulf, and for the fisheries of the Mississippi River and its tributaries below the junction of the Mississippi and the Ohio Rivers.

Ann Arbor, Mich.: An agent is to be stationed at Ann Arbor, Mich., for the purpose of conducting a general canvass of the fisheries of the Great Lakes. Complete data on the fisheries of the Great Lakes have not been collected since 1940.

Minneapolis, Minn., or LaCrosse, Wis.: An agent will be stationed at one of these cities to conduct a general canvass of the fisheries of the Mississippi River and its tributaries above the junction of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. A canvass of this area has not been conducted since 1931.

Seattle, Wash.: From this office, a general canvass is conducted for the States of Washington and Oregon. In cooperation with the Market News Section, it is planned to station an employee at Astoria, Oregon, to assemble current data on the fisheries of the Columbia River.

San Pedro, Calif.: Conducts a general canvass of the fisheries of California.

BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION CHART

BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (Washington, D. C.)

Statistical Section	Fishery Market News Section	Technological Section	Economics & Cooperative Marketing Section	Exploratory Fishing and Gear Development Section	Educational and Market Development Section
<p><u>Field Offices</u></p> <p>Boothbay Harbor, Me. Gloucester, Mass. Provincetown, Mass. New York, N. Y. Toms River, N. J. Weems, Va. Morehead City, N. C. Coral Gables, Fla. New Orleans, La. Ann Arbor, Mich. Minneapolis, Minn. Astoria, Ore. Seattle, Wash. San Pedro, Calif.</p>	<p><u>Field Offices*</u></p> <p>Boston, Mass. New York, N. Y. Hampton, Va. New Orleans, La. San Pedro, Calif. Seattle, Wash. Chicago, Ill.</p> <p>*Also part-time reporters stationed at various fishing ports throughout the country.</p>	<p><u>Field Laboratories</u></p> <p>Boston, Mass. College Park, Md. Ketchikan, Alaska Seattle, Wash.</p>	<p>No Field Offices</p>	<p><u>Field Offices</u></p> <p>Seattle, Wash. Pascagoula, Miss. Boothbay Harbor, Me. College Park, Md.</p> <p><u>Vessels*</u></p> <p>"John N. Cobb" "Oregon"</p> <p>*Other vessels also chartered occasionally for specific exploratory work.</p>	<p><u>Field Offices</u></p> <p>Boston, Mass. College Park, Md. Cincinnati, Ohio McComb, Miss. Los Angeles, Calif. Seattle, Wash. Ketchikan, Alaska</p>

The Statistical Section plans to issue the following statistical reports and bulletins from the Washington office during the year:

1. Fish Meal and Oil: A monthly bulletin. Contains data on the production of various kinds of fish meal and oil.
2. Frozen Fish: A monthly bulletin and annual summary. Contains information on freezings and cold-storage holdings of domestic fishery products in United States, Alaskan, and Canadian cold-storage plants.
3. Maine Landings: Monthly and annual. Contains data on the Maine catch by gear.
4. Massachusetts Landings: Monthly and annual. Contains data on the landings of fishery products by species, gear, and area of capture at the more important Massachusetts ports.
5. Texas Landings: Monthly. Contains data on the landings of fishery products at Texas ports by species, gear, area of capture (bay or gulf), and area in which the products were landed.
6. Alabama Landings: During the year it is planned to begin issuing, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Conservation, a monthly report on receipts of fishery products at Alabama ports.
7. Florida Landings: During the year it is planned to begin issuing, in cooperation with the Florida State Board of Conservation and the University of Miami, a monthly report on receipts of fishery products at Florida ports.
8. Canned Fish and Byproducts: An annual bulletin. Contains detailed information on the 1949 packs of canned fishery products by can sizes, styles of pack, and areas of production, and data on the yield of fishery byproducts by areas of production.

9. Packaged Fish: Annual bulletin. Contains detailed information on the 1949 production of fresh and frozen fillets, steaks, etc.
10. Fishery Statistics of the United States, 1947: A detailed annual report. Gives information for all sections of the United States and Alaska on employment in the fisheries, the number of craft engaged, quantity of gear used, the volume and value of the catch, production of manufactured fishery products, and United States foreign trade in fishery products. It is planned to also issue the 1948 edition during the year.
11. Regional Statistical Summaries: Annual bulletins containing summary information for 1948 and 1949 on the operating units engaged in the fisheries and the volume and value of the catch will be released for various sections of the country as rapidly as the information becomes available.
12. Imports and Exports: An annual bulletin. Contains 1950 statistics on the United States imports and exports of fishery products.
13. Manufactured Fishery Products: An annual bulletin. Contains detailed data on the 1948 production of manufactured fishery products.

FISHERY MARKET NEWS SECTION: Collects, publishes, and disseminates on a daily basis current information on production, receipts, supply, demand, market, prices, cold storage holdings, and imports of fishery products. In addition, current news on fisheries trends in the United States and in foreign countries is published.

Field operations are carried out by seven field offices located in Boston, Mass.; New York, N. Y.; Hampton, Va.; New Orleans, La.; San Pedro, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; and Chicago, Ill. Most of these field offices have full-time and part-time reporters working in the various fishing centers in the United States and Alaska gathering market news data.

This year it is planned to strengthen the Chicago and New Orleans field offices by adding another fishery marketing specialist at each office. On the Pacific Coast, market news data for the principal Oregon fishing ports has not been collected for a number of years. In order to collect daily production data for the most important Oregon fishing ports, it is planned to establish a field station at Astoria, Oregon, under the supervision of the Seattle field office.

The Fishery Market News Section issues daily Fishery Products Reports from Boston, New York, Hampton, New Orleans, San Pedro, Seattle, and Chicago. In addition, these offices compile and issue Monthly and Annual Summaries of the data collected. These reports are available free upon request.

From the headquarters office in Washington, D. C., the Section publishes a monthly periodical, Commercial Fisheries Review. This publication features articles on fisheries; news of trends and developments in the fishery industries of the United States and its territories, and foreign countries; and Federal Government orders and rulings affecting the fisheries.

TECHNOLOGICAL SECTION: The Section is primarily concerned with research and development on the proper utilization of fishery products. Its program includes research studies on fisheries in the fields of nutrition, refrigeration, byproducts, sanitation, and preservation. Field operations are carried out by field laboratories located in Boston, Mass.; College Park, Md.; Ketchikan, Alaska; and Seattle, Washington. The Section's detailed program for the Fiscal Year 1951 is outlined in a Technological Supplement of the November issue of Commercial Fisheries Review.

ECONOMICS AND COOPERATIVE MARKETING SECTION: This Section provides assistance in the administration of the Fishery Cooperative Marketing Act of 1934, and conducts fishery economic research. The administration of the Fishery Cooperative Marketing Act involves correspondence and personal conferences with members and officers of more than 70 existing fishery cooperative associations in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

Fishery economic research is mainly conditioned by current problems prevailing in the fishery industries. The research work extends especially to the cost factors involved in production and distribution of fishery products. The main cost factors are labor and transportation. Studies are being made to evaluate increasing transportation rates of all types of carriers on the fishery industries.

Other studies involve the effect of collective bargaining contracts, wage and hour legislation, social insurance, and social insurance taxes upon the fishery industries.

Studies also are made on the effects of international trade and international policies upon the domestic fishery industries. The effects of imports and exports, the effect of the ECA program upon the fishery industries, the effect of currency changes in foreign countries, and the effects of certain economic legislation in foreign countries are observed. In this connection, data are analyzed for use in formulating recommendations to the Trade Agreements Committee with respect to fishery items.

During this fiscal year, intensive studies will be inaugurated to provide reliable information on the economic well-being of the fishery industries through detailed series of statistical data on prices of fishery products and income of fishermen.

A general advisory service on fishery economics, which may be used by members of the industry, by other Governmental agencies, or by members of Congress or State Legislators, is also maintained.

EXPLORATORY FISHING AND GEAR DEVELOPMENT SECTION: It is the function of this program to assist the fishing industry by locating new productive fishing areas, determining their potentialities for commercial fishing, and developing improved methods of capturing the fish located.

During the fiscal year 1951, there will be three separate field areas of exploratory fishing: one in the North Pacific, one in the Gulf of Mexico, and one in the New England area. In addition, a project involving basic gear research will also be conducted.

North Pacific Exploration: Although the North Pacific area extends from waters off of Oregon and Washington to the northern boundaries of the Bering Sea, much of the exploratory fishing in this area will be directed toward the development of the fishery resources of Alaska. The present valuable commercial fishing industry of Alaska is based primarily on the salmon, herring, and halibut fisheries which have been developed and are being utilized to a relatively high degree. It appears that further profitable expansion in the Alaskan fisheries must come from the development of the lesser-known, but potentially valuable, fishery resources which are either unused or prosecuted at levels far below those consistent with the wise management of a fishery resource. The development of these new fisheries is the aim of the exploratory fishing operation.

The vessel John N. Cobb was designed and built specifically for the exploratory fishing operations and was delivered to the Service early in the calendar year 1950.

Exploratory work planned for the John N. Cobb in the North Pacific area includes:

1. A continuation of the albacore tuna survey.
2. A search for new flatfish fishing areas.
3. An attempt to locate shrimp and scallops in commercial quantities, and to aid in the development of this fishery.
4. A continuation of the king crab survey.
5. A survey of general sea areas which have not been fished.
6. Testing and evaluating the efficiency of new-type fishing gear.
7. Adapting new electronic equipment to commercial fishing.

Of the operations proposed above, items 1, 3, and 6 have been given first priority for the balance of fiscal year 1951.

Gulf of Mexico Exploration: By means of Public Law 163 (Eighty-First Congress), the vessel Oregon was made available to the Service for exploratory fishing work in the Gulf of Mexico. The vessel was reconditioned as an exploratory fishing vessel and made its first exploratory fishing trip on April 17, 1950. Since that time, the vessel has been engaged steadily in an exploratory survey in the Gulf area. The primary emphasis so far has been upon a search for new deep-water shrimp grounds, with good indications of success.

The exploratory fishing program for the Gulf of Mexico includes:

1. A continuation of exploration of new deep-water shrimp grounds.
2. A survey to determine the possibilities of establishing a commercial tuna fishery.
3. Locating and devising efficient methods for capturing live bait for tuna fishing.
4. A search for menhaden in areas other than those now fished.
5. Testing of new-type fishing gear.

It is anticipated that, of the projects mentioned above, most of the emphasis for Fiscal Year 1951 will be on items 1 and 2.

New England (Bluefin Tuna) Exploration: An exploratory fishing investigation of the bluefin tuna resources in the North Atlantic, adjacent to the New England area, is planned, with the actual fishing operation to begin about May 1951. This is the first year that funds have been available for this work. The necessary arrangements for procurement of a vessel, gear, equipment, fishing crew, and a supervisory organization are now in progress. The necessary research into background problems entering into the investigation is being made, as a basis for the exploration when undertaken.

The objectives of the bluefin tuna exploration are as follows:

1. Locate bluefin tuna and determine abundance.
2. Determine most efficient method of capturing commercial quantities of tuna.

3. Determine effectiveness of fishing gear which may be used by the existing New England fleet without extensive conversion of vessels. (Consideration to be given to use of purse seines, long lines, gill nets, trolling lines, trammel nets, traps.)

Gear Development and Research: In conjunction with the three actual exploratory fishing operations conducted by the Service, it has been found desirable to undertake special research to analyze and develop new or improved methods of fishing and fishing gear. This work is headquartered at the Service's College Park, Md., laboratory. It is anticipated that this project will prove of great value in solving some of the theoretical and practical problems connected with the development and application of new and improved fishing gear for the benefit of the commercial fishing industry.

Comprehensive projects are scheduled for this program, but the major items upon which attention will be focused are:

1. Improvement and development of menhaden fishing methods.
2. Improvement and development of mackerel fishing methods.
3. Compile all available information regarding fishing gear for basis of fundamental research.
4. Improvement and development of trawling gear.
5. Study problem of substitute fishing-gear materials for use during periods of shortages.
6. Test and develop new materials for gear.
7. Test the feasibility of the Danish Floating Trawl in menhaden fishery.
8. Investigate possibility of capturing phototropic fish.
9. Develop methods of utilizing mid-oceanic fisheries.

Initially, priority has been given to item 1.

EDUCATIONAL AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT SECTION: Funds for conducting the activities of the Educational and Market Development Section are obtained by transfer from the Department of Agriculture. The objective of the program is to promote the free flow of domestically-produced fishery products in commerce by conducting a fishery educational service and to develop and increase markets for fishery products of domestic origin.

Educational Service Activities: Headquarters are in Washington, D. C.; with field offices in Seattle, Wash.; Boston, Mass.; and College Park, Md. The program consists of:

1. Development of visual and other educational material, such as, educational pamphlets, motion pictures, displays, posters, graphic material, and educational material for use in broadcasting, telecasting, and by the press.
2. Informing industry of new or more efficient methods of production, through such facilities as a monthly fisheries technical abstracting service (Commercial Fisheries Abstracts), educational bulletins, and personal consulting services.
3. Improve national fish cookery as a means of obtaining increased consumption by preparing better fish cookery methods, issuing reports and cookbooks, and demonstrating approved methods.

4. Sponsoring and stimulating commercial fishery courses at educational institutions to impart knowledge of fundamental subjects at trade levels and to obtain better trained people for commercial fishery work

Market Development Activities: Headquarters are established in Washington, D. C., and field offices in Boston, Mass.; Cincinnati, Ohio; McComb, Miss.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Ketchikan, Alaska; and College Park, Md. The program consists of:

1. Stimulating the use of fish in the Federally-supervised school-lunch program by demonstrating the qualities of fishery products and arousing a zest for fish in youngsters which will carry on through later years. (Fish cookery demonstrations, information on supply, and educational materials are the principal means used.)
2. Stimulating the use of fish in frozen food lockers.
3. Analysis and forecast of fishery marketing conditions through monthly availability reports for institutional groups, plentiful foods statements, and a quarterly report (Quarterly Outlook for Marketing Fishery Products).
4. Marketing aids, such as lists of buyers, buyer's guide, timely market development bulletins, press releases on fishery products, and work with retailers.
5. Personal consulting services and interchange of information between various fishery areas and a study of foreign markets for United States products.



Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 73 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during August 1950--32 less than in August 1949. California and Washington led with 8 vessels each, followed by Florida with 7 vessels, according to the Treasury Department's Bureau of Customs.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, August 1950

Section	August		Eight mos. ending with August		Total
	1950	1949	1950	1949	1949
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	2	5	22	25	35
Middle Atlantic	6	4	36	38	44
Chesapeake Bay	10	5	60	49	87
South Atlantic and Gulf .	31	38	214	243	369
Pacific Coast	17	46	187	262	327
Great Lakes	3	2	9	31	38
Alaska	3	4	71	75	96
Hawaii	1	-	3	3	5
Unknown	-	1	-	1	1
Total	73	105	602	727	1,002

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

During the first eight months of 1950, a total of 602 vessels were documented, compared with 727 during the same period in 1949.

Fifty of the vessels receiving their first documents as fishing craft during August were built during 1949 and 1950. The remainder were built prior to 1946.



Branch of Commercial Fisheries Expands Collection of Fisheries Statistics

Because the Branch of Commercial Fisheries received an increase in its 1951 fiscal year appropriations for statistical activities, the Branch's Statistical Section will be able to resume statistical surveys in the South Atlantic, Great Lakes, and Mississippi River areas; as well as expand the collection of statistical data on the Pacific Coast.



It is planned to establish statistical field offices at Morehead City, N. C.; Miami, Fla.; Ann Arbor, Mich.; and at points in the upper and lower Mississippi River areas.

General canvass surveys will be conducted in the areas mentioned for 1950 data on the number of fishermen and fishing craft; quantity of fishing gear operated by commercial fishermen; volume and value of the catch; and production of manufactured fishery products.

The 1950 survey will be the first complete one of the South Atlantic States since 1945; of the Great Lakes since 1940; and of the Mississippi River and its tributaries since 1931.



Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, August 1950: The considerable increase in the purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products by the Army Quartermaster Corps during August reflected the increased food requirements of the Armed Services since the beginning of the Korean conflict in June. August purchases for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for military feeding totaled 2,946,230 pounds (valued at \$1,193,198) --the highest quantity and value of fresh and frozen fishery products purchased by the Army Quartermaster Corps for any one month since January 1948. Purchases this August were higher than for July by 122.2 percent in quantity and 126.2 percent in value; and higher than in August 1949 by 68.2 percent in quantity and 135.6 percent in value (see table).

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army (August and the First Eight Months, 1949 and 1950)							
Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
August		January-August		August		January-August	
1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,946,230	1,751,935	10,638,657	11,089,988	1,193,198	506,464	4,412,253	3,636,905

For the first eight months this year, total purchases were still below the corresponding period a year ago by 4.1 percent in quantity, but they were 21.3 percent higher in value. However, with the contemplated expansion of the Armed Forces, purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products for the balance of 1950 will probably continue at the August rate and total purchases this year no doubt will exceed those for 1949 and 1948.



Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

"OREGON" TRAWLS FOR SHRIMP NEAR MOUTH OF MISSISSIPPI (Cruise No. 4): The Oregon on its Cruise No. 4 (September 11-26) trawled for shrimp in the area near the mouth of the Mississippi River between the 88th and 91st meridians.

Observations on Grooved Shrimp: Following a short period of strong winds at the beginning of September, the Oregon, the Service's Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program vessel, encountered bottom water temperatures in 30 to 50 fathoms that were generally a few degrees lower than in the preceding period. The larger (16-count and larger, heads-on) brown shrimp, Peneus aztecus, were found to be most abundant in 32 to 34 fathoms; that is, in water somewhat shallower than in the preceding period. The vessel caught 12- to 16-count heads-on shrimp for 11 hours in 32 to 34 fathoms, about 15 miles west to west by south of Southwest Pass at the mouth of the Mississippi River, on the night of September 14 at a rate of 240 pounds per hour. The depth, distribution, and size of the shrimp were apparently the same in the areas immediately east and west of the mouth of the river, but in September the concentrations appeared to be greater west of the mouth. Although the brown-grooved shrimp is known to inhabit deeper water, none were taken by the Oregon in more than 46 fathoms during September. In this September cruise, as well as in the July-August cruise, the largest shrimp were found in the deepest water with slightly smaller shrimp a few fathoms shallower. However, examination of all of the information available from these cruises shows a closer and more consistent relation between bottom water temperature and size of the shrimp than between depth and size. Studies are being continued on movements of populations of shrimp.

The population of larger brown shrimp is outside the area now being worked by the shrimp fleet but is within range of the larger vessels of the fleet and can be worked with only small modification of the rigs (increase in trawling cable length) used in the locality.

Miscellaneous Observations: Comparatively little bottom suitable for trawling was found near the mouth of the Mississippi in depths from 50 to 150 fathoms. One drag of 45 minutes duration in 195 fathoms with a 40-foot shrimp trawl produced 60 pounds of 28-count, head-on, red shrimp, Hymenopeneus robustus, along with 61 pounds of scrap.

While a shrimp trawl was being pulled on deck from 258 fathoms on September 23, a school of tuna, not identified as to species, came to the surface around the Oregon briefly and sounded, accompanied or followed by silky sharks. Trolling was not successful. The surface temperature was 83.5° F., the temperature at 50 feet 84.5° F., and at 100 feet 77° F. Observations such as this suggest the possibility that stocks of tuna may exist in the north Gulf but that they are confined to cooler layers of water below the surface unless driven upward by unusual circumstances.



Hampton Market News Service Office to Remain Open

Because the amount of the reduction in the 1951 appropriations applicable to the Market News Section of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries was less than anticipated and because of certain savings which have been effected to date, there will be sufficient funds available for the Hampton Market News Service office to continue in operation at least until April 1, 1951. The closing^{1/} of this office on September 29 was announced early in that month when it seemed that the proposed cut in appropriations would necessitate such a procedure. Although it is hoped that additional savings will make it possible to keep this office open during the last quarter of this fiscal year (July 1, 1950--June 30, 1951), it is not feasible at this time to make a definite statement since rising fixed costs for supplies and operations may be more than expected at present.

The cut in appropriations announced by the Budget Bureau on October 10, totaling \$580,271,335 for 31 Government departments and agencies, was ordered by Congress in the Omnibus Appropriation Act for 1951.

As in the past, the Hampton Market News Service office will continue as usual to collect daily production data, and issue daily Fishery Products Reports and summaries. This office collects data for certain areas in Virginia (Hampton Roads area, Lower Northern Neck, York River, and Eastern Shore areas), Maryland (Crisfield, Cambridge, and Ocean City areas), and North Carolina (Atlantic, Beaufort, Morehead City, Southport, Englehard, and Pamlico County areas). Charles D. Stewart will continue to supervise the operations of the office.

^{1/}COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, SEPTEMBER 1950, P. 27.



Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission^{1/} Now Functioning

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission convened for its first meeting in Coronado, California, July 18, 1950. Commissioner Jose Cardona-Cooper, representing Costa Rica, and Commissioners Lee F. Payne and Eugene Bennett, representing the United States, were present at the meeting. Commissioners Virgilio Aguiluz of Costa Rica and Milton C. James of the United States were not present.

Jose Cardona-Cooper was elected chairman and Milton C. James as secretary for the first fiscal year (1951). Matters pertaining to the organization and financing of the Commission were discussed at this first meeting. Details of the program will be announced prior to the next meeting of this Commission.

The convention for the establishment of this Commission was signed at Washington May 31, 1949, by the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica, and was ratified later by both countries. Implementing legislation has already been signed by the President of the United States.

The American members of the Commission were appointed by the President of the United States, acting upon the recommendations of the Secretary of State. Lee Payne is from Los Angeles, Calif; Eugene Bennett from San Francisco, Calif.; and Milton C. James is Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

Jose Cardona-Cooper, the first chairman, was a fishery trainee under the program of the Interdepartmental Committee for Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, from January 1948 to March 1949. The Service administered his training at Stanford University.

^{1/}SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, MARCH 1950, P. 66; NOVEMBER 1949, PP. 71-2; JUNE 1949, PP. 59-62.

North Atlantic Exploratory Tuna-Fishing Program Planned

Operating plans for the new North Atlantic exploratory tuna-fishing program were discussed at conferences held in Washington, D. C., in mid-October by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries with the Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries of the State of Maine and interested members of the fishing industries.

The Service will begin preparations for undertaking this work immediately, although actual fishing will not commence until late in the spring of next year--the beginning of the New England tuna season.

It is planned to charter a vessel suitable for carrying out gill-net and long-line exploratory fishing, with consideration being given to purse-seine fishing later in the season. Special emphasis is being focused on the development of a long-line and gill-net fishery for tuna since smaller craft in Maine and Massachusetts can more readily and economically be adapted to this type of fishing.

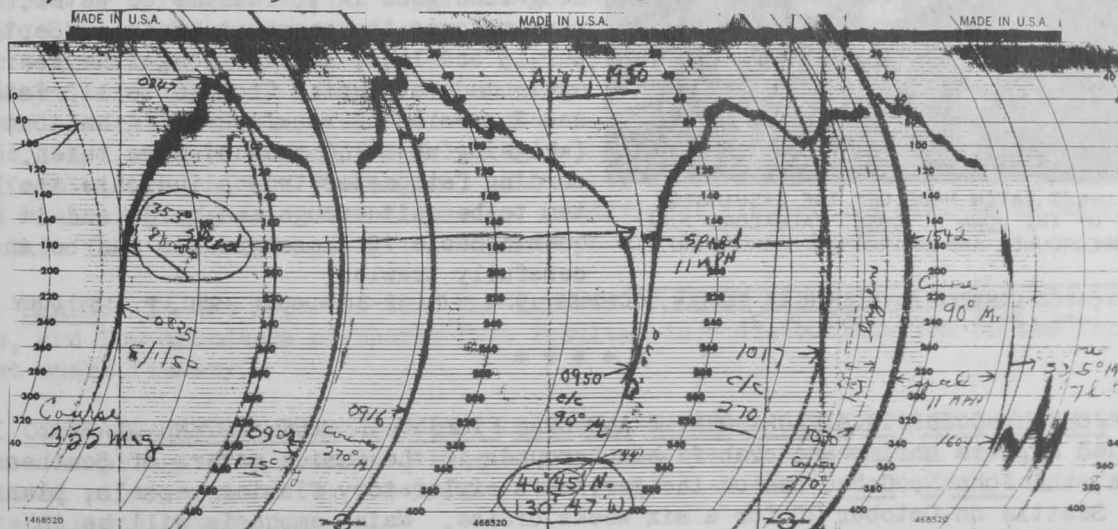
Based at Boothbay Harbor, Maine, the exploratory tuna-fishing operation in the North Atlantic will be headed by Emmett W. Fowler, Fishery Engineer, who will work in close cooperation with the State of Maine and members of the industry in New England.



North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

ALBACORE TUNA EXPLORATION CRUISE COMPLETED BY "JOHN N. COBB" (Cruise No. 5): After spending more than 3½ months exploring for albacore tuna and testing gear in offshore waters from Cape Blanco, Oregon, to the vicinity of Cape St. Elias, Alaska, the John N. Cobb, one of the Service's exploratory fishing vessels, returned to Seattle on September 28. This was a continuation of work begun last year.

Early stages of the trip were devoted to exploring the waters off the southern Oregon coast in an attempt to intercept the albacore and determine the course of their shoreward migration. On June 18 the first albacore were caught 500 miles west of Cape Blanco, and on June 23 tuna were taken within 300 miles of Blanco. These early fish



RECORDING FATHOMETER TAPE MADE ON AUGUST 1, 1950, BY THE JOHN N. COBB WHEN IT DISCOVERED AN UNCHARTERED PACIFIC SEAMOUNT APPROXIMATELY 270 MILES WEST OF WILLAPA BAY, WASHINGTON.

were apparently scattered in small schools, only a dozen or so being taken at any one time, and no large concentrations were found. First schooling of albacore was noted during the second week in July, when a series of fishing efforts from Cape Blanco northward to the Columbia River resulted in a progressive increase in the daily catch. During this time the albacore were observed in small schools 80 to 100 miles offshore.

During July and the first part of August, exploratory fishing and gear testing was carried out off the Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia coasts. Three weeks were spent in Alaskan waters as far north as the vicinity of Cape St. Elias and up to 300 miles offshore. Water temperatures were generally cold, and only a few scattered tuna were caught north of Dixon Entrance. The vessel left Alaskan waters on September 6, and again fished southward past the Queen Charlotte Islands, where albacore were still being taken on September 9. Explorations off the Washington and Oregon coasts during the last 2 weeks of September resulted in negative findings.

Standard commercial surface-trolling gear was used as the primary means of locating and taking albacore. Linen and nylon gill nets and long line were experimented with. Only one albacore was taken on the long line. Considerable success was attained with the gill nets, and catches up to 160 tuna were made; the nets also proved valuable in catching tuna when none were showing or biting, and served also as a medium of determining vertical distribution of the fish.

Oceanographic and biological observations were made, including 100 water samples, over 150 bathythermographic casts, and numerous plankton tows. Lengths and weights were recorded of all fish caught, and a number of stomach samples taken. More than 400 albacore were tagged with plastic disc tags, with no returns reported to date. Daily radio broadcasts of fishing results were made to the commercial fleet.

On August 1, while investigating a report of large schools of tuna off the Columbia River, the John N. Cobb discovered a previously uncharted seamount with depths as



A GILL-NET CATCH MADE OFF THE WASHINGTON COAST BY THE JOHN N. COBB. ALBACORE TUNA IN FOREGROUND, AND SHARKS IN BACKGROUND.

shallow as 20 fathoms at a position of $48^{\circ}44'$ N. latitude, $130^{\circ}47'$ W. longitude, approximately 270 miles west of Willapa Bay, Washington. Good catches of large red snapper, averaging 15 pounds each, were made with long-line gear in 70 fathoms of water. While passing over the seamount again on September 15 and 16, 7 sets of long-line gear were again made at depths from 40 to 110 fathoms, and 2 species of rockfish and 4 halibut (weighing up to 43 pounds) were taken. Recording fathometer traces indicate the bottom to be quite rough and hard, and it is questionable if these grounds can be successfully trawled.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1950, PP. 32-3; AUGUST 1950, P. 18; JULY 1950, PP. 25-6; JUNE 1950, P. 21.

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"JOHN N. COBB" TO EXPLORE SHRIMP AND CRAB FISHING IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA: In order to explore shrimp and crab fishing grounds in the inside waters of Southeastern Alaska, the John N. Cobb, one of the Service's exploratory fishing vessels, plans to leave Seattle on October 30 for a six weeks cruise. Main emphasis will be in the areas which show promise of supporting commercial quantities of shrimp and crab.

Exploration will be carried out in the region of the west coast of Baranof and Chichagof Islands, both in the protected bays and inlets and on the offshore banks. Chatham Strait and the inlets off Chatham Strait will be explored. If time allows, some work will be done off the west coast of Prince of Wales Island.

Several types of gear will be used, including beam trawls and shrimp and crab pots. Otter trawls will also be employed as a means of sampling the bottom life. Recording fathometer traces will reveal data on the trawlability of the bottom, and oceanographic and other scientific observations will be made at each fishing station. The Fishery Products Laboratory at Ketchikan will carry out experiments in freezing shrimp aboard the vessel.



Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission Meets

The presentation and discussion of research on certain West Coast fisheries was the main purpose of the meeting of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission held at Bellingham, Washington, on July 24-25, 1950. The following is a summary of some of the major presentations and discussions:

TUNA: Market samples of albacore were reviewed by the various research agencies. These indicated to date a run of fish in the Northwest catches somewhat larger than those of 1949. Attempts reported by the biologists of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada to determine the age of albacore by counting the number of rings present on the vertebrae revealed that the numbers found in local albacore did not coincide with the numbers found in Japanese albacore of similar lengths.

Reports on the scouting for and tagging of albacore being conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian investigators were of much interest. A proposal to extend the 9-pound minimum size limit for albacore, as exists in California, to the rest of the Coast was discussed but no action taken.

TROLL SALMON: Studies on ocean migrations of chinook and silver salmon, as determined by offshore tagging experiments conducted under the coordination of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission for several years, have revealed that the chinook salmon make extensive coastwise migrations while those of silver salmon are somewhat more local in nature. In order to further study the ocean migrations of silver and chinook salmon and to corroborate the findings of the tagging program, about 1-1/2 million salmon fingerlings of the 1949 brood year have been marked in California, Oregon, and Washington. The troll catches will be sampled for these fish when they appear in the fisheries. Additional fingerlings will be marked during this fall and next spring in conjunction with this program.

SHARK: It was reported that the imports of liver oils, development of synthetics, and low abundance of sharks have resulted in a discontinuation of the Pacific Coast shark fishery.

OTTER TRAWL: Research reported on the otter trawl fishery included studies on market sampling of the catches, tagging, and the use of bottom fish as mink food. A closed winter season for the trawl fishery was discussed and the subject deferred for additional study.

SABLEFISH: In Washington, Oregon, and California, a total of 1,100 sablefish (black cod) have been tagged and further tagging is planned as part of this program.

Racial analyses based on meristic counts are being undertaken on sablefish along the coast from California to Alaska.



Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

EXPERIMENTAL FISHING TRIP COMPLETED BY "JOHN R. MANNING" (Cruise No. III):^{1/} On this cruise the John R. Manning conducted experimental fishing operations with a standard West-Coast purse-seine in waters of the Phoenix and Line Island Groups in an effort to determine the abundance and availability of tuna. This research vessel of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations left Pearl Harbor on July 15 and returned October 2, 1950.

After fishing in the Phoenix Island Group from July 24 until August 28, passage was made to Christmas Island by way of Jarvis Island. The vessel left Christmas Island September 13, prospected the southern contact margin of the counter-equatorial current, and then proceeded west to Palmyra.

Arrival at Kingman Reef was made September 20 where production trolling was undertaken for comparison with similar efforts made in the area on Cruise II in April and May 1950.^{2/}

Fishing Activities--Phoenix Islands: Unfavorable weather and poor fishing conditions were encountered in the entire Phoenix Group, and the primary objective (experimental fishing) was not realized. Combination live-bait purse-seine operations planned in conjunction with the Henry O'Malley (another of the Service's research vessels) were not possible during that vessel's short stay in the Phoenix Group.

No surface tuna or other signs of fish were seen near Hull and Gardner Islands. Canton itself did have an occasional showing of fish under birds, but these were small skipjack weighing one and two pounds.

McKean, Birnie, and Phoenix Islands showed excellent surface-trolling possibilities well inshore. The three prospecting trolling lines would consistently take 25 to 80 pounds of yellowfin when the lee and fringing reefs were closely paralleled at 6.5 to 7 knots.

No attempt was made to troll these islands on a production basis, but a conservative estimate would be that a vessel fishing eight lines would take in excess of a short ton of yellowfin in a 12-hour period. As an illustration of this, sixteen yellowfin (average weight 35 pounds) were taken in one hour on McKean Island.

No fish that could possibly have been seined were encountered in the Phoenix Islands from July 24 to August 29; on the latter date the John R. Manning left Enderbury for Jarvis Island.

The natives and experienced local inhabitants state that breezing schools and other signs of surface fish are most frequently seen in April, May, and June in the Phoenix Islands.

^{1/}SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JULY 1950, P. 28.

^{2/}SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JULY 1950, P. 27.

The passage to Jarvis from Enderbury was diverted to include a 200-fathom bank at Lat. 2°55' N., Long. 164°25' W. As the vessel proceeded northward from Enderbury, the weather became progressively better and was excellent upon arrival on the bank. The vessel was allowed to drift freely overnight on this bank. Although feed was in abundant evidence under a night-light, no tuna or signs were seen the following day.

Fishing Activities--Line Islands: The next landfall, Jarvis, carried the vessel back into the path of the strong easterly winds and seas. Tuna here readily took the trolled jigs and tuna were seen singly and in groups of up to a dozen traveling and feeding on the south and west sides of the Island. This area to the south and west of the Island was worked carefully, but the fish neither schooled nor took a lead, and intermittent rain storms accompanied by winds of 40 m.p.h. hampered fishing activities.

Approximately six "breezing" schools of tuna were sighted off the SW tip of Christmas Island on September 9. These schools were estimated to be from 5 to 15 tons each and consisted of yellowfin of mixed sizes. A set was made on one of these schools but no fish were taken. On succeeding days three more sets were made on less promising schools of fish--500 pounds of wahoo (Onco--A. solandri) were taken on one of these sets. Sharks and wahoo were taken in lesser quantities on all sets. Tuna were seen in these schools, however, and jig lines took 40 pounds of yellowfin.

Various parts of the seining operation were timed on these sets, and a lead-line drop test was undertaken to determine the length of time required for the lead line to reach a given depth after the seine clears the table.

Palmyra was almost completely barren of signs of tuna. Large schools of feed (2" squid) were seen with great quantities of birds working. Only three tuna were taken by trolling in this vicinity in approximately three days.

Kingman Reef was trolled very intensively with 8 lines. The same areas were worked as in the case of Cruise II and additional water areas were covered. The average daily take was 150 pounds of tuna. Comparing this with the results in April and May, which exceeded 2,000 pounds a day, this trial was much less productive.

Other Activities: Stomachs, gonads, and ovaries were preserved and total length measurements taken on 50 tuna caught during the cruise; 386 bathythermograph casts were made, from which the positions and boundaries of the major currents at this season may be estimated.

Night-light collections of tuna food fish and invertebrates were taken in the lee of all islands mentioned and on two occasions in the open sea.

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"HUGH M. SMITH" TO FISH TUNA WITH LONG LINES BETWEEN HONOLULU AND THE EQUATOR (Cruise No. VII): The Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations research vessel Hugh M. Smith left Honolulu on October 17 for an extended cruise through the Line Islands south of Hawaii.

The primary object of the cruise is to determine the abundance of yellowfin tuna in regard to the ocean current systems of the tropical and subtropical Pacific

Ocean south of the Hawaiian Islands. Fishing will be conducted with tuna long-line gear at 60-mile intervals from the southern portion of the north equatorial current, across the equatorial countercurrent and into the south equatorial current. This operation is designed to test the theory that since the occurrence of basic food organisms appears to be closely connected with this system of currents, the tunas may also occur in a predictable pattern on a similar basis.

As secondary projects, the vessel will engage in a number of subsidiary operations. Observations will be made upon the depth of occurrence of tunas to determine to what degree the decreasing temperature which is found below the surface affects the vertical distribution of tunas. Further, by fishing systematically from the islands for some distance seaward it is hoped that information can be secured concerning the degree to which tunas are associated with land masses.

President Appoints Deputy U. S. Commissioner on the International Whaling Commission

President Truman on October 7 appointed Dr. Hilary J. Deason, Chief of the Office of Foreign Activities, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as Deputy United States Commissioner on the International Whaling Commission. Dr. Remington Kellogg, Director of the United States National Museum, is the United States Commissioner, having been appointed by the President on April 11, 1950.



HILARY J. DEASON

The International Whaling Commission, with headquarters in London, is composed of representatives appointed by the sixteen countries who have adhered to the International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling signed at Washington, December 2, 1946. The Commission is an international regulatory body charged with the responsibility for conserving and maintaining the whale populations of the world.

Deason was a member of the United States delegation at international whaling conferences held at London in 1945 and Washington in 1946. He was a technical advisor at the first two meetings of the Commission, London 1949, and Oslo 1950. As part of his duties in the Fish and Wildlife Service, he handles the licensing of United States whaling enterprises, coordinates enforcement of international regulations, and supervises the biological and statistical activities of the Service with respect to whaling.

Prices Up On Fur-Sealskins

Sealskin prices increased substantially at the fall auction of Government-owned fur-sealskins, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported in October.

The auction, held October 9 by the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis, included 25,697 fur-sealskins from the Government-administered Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea, 2,000 Canadian-owned Pribilof Islands skins, 2,159 Cape of Good Hope fur-sealskins for the Union of South Africa, and about 3,000 Cape of Good Hope, New Zealand, and North American sealskins for private shippers. Included in the sale were 279 blue fox pelts from the Pribilof Islands.

Fur buyers paid an average of \$95.52 for all United States Government sealskins, an increase of 52 percent over the average price paid at the previous sale on April 17, 1950. The Government-owned fur-sealskins and fox pelts sold for a total of \$2,456,928.35.

Black sealskins sold for an average of \$106.10, an advance of nearly 84 percent over the spring average. Dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average of \$98.25, an increase of 48 percent. Average price of "Safari" (lighter-brown skins) was \$74.60-- which was 51 percent over the spring sale.

Canadian-owned skins, part of the treaty-provided allotment to Canada from the Pribilof Islands' fur-seal take, sold for substantially the same as the United States-owned skins. Cape of Good Hope sealskins averaged \$34.57--an advance of nearly 58 percent. Blue fox pelts sold for an average \$8.65. This was an increase of 99 percent over last October's sale price.

One factor that apparently entered into the advance in prices was the large attendance of fur buyers, with spirited bidding--which was reported to represent greater-than-average competition for the skins.



Reduction of Anchovies in California Not Approved by State

The California Fish and Game Commission has turned down a request of the San Francisco Sardine Association to permit the reduction of anchovies into commercial oils and meals, according to the September 27 issue of Outdoor California issued by the Commission. "The abundance of anchovies on the fishing grounds has not yet proved large enough to warrant a reduction fishery. Large scale fishing or reduction might be disastrous without sufficient investigation," the Chief of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries told commissioners at their September meeting.



South Pacific Fishery Investigations

NO SARDINES OBSERVED BY "BLACK DOUGLAS" ON SEPTEMBER CRUISE: On its September cruise, no sardines were observed in the area opposite and north of San Francisco by the Black Douglas, the Service's South Pacific Fishery Investigations vessel which is working on the cooperative Pacific sardine research program with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the California Division of Fish and Game, and the California Academy of Science. From September 5 to September 22, between Cape Blanco, Oregon, and San Francisco, California, the vessel took observations at 46 stations to determine the amount and the location of sardine spawning as well as the current pattern and temperature pattern of the area, and the types and abundance of phytoplankton present. The small plankton volumes were comparable to those of the August cruise.

While on this cruise, the vessel caught 25 albacore tuna with feather jigs and 1 dolphin (Coryphaena); and collected morphometric data and stomach contents for later analysis.

A special study cruise was begun on October 7 by the Black Douglas for the purpose of collecting data on the mechanisms of internal waves. The vessel will work with the MV Crest and MV E. W. Scripps of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Whale and Sperm Oil Prices Expected to be Higher in 1950-51

Whale and sperm oil prices in 1950-51 almost certainly will be higher than in 1949-50, according to the Assistant Agricultural Attache of the American Embassy at London. This is primarily because world prices on fats and oils in general have risen sharply since the beginning of the Korean conflict and that recent quotations on whale and sperm oils, particularly the former, have been higher than they were several months ago.

Supplies of whale oil on the market in recent months have consisted entirely of summer production--for example, from whales caught off the West and East African coasts, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands.

Prices for whale oil, exaggerated somewhat by the seasonal scarcity, recently have gone to as high as £110.11s. (\$309.54) per long ton for small lots purchased from Canada and Iceland. Earlier, a company operating off Madagascar sold whale oil, comparable to the Antarctic product, at close to £100 (\$280) per ton. The bulk of the whale oil from the 1949-50 Antarctic whale catch was sold at about £80 (\$224) per ton.

Sperm oil, which only a few months ago was in surplus supply, has been in strong demand since the fighting in Korea started. All available supplies have been sold at from £55 to £60 (\$154 to \$168) per ton. This is not substantially different from the price of £57.10s (\$161) prevailing in May of this year.

Negotiations on prices to be paid for their 1951 output recently have been carried on between British whale oil producers and the British Ministry of Food. For 1949-50 production, the agreed price was £80 (\$224) a ton. Although this price was lower than the £90 (\$252) agreed in the previous season, it was higher than had been expected prior to Britain's devaluation of the pound sterling in September 1949.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1950: Wholesale prices for edible fishery products continued to rise during September, with the largest increases occurring in the fresh and frozen unprocessed (drawn, dressed, or whole) finfish and canned fishery products (see table 1 on the following page).

The September index for the drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup was 13.6 percent higher than for the previous month, and 22.6 percent higher than September 1949. This September all fresh-water fish prices in this subgroup increased substantially as compared with the previous month because of the Hebraic holidays which occurred during the month, resulting in an increased demand for these products. However, lake trout prices were only slightly higher. Haddock, halibut, and salmon prices in September also were considerably higher than in August. Stormy weather during September in several of the nation's fishing centers accounted for the increase in prices paid for salt-water fish. Prices of all individual items in the subgroup were higher than in September 1949, except for lake trout which sold at lower prices.

In spite of the increase in drawn, dressed, or whole finfish, fresh processed fish and shellfish prices were only 0.8 percent higher during September as compared with August and 6.3 percent higher than in September 1949. Among the individual items in this subgroup, haddock fillets and shucked oysters sold at higher prices during September, while fresh shrimp prices dropped. Heavy production during the month accounted for the decline in shrimp prices.

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Indexes of Fish and Shellfish, September 1950, with Comparative Data								
GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION	POINT OF PRICING	UNIT	AVERAGE PRICES (\$)			INDEXES (1947 = 100)		
			Sept. 1950	Aug. 1950	Sept. 1949	Sept. 1950	Aug. 1950	Sept. 1949
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)						112.5	105.6	98.9
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:						113.3	105.2	98.2
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:						129.2	113.7	105.4
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.13	.11	.09	130.7	112.0	97.2
Halibut, western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.40	.38	.34	115.3	110.0	98.5
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	"	.56	.49	.49	138.0	119.4	119.2
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.47	.47	.51	103.8	103.5	111.5
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	"	"	.51	.39	.47	147.1	112.0	135.8
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.79	.49	.52	179.4	110.8	117.3
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	" " "	"	.58	.56	.44	135.5	130.2	103.6
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):						95.0	94.2	89.4
Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.27	.25	.28	97.7	90.9	100.2
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.59	.64	.55	85.3	92.9	78.8
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	4.50	3.95	4.25	110.8	97.2	104.6
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):						103.5	102.9	94.8
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. boxes	Boston	lb.	.35	.35	.31	113.0	111.4	98.5
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.26	.26	.22	115.4	115.7	98.4
Rosefish, 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.24	.22	.20	122.2	112.2	97.5
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5- to 10-lb. bxs.	Chicago	"	.61	.64	.63	88.2	92.0	91.5
Canned Fishery Products:						111.3	106.3	100.0
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	22.90	20.88	16.99	149.3	136.1	110.8
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 2 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.81	14.94	15.25	96.4	97.2	99.2
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	"	"	6.25	6.13	6.63	69.9	68.5	74.1
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 1 drawn (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	5.75	6.13	8.63	56.4	60.1	84.6

September prices for the frozen processed fish and shellfish subgroup were only 0.6 percent higher than in August and 9.2 percent higher than in September a year earlier. Prices of fillets advanced in September and were higher than a year ago, but frozen shrimp prices dropped and were substantially below September 1949 because of heavy cold storage holdings.

Except for canned salmon, September prices of other items in the canned fishery products subgroup showed signs of weakening. September quotations were substantially higher for canned pink salmon and only slightly higher for California sardines. These increases accounted for the rise in the canned fishery products index from 136.1 percent in August to 149.3 percent of the 1947 average in September. Prices paid for canned Maine sardines and tuna in September were slightly below those paid in August and prices of canned tuna, California sardines, and Maine sardines were below those quoted in September 1949. On the other hand, canned salmon prices were considerably higher this September. The September index for this subgroup was 11.3 percent above that for the corresponding month in 1949.

RETAIL PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1950: Between August 15 and September 15 this year, retail food prices declined 0.2 percent on the average, but on September 15, 1950, prices were still 2.1 percent higher than on the same date a year earlier (table 2). The retail food price index on September 15 was 208.5 percent of the 1935-39 average.

Table 2 - Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Fishery Products,
September 15, 1950, with Comparative Data

Item	Base	I n d e x e s		
		Sept. 15, 1950	Aug. 15, 1950	Sept. 15, 1949
All foods	1935-39 = 100	208.5	209.0	204.2
All fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, & canned) ..	do	311.4	302.5	311.9
Fresh and frozen fish	1938-39 = 100	283.4	279.4	260.1
Canned salmon: pink	do	359.8	337.5	428.8

On the other hand, fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) retail prices followed the general wholesale trends for these products and increased 2.9 percent from August 15 to September 15, but on the latter date the prices were 0.2 percent below September 15, 1949.

Prices of only fresh and frozen fishery products at retail rose 1.4 percent from August 15 to September 15, and on the latter date were 9.0 percent higher than in mid-September 1949. This index was 283.4 percent of the 1938-39 average in mid-September this year.

The biggest increase in retail prices of fishery products occurred in canned pink salmon. Prices for this product rose 6.6 percent from mid-August to mid-September, but on the latter date prices were still 16.1 percent below those which prevailed in mid-September 1949. This increase in canned salmon is attributed to the small pack in Alaska this year--on October 14 the total pack was 3,235,828 cases, compared with 4,375,147 cases in the 1949 season, and 3,974,540 cases in the 1948 season. The Alaska salmon pack season ended October 14.



National Fisheries Trends and Outlook--October-December 1950

Markets for fishery products during the final quarter of 1950 will be generally favorable, according to a report issued in October by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture, and prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Demand for fishery products is expected to share in the heightened demand for foods generally. However, the expected plentiful supplies of food and of fishery products will exercise a moderating effect on price increases.

PRODUCTION: Although fisheries production is expected to decline seasonally as the winter months approach, the total commercial catch in the United States and Alaska will be close to the average for the fourth quarter.

FROZEN FISH: Freezings of fish will also decline seasonally during the fourth quarter this year and the first part of 1951. Total stocks of frozen fishery products in the United States and Alaska on October 1 were 158,473,039 pounds--5.2 percent larger than a year earlier. Cold storage stocks probably will be expanded still further as the fall season continues in order to build up supplies of frozen fish for distribution during the low-production period in the winter months.

CANNED FISHERY PRODUCTS: The output of canned salmon in 1950 was much lower than last year and the lowest since 1921. Canned tuna and Maine sardine produc-

tion are running ahead of output during the same months in 1949 and are likely to establish record-high levels for the year. In addition, California sardine producers have gotten off to a good start in the production season that started in August.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS: Imports of fishery products this fall, especially of frozen groundfish and rosefish fillets, are expected to be larger than in the same period of 1949. Exports of fishery products during the remainder of 1950 probably will not be as large as the previous year.

CONSUMPTION AND PRICES: Civilian consumption of fishery products in the United States during the remainder of the year is expected to be much the same as in the comparable months of 1949. Although supplies of some canned fishery products available to civilians probably will be lower than in the previous year, consumption of all canned fish in the next few months may be about as large as last fall and early winter. Consumption of fresh and frozen fishery products will run at about the same rate as in late 1949. With strong consumer demand for food in prospect, retail prices of fresh and frozen products during the remainder of 1950 are expected to continue at a higher level than a year earlier. Although prices of canned salmon are expected to be much higher than those prevailing earlier during 1950, canned fish as a whole may average only slightly higher than in the fall months of 1949.

OUTLOOK FOR 1951: Supplies of fishery products in 1951 are not expected to be much different in total than in 1950. More fresh and frozen fish probably will be available, but there will be somewhat smaller supplies of canned fish, particularly of canned salmon through mid-1951. Military purchases of fishery products, especially of canned fish, are expected to be much larger than procurement from the output of a year earlier. In view of the prospective strong consumer demand for food, especially for meat and other protein foods, retail prices, of fresh, frozen, and canned fishery products probably will average somewhat higher for 1951 than for the preceding year. For certain canned fish, in short supply (especially salmon) retail prices will average much higher.

Imports of fishery products in 1951, especially the frozen commodities, are expected to continue at a high level and may even be slightly larger than a year earlier. Exports of these products may not be much different from the levels of the past two or three years, at least until the latter part of 1951.



Economic Cooperation Administration Program Notes

AID TO KOREA: Experts from the Economic Cooperation Administration's mission to Korea have made an inspection trip to the Korean Island of Cheju Do and are working with government officials on plans for strengthening the Island's economy, the Acting Director of ECA's Korea Division announced on October 3.

The Island's chief industry--fishing--needs to be strengthened. New fishing boats are needed as well as facilities for processing and distributing fish. During the present Korean hostilities, the Island's fishing industry has suffered because of the prohibition on night fishing and restrictions on day fishing imposed by the United Nations command.

President Truman has told the Economic Cooperation Administration to concentrate its aid program for the Republic of Korea on recovery measures aimed at "developing and maximizing economic self-help," according to an October 9 news release from that agency.

Under the President's directive, ECA will be responsible for furnishing, among others, the following types of assistance:

"The provision of equipment, supplies, and advisory aid required to maximize the output of Korean agricultural and fisheries resources, and of essential civilian industrial production facilities which are not directly utilized by the United Nations Command for predominantly military purposes."

EUROPEAN POPULATION BOOMING: ECA officials pointed out in an October 29 news release that the European countries participating in the Marshall Plan already have boosted grain and other food production facilities above 1938 levels--but not enough to compensate for the 10 percent increase in population. By 1952, agricultural production may be 15 percent above prewar in these nations as compared with the expected 12 percent boost in population. Consequently, if food imports are maintained, 1952 per capita food supplies will equal the 1938 rate.

According to most recent estimates, the European nations participating in the Marshall Plan will have a population of 280,000,000 by the end of 1952, or about 12 percent above prewar.

ECONOMY OF EUROPEAN MARSHALL PLAN COUNTRIES STRONGER: The Marshall Plan countries of Europe are in a stronger position economically to meet the new problems brought about by the Korean conflict. The summer of 1950 saw a continuing climb in Western Europe's hard currency reserves, a sharp fall in unemployment in all countries, an expansion of construction, a further narrowing of the dollar gap, and a continuing increase of exports. This latest summary of Western Europe's economic position is contained in the October issue of ECA's bi-monthly publication Recovery Guides.



VALUE OF U. S. IMPORTS EXCEEDED EXPORTS IN JULY-AUGUST 1950: For the first time in 13 years, the value of United States imports exceeded that of exports in July and August 1950, according to an October 29 ECA news release. Excluding U. S. shipments under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program, the U. S. imported \$32 million per month more than she exported during July and August. During the same two months in 1949, U. S. exports exceeded imports by \$420 million per month. The result has been a sharp increase in the U. S. trade deficit with Latin America and the non-Marshall Plan sterling areas. Payment of U. S. dollars in settlement of these deficits has, in turn, contributed to the large increase in Western Europe's hard currency reserves.

INDONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES SIGN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT: An agreement providing for economic cooperation between the Republic of Indonesia and the United States was signed on October 16. It will take effect upon approval of the Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia for ratification. The agreement arises from recommendations made by the Economic Survey Mission that visited Indonesia in April this year. Indonesia is the third Asian state to enter into an economic cooperation agreement with the United States--the Union of Burma on September 13 and Thailand on September 19, 1950, signed similar agreements.

As a result of discussions with Indonesian officials at the time of the Mission's visit to Indonesia, it was decided that assistance could advantageously be made available in the form of supplies and technical advice in fields of public health, agriculture, fisheries, industry, and education. The United States Government will furnish such assistance in these fields as may be desired by the Indonesian Government.

Included in an initial request for urgently needed supplies prepared by the Indonesian Government are motorized fishing vessels. These supplies will be obtained not only in the United States, but in such countries where they may be readily available.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR PORTUGAL APPROVED BY ECA: A technical assistance project covering a visit to the United States of two Portuguese technicians to study American fisheries research methods was approved by ECA, and a number of other projects of this nature are under consideration, the American Embassy at Lisbon reported in a dispatch dated August 14.



ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products

Among the procurement and reimbursement authorizations by the Economic Cooperation Administration during October 1950 was \$1,095,000 for the purchase of canned fish, and fish and whale oils from the United States and Possessions (see table).

ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products, October 1950			
Product	Country of Origin	Recipient Country ^{1/}	Amount Authorized
Canned fish ^{2/}	U. S. & Possessions	Greece	\$ 175,000
Whale and fish oils	" " "	German Federal Republic	900,000
Whale and fish oils	" " "	France	20,000
Total			\$1,095,000

^{1/}The recipient country is the procuring agency, and the government of the participating country or its authorized agents or importers do the purchasing.
^{2/}Except canned shrimp, crab and lobster meat, salmon, or tuna.

Total ECA procurement authorizations for fishery products from April 1, 1948, through October 31, 1950, amounted to \$29,111,000 (\$16,442,000 for edible fishery products, \$11,129,000 for fish and whales oils, and \$1,540,000 for fish meal). Of this amount, \$10,022,000 was used by the recipient countries for purchases in the United States (\$6,954,000 for canned fish; \$9,000, salted fish; and \$3,059,000, fish and whale oils).

