Angola (Portuguese West Africa)

PRODUCTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS, 1949:[1/] Catch: Angola's 1949 fisheries production of 130,617 metric tons, valued at 91,178,452 angolares ($3,665,373) exceeded the 1948 production of 113,057 tons, valued at 82,225,281 angolares ($3,190,341). Quality during the year improved, partly because of concentration on certain species by producers who were long established, and partly as the result of migration of skilled fishermen from Portugal, who thus enlarged the Angolan fleet of purse-seine vessels used for catching tuna and similar fish, a September 5 American consular dispatch from Luanda states.

Angolan Exports of Fishery Products by Commodity, 1948-49 (Quantity and Value)

Product	1949			1948		
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value	
	Metric Tons	Angolares	U.S.$	Metric Tons	Angolares	U.S.$
Fish:						
Fresh, frozen, and salted ..	97	425,000	16,490	157	723,980	28,090
Canned	2,318	42,565,000	1,651,522	1,738	22,235,949	862,755
Dried	15,105	74,041,000	2,872,791	13,831	55,939,190	2,170,441
Fish meal	13,381	41,358,000	1,604,690	14,201	28,392,114	1,101,614
Guano	1	2,000	78	240	479,360	18,599
Fish oil	710	2,963,000	114,964	1,056	1/	1/
Total	31,612	161,354,000	6,260,535	31,223	107,770,593	4,181,499

1/Not available.

Canned Fish: Production of canned fish (principally tuna and sardines) increased considerably and its value almost doubled. A substantial portion of the canned tuna went to the United States, though the potentialities of this market could not be and will not be fully exploited until local canners and government-control bodies can import sufficient olive oil to concentrate on an olive-oil pack in place of the peanut-oil pack which now comprises the larger proportion of the annual production. The latter type of product, however, apparently found a ready foreign market, particularly in Italy, it is reported.

Byproducts: Production of fish meal was slightly less than that of the previous year. While some efforts were made to install mechanical equipment for the rendering of the catches, most of the small plants in the south of the Colony, where this industry is centered, depended upon hand labor entirely or upon relatively outmoded equipment. The continuing heavy demand for the product was reflected in the remarkable increase in value of exports. Demand from various foreign markets was reported by the industry to be in excess of supply.

1/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, AUGUST 1950, PP. 30-9.

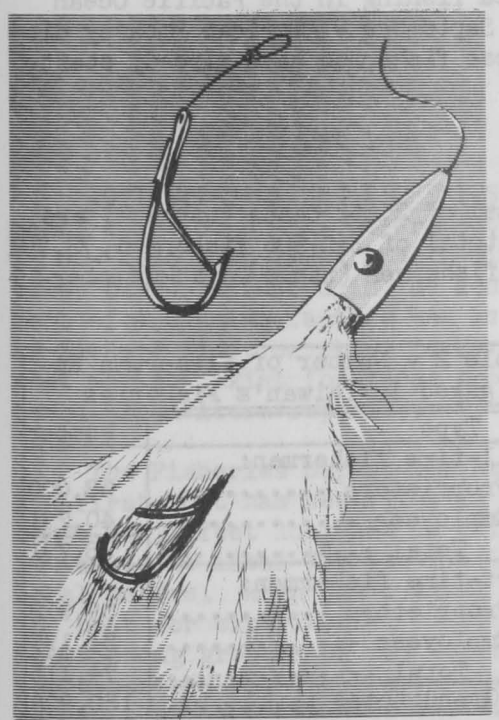
Demand for guano, which has been moderate in 1948, dropped to a negligible total; that for fish oil was reduced to such an extent that many rendering plants were using the oil as a fuel.

Exports: Exports of fresh, frozen, and salted fish dropped considerably in 1949 (table 1). Shipments to the United States consisted of 3,789 tons of fish meal, valued at 12,001,000 angolares ($465,639); and 240 tons of canned tuna, valued at 4,875,000 angolares ($189,150).

Consumption: Domestic consumption of processed fish is not heavy, except in the case of dried fish. The 1949 production of dried fish amounted to about 20,000 tons, of which one-fourth was consumed as an element of the native staple and the balance exported to the Belgian Congo.

Canada

LOCKED HOOK USED TO TAG ALBACORE: A novel method of tagging fish is being used off the coast of British Columbia, according to the August 1950 Trade News of the Canadian Fisheries Department. The tuna are being tagged without being taken out of the water. This is accomplished by means of a hook with a special locking device (see illustration) both bare and seated in a lure.



A thin strip of metal, carrying a number and a message, is wrapped around the shank of the hook, which is made fast to the lure and main line by a short section of nylon leader, which has a breaking strain of 30 pounds. A good hard jerk by the albacore fastens the hook to the fish. The hooks, of a patent design, were made to order from Z-nickel wire.

A member of the Pacific Biological Station at Nanaimo, B. C., has been studying albacore this summer aboard a commercial vessel, the Black Dog. He made one trip in July off the United States west coast for general observations on water temperatures, food, commercial fishing methods, etc., and is continuing his work on subsequent trips. Emphasis is being placed on tagging, which can now be carried out without bringing the fish aboard.

Denmark

NEW TYPE OF TUNA NET: A new type of tuna net was constructed this summer by a fishing vessel captain in Esbjerg, Denmark. If it meets expectations, it will be a much cheaper type of gear for tuna fishing than the purse seine, according to a recent issue of Svenska Vastkustfiskaren, a fishery periodical. It is claimed that the net can be made for about $580, while a purse seine of the type used in Norway presently costs about $5,800. The Danish research vessel Jens Vaever will test the invention.

Formosa (Taiwan)

DECLINE IN FISH CATCH EXPECTED FOR 1950: Since the Nationalists' evacuation from Hainan Island and Chushan Islands, the coastal fishing areas that supply fish to Taiwan (Formosa) have been seriously curtailed. The fish catch this year (1950), therefore, is expected to decrease by 30-40 percent in comparison with that of last year.

Local fishermen are planning to start deep-sea fishing in the Pacific Ocean off the Philippines and the South Seas, reports a September 9 American Embassy dispatch from Taipei. It is reported that some Chinese fishermen have already started fishing in these areas.

* * * * *

NUMBER OF FISHING BOATS AND FISHERMEN: A total of 2,452 boats (table 1) are engaged in fishing on Formosa (Taiwan). Out of a total of 152,906 fishermen, 78,791 are full-time fishermen, and 74,115 are part-time fishermen (table 2), a September 29 American consular dispatch from Taipei reports.

Table 1 - Number of Fishing Boats Operating in Taiwan's Fisheries

Type of Fishing Boat	Number
Motorboat (over 20 tons)	236
Motorboat (under 20 tons)	790
Total motorboats	1,026
Small wooden boats without motor ...	777
Bamboo fish rafts	649
Total boats without motor	1,426
Grand total	2,452

Table 2 - Number of Fishermen Engaged in Taiwan's Fisheries

Type	Number
Full-time fishermen:	
Proprietors	38,000
Employees	40,791
Total	78,791
Part-time fishermen:	
Proprietors	39,918
Employees	34,197
Total	74,115
Grand total	152,906

France

FISH IMPORTS RESTRICTED: Imports of fish into France are to be restricted again, the British fishery periodical The Fishing News of August 26 reports. The French Minister of the Merchant Marine has announced that several concessions granted to other countries under agreements sponsored by the Office of European Economic Co-operation are to be withdrawn immediately because of the serious effect they were having on certain sections of the French industry.

The imports affected by the new restrictions are dried, salted, and smoked fish from Great Britain and Sweden; fresh and frozen fish from Iceland and Sweden; canned and other preserved fish from Great Britain, Iceland, and Sweden.

Imports of crabs and lobsters are to remain free, and it is likely that mussels and other shellfish will be added to the unrestricted list.

These restrictions were imposed to meet the protests made by French fishermen against imports of fishery products.

German Federal Republic

FISHERY FACTORY SHIP PLANNED BY GERMAN FIRM: A Bremerhaven company, which operated the factory ship Wezer in the Baltic during World War II, has revived plans for a factory ship equipped to catch, fillet, and freeze fish. Ships of this type built in the United States are to be inspected, as it is believed that Marshall Plan funds might be made available for the purchase of a ship from the United States, according to a September 18 American consular dispatch from Bremerhaven.

Gold Coast

ACTIVITIES OF THE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT:1/ The Gold Coast Fisheries Department, operated by the Government to catch fish for canning on an experimental basis, is now also concerning itself with the canning of products other than fish. Its pilot plant, situated in the Accra suburbs, is preparing the way for the establishment of a canning factory and is presently determining what quantities and qualities of fish, fruits, or other foods are available in the Gold Coast for canning, and what markets exist for these products, an American consular dispatch dated September 15 from Accra reports.

The Fisheries Department has just purchased a second fishing boat in England. Its first boat has been fishing out of Accra for almost two years. The new fishing craft is 31 feet long and is driven by a 15 h.p. kerosene engine. The boat is believed to be ideal for the difficult weather and surf conditions it will meet in local waters. When the present herring fishing season closes, it is planned to take the boat for experimental fishing in the estuary of the Volta river at Ada. Later, the fishing grounds of the Western Province will be explored. These are the only two motorized fishing boats in use in the Gold Coast, although an estimated 50,000 people along the coast depend on fishing for their existence.

Another new activity of the Fisheries Department is the stocking with fish of newly-constructed reservoirs in the Northern Territories. The Department is presently ascertaining what fish from nearby rivers and streams can be successfully introduced into these reservoirs. In one reservoir, the young fish placed there early this year quickly established themselves and are doing well. The diets of the people in the Northern Territories contain very little proteins and it is hoped that this fish-stocking experiment will prove successful.

1/ ALSO P. 72 OF THIS ISSUE.

Iceland

POOR CATCHES REPORTED IN 1950 ICELANDIC HERRING FISHING SEASON BY ALL NATIONS, EXCEPT RUSSIA: Catches of all nations participating in the fishing on the Icelandic herring banks during the 1950 season (which closed in September) were poor, with the exception of Russia, according to a September 21 American consular dispatch from Bergen, Norway. The report is based on an interview with Captain Araldsen of the Norwegian fishing patrol vessel Andenes published in the September 19 issue of the Bergen newspaper Morgenavisen.

A translation of the pertinent parts of that interview follow:

"The Captain states that weather conditions during the whole season have been unusually bad. The number of days in which vessels were forced to stay at shore due to strong winds was also considerably more than normal. There were, indeed, no trawlers on the banks from August 16-29.

"Of the six nations participating in herring fishing off Iceland, Iceland had between 200 and 250 vessels; Norway approximately 190, of which approximately 42 were trawlers. About 10 Finnish vessels participated, all larger than the Norwegian vessels. Russia had from 50 to 60 vessels with four depot-ships participating--one of the depot-ships was 10,000 metric tons and the other three approximately 3,000 tons each. Approximately 50 drift-fishers from Sweden also took part.

"Average catches this year were poor. It is estimated that Iceland had a total catch of approximately 65,000 barrels of salted fish and approximately 300,000 barrels for herring meal production. The Norwegian total catch was approximately 85,000 barrels; from 15,000 to 20,000 barrels for Sweden; and the Finnish catch was about 15,000 barrels.

"It is not easy to report the quantity of the Russian catch. The Russians give no information, but there are signs which indicate that the Russians' total catch was the greatest of all. The methods used by the Russians might be worth further study.

"The first vessel the Andenes met on the fishing banks was Russian and occasional later meetings with the Russians gave an idea of the tactics they used.

"One vessel alone (or two vessels working together) is assigned a certain part of the fishing grounds. These "herring hunting vessels" cover practically the whole fishing area. It is not known whether these vessels carry special equipment or not. Most of the Russian fishing vessels were concentrated in the area where the herring was most numerous. The Russian vessels usually operated from 50 to 100 nautical miles north of Iceland, especially north of Gremsey. During July and August, the depot-ships were anchored on the fishing grounds off Gremsey, approximately 6 nautical miles from the Island. In the beginning of September, the Russian fishing fleet moved east of Langenes. When the Andenes left, the depot-ships were anchored leeward of Langenes, outside of the territorial waters, and the fishing vessels were operating 50 to 100 nautical miles off the coast.

"Everything gives the impression that the Russian catch was large. Russian fishing vessels were constantly loading their catches into the depot-ships, and large flocks of gulls stayed near the vessels. The barrels on board the depot-ships were steadily reduced, and it was evident from the water line on these vessels that they were continually taking on fish."

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IMPORT RESTRICTIONS MODIFIED ON CERTAIN FISHERIES SUPPLIES: The Icelandic Economic Board announced on August 12, 1950, that importers are no longer required to procure import and exchange licenses for a limited list of articles (including fish hooks, nets, and certain yarns and cordage for fishing purposes), effective from August 7, according to an American consular dispatch dated August 17 from Reykjavik. However, the transfer of foreign exchange is still controlled by designated Icelandic banks and all imports for which exchange has not been allocated are temporarily excluded from Iceland.

Italy

SPONGE FISHERY: Production: Italian-controlled sponge banks yielded approximately 12 metric tons of sponges in 1948 and 18 tons in 1949, states a consular dispatch from Florence dated September 15. Production has steadily increased since the end of World War II. Official statistics reveal, however, that sponges unloaded in Italian ports totaled 56 tons in 1948 and 98 tons in 1949. Since there are now relatively few areas where Italian sponge vessels can operate and in order to augment their own insufficient supply, Italian fishing boats often exploit sponge banks now controlled by other countries and buy sponges from foreign boats while on fishing trips.

Sponges are to be found mainly in the "Arcipelago Cavallo" (Horse Archipelago), a group of sponge beds stretching along the coasts of Greece, Sicily, Libya, and Tunisia; and along the coasts of Dalmatia, on the Adriatic Sea.

Before World War II, Italy could draw her harvest from the waters of Tripoli, Libya, and Dalmatia, as well as those of Sicily, whereas she must now confine her activities to the latter area. These latter banks ("Banco Fango" - Mud Bank, "Banco Morte" - Death Bank, and "Banco Numeri" - Number Bank) are insufficient to supply the demands of the Italian market.

Persons in the field believe that considerable surpluses from previous fishing seasons are being held by speculators in Sicily. It is estimated that this year's (1950) yield has been better than in recent years.

There are now only about six sponge firms of any importance in Italy. The several firms existing in Livorno prior to World War II were entirely destroyed; no steps have been taken to reactivate the industry in that area. Most of the actual work of cleaning, sterilizing, and preparing sponges is done by each firm separately.

Employment: Less than 200 persons are employed in legitimate sponge fishing; an unknown number are said to deal in sponges which have been obtained outside the

Italian sponge banks. Processing (bleaching, washing, cutting, packing, etc.) is simple and requires no expensive or complicated machinery. Estimates are that a maximum of 300 workers, mostly young girls, are employed in this work; no special skills or training are required. The preparation of the required bleaches is generally carried out by each plant independently and requires the services of not more than a few dozen laborers.

The principal complaint of people in the trade is that the finer-quality sponges are to be found in banks outside the Italian area; and they maintain that it is essential to the success of this industry that the Government effect an agreement with its Mediterranean neighbors to permit sponge fishing in some of the more desirable sponge banks.

Consumption: The home market is stated to absorb about two-thirds of local production, all but a very small part of which is said to be for industrial use. The principal buyers are automobile producers, a firm producing railway rolling stock, tanneries, state railways, and air lines. Certain requirements cannot be fulfilled by the national industry for lack of good-quality raw sponges (e.g.,those used in the ceramic industry). Among motor-scooter and automobile manufacturers, demand has increased in the past few years for sponges for cleaning, washing, and polishing motor bodies.

It is commonly held by the trade that home consumption for good-quality sponges, if available, could be increased considerably.

The present prices of raw unprocessed "Arcipelago Cavallo" sponges range from $2.25-$2.70 per pound. Prices of partly processed sponges are quoted as follows by wholesalers:

Type	Quality	Price per pound
		$
Diver-fished, raw, cleaned, sorted	first	9.55
Diver-fished, raw, cleaned, sorted	second	4.77
Diver-fished, raw, cleaned, sorted	third	2.39
Net-fished		2.73

Exports: Present exchange restrictions in certain areas, notably South America, curtail exports.

Table 1 - Italian Sponge Exports, 1948-49

Type	1949	1948
	(in metric tons)	
Raw sponges, ordinary quality	44.6	17.
Raw sponges, fine quality	3.6	.2
Processed sponges, ordinary quality.	6.6	5.2
Processed sponges, fine quality	1.2	.9
Total	56.0	23.3

Belgium - Luxembourg were the largest importers of both raw and processed sponges, with Switzerland second as importer of raw sponges, and the United States second for the processed type. Exports of processed sponges to the United States dropped from 4.1 metric tons in 1948 to .3 tons in 1949.

Export regulations: There are no particular regulations governing the export of sponges. However, certain general trade restrictions have cut out much of the prewar trade in this commodity, particularly with Argentina and other South American countries.

Imports: The trade is very anxious that agreements be made with other countries controlling sponge banks in order to make raw sponges, particularly the better grades, available for Italian industry. Inadequate trade agreements and financial barriers are at present a hindrance to new developments. Yugoslavia, Greece and certain former Italian colonies are the sources from which processors would like to draw. In view of the existence of the local industry, it does not seem likely that permission for import from the United States will be granted.

Channels of Distribution: Processors generally sell to wholesalers, shops, and industrial concerns through selling agents or through representatives.

Outlook and Potentialities: The industry's outlook appears rather satisfactory. Domestic consumption will probably increase, particularly in view of the many industrial uses to which sponges are now put. Rubber or plastic sponges do not offer much competition, as they are too brittle for industrial use and are considered unsanitary for toilet use, since they soon become sticky and cannot be properly cleaned.

The greatest obstacle to further postwar expansion of the sponge industry doubtless is the very restricted area now open to Italian sponge fishers. Only a substantial reduction in price would increase trade with the United States.

Israel

TO FISH IN NORTH SEA AND THE ATLANTIC: An Israeli company has bought the first of three deep-sea fishing vessels in France, a September 11 American consular dispatch from Tel Aviv reports. The fleet will use Ostend as a base for fishing operation in the North Sea and the Atlantic.

Japan

MOTHERSHIP OPERATION FOR TUNA IN THE EQUATORIAL PACIFIC OCEAN:[1/] The Japanese mothership operation for tuna in the equatorial Pacific Ocean consists of two fleets. The larger fleet includes a 10,600-metric-ton mothership (Tenyo Maru No. 2) and 25 catcher vessels ranging in length from 75 to 110 feet, which left Japan in mid-June. The smaller fleet, which includes the 2,900-ton refrigerated mothership Kaiko Maru and 12 catchers, left Japan July 10. Both of these expeditions operate under the authority of SCAP. A SCAP representative accompanies each expedition to insure compliance with the provisions of SCAP directives, and a representative of the High Commissioner for the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands accompanied the Tenyo Maru No. 2 as advisor and observer for the High Commissioner, and to conduct scientific studies. This observer is a member of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations staff of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and he returned to Honolulu on September 29 following a 15-week trip with this Japanese expedition. The motherships are refrigerated vessels ordinarily used in the Antarctic whaling operations, and the catcher vessels are Japanese long-line fishing vessels from several Japanese ports.

1/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JULY 1950, P. 46; JUNE 1950, PP. 52-4.

Each of the fishing vessels in the larger of the two fleets ran 300 to 400 baskets of gear daily, with an average of about 350 baskets, according to the Service's observer. This represents a total main-line length of 65 miles per boat per day with hooks at 150- to 175-foot intervals. The average catch per 100 hooks per day fished was 3.95 fish of all species (tunas, spearfish, and sharks).

Fishing operations were conducted offshore from 140° to 160° E. longitude and from 1° to 5° north latitude. The fleet moved from west to east in the area, ending the trip near 160° E. longitude.

The most important biological observations recorded on this expedition were the 503 sets of morphometric data which will be used in the study of tuna races and migrations. Length measurements were taken on 1,077 yellowfin. The yellowfin ranged from 5 to 90 pounds but the greater part of the catch of this species fell between 60 and 75 pounds in weight.

The Japanese mothership tuna expeditions as of September 28 processed 9,474,155 pounds of tuna, marlin, and shark, according to the October 7 Weekly Summary of SCAP's Natural Resources Section.

Tenyo Maru No. 2 nad processed 6,138,024 pounds in 11 weeks of operation. Kaiko Maru had processed 3,336,131 pounds in 11 weeks. The Tenyo Maru No. 2 ceased operations on September 2 and returned to Tokyo on September 14. The Kaiko Maru ceased operations on September 28 and was expected to return to Japan on October 14, 1950. Detailed production data are shown in the following table.

Production of Japanese Mothership Tuna Expeditions in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean as of September 28

Ship	Yellowfin Tuna		Other Tuna	Marlin	Shark	Others	Total
	Round	Fillet					
	(in pounds)						
Tenyo Maru No. 2	2,495,491	1,271,007	399,210	1,224,484	575,055	172,777	6,138,024
Kaiko Maru	2,397	1,849,335	265,957	911,243	238,138	69,061	3,336,131
Total	2,497,888	3,120,342	665,167	2,135,727	813,193	241,838	9,474,155

First-grade yellowfin and albacore tuna of sizes suitable for export and canning were frozen whole. The remainder was filleted into quarters and pan-frozen.

Mexico

SHRIMP FISHING OFF MEXICO UNDER CLOSE SURVEILLANCE: The Mexican naval authorities are keeping a close watch on the shrimp fishing off the Mexican east coast, according to the September 21, 1950, issue of El Universal, a Mexican newspaper. The following is a translation of the article supplied by the American Embassy at Mexico, D. F.:

> "There has been a great deal of insistence lately that United States boats are conducting clandestine fishing in the Campeche region, taking large quantities of shrimp without legal authorization and without paying the prescribed taxes. However, we were informed today in the Ministry of Marine that strong vigilance is being exercised in that zone and that no such irregularities exist.

"What is actually happening is that the foreign fishermen are taking advantage of the periodic migrations of this valuable crustacean to capture it in the high seas, at a distance of 30 or more miles from the coast. There Mexico has no jurisdiction, as boats in this position are outside of national territorial waters and may conduct whatever activities they wish, without any control.

"In order to counteract these activities, at least in part, the naval authorities are encouraging the creation of fishing fleets of Mexican companies or cooperatives to go out into the open sea as the others are doing."

Netherlands

STUDIES TRAWL-FISHING INDUSTRY: A commission to study the Netherlands trawl-fishing industry and to make recommendations, among other subjects, on the improvement of equipment and methods of financing such improvements, was appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, according to a September 20 American Embassy dispatch from the Hague.

Norway

RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTAL FISHING EXPEDITION OFF WEST GREENLAND: The results achieved by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries' experimental fishing expedition off the west coast of Greenland during the past summer were announced by the Directorate's Fishery Consultant M. O. Kristensen in the September 7, 1950, issue of Bergens Tidende.

A September 4 report from Aalesund indicated that the Directorate of Fisheries' practical fishing tests off west Greenland this summer had not been very successful due to the unfavorable weather conditions, according to the Fishery Consultant's statement as reported by the American consulate at Bergen. However, in spite of the weather conditions, the results of the tests on dragnet fishing "by pairs"[1/] ("pareja") were very encouraging.

The expedition left Aalesund on July 21 with the freighter Fjellberg. Equipment to be tested was the Spanish "pareja" nets, also trawl-net dories and trawl nets--the same trawl nets which were used for experimental fishing at Lofoten the past two seasons.

The Directorate of Fisheries leased the fishing vessels Eldøy and Fosnavaag for "pareja" fishing, but Fishery Consultant Birger Rasmussen used the Eldøy for scientific investigations, i.e. for taking hydrographical measurements, marking of fish, etc. The vessels were leased for three weeks.

Because of the bad weather and the short time allowed for the tests, work was concentrated on fishing with "pareja" nets. In fact, no test was made with trawl

1/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, MAY 1950, PP. 81-4.

nets. Tests were made at the different fishing banks--Lille Hellefiskebank, Bananabank, Fyllabank, Fiskenesbank, and Danabank. Conditions on the bottom were not especially satisfactory on the southern banks, but at the Fyllabank and Bananabank conditions were fairly good, so most of the tests were made there.

Kristensen said: "I must say that results were encouraging, not to use too strong an expression. In some instances the catch from a single test drag resulted in two tons of salted fish. To be able to make comparison, lines were placed out during the night. Catches from lines were from 300-400 fish per stump. One stump consists of approximately 20 lines with about 2,000 hooks. Working such a stump takes approximately four hours, while one drag with the 'pareja' net is made in a couple of hours. In one day, six drags were made with the "pareja" net and, if we had worked in shifts and trawled through a 24-hour day, we could have managed approximately 10 drags per day....Trawl fishing had also the advantage of netting the big fish, which are too satiated to bite on the hooks."

It is pointed out that it is not possible to use the "pareja" trawl method during the entire season. It may only be used with hopes of good results during a few months in the middle of summer when the fish stream into the shoal banks. Experience has shown this period to be a slack season for line fishing. The tests made with the "pareja" net gave the positive results hoped for, but the equipment may possibly have to be improved somewhat. "I am of the opinion that it is possible to use 'pareja' nets in such a way that it will be both profitable and efficient," Kristensen states. "At least the tests made have proved that it is possible to fish with this equipment off west Greenland; results are in fact much more promising when considering the fact that we were not acquainted with conditions on the bottom of the banks."

This year's trial tests reveal that there is hope of making cod fishing easier for the fishermen off Greenland. It is extremely hard toil to work at line fishing four or five months at a stretch. On every single fishing vessel, close to half a million fish hooks must be baited during the season, on some vessels even more. If the vessels could work at "pareja" fishing for a few months in the middle of the season, and that should be possible, it would mean a welcome change in work for the fishermen. "If this change is not made, I am afraid it will be difficult to get a full crew for the Norwegian line-fishing vessels. This year some of the vessels could not be sent fishing due to scarcity of fishermen," says Kristensen.

A "pareja" net costs from $725-$870. Complete line-fishing equipment costs approximately $3,000, not counting the expense of bait. One vessel uses 300-400 cases of bait per season at a cost of about $4.35 per case. Besides this, the equipment is so worn after one season that it must be partially renewed before it can be used again. It is calculated that the vessels need 4 or 5 "pareja" trawls per season, and only partial replacement is needed from year to year.

* * * * *

SAFETY NET FOR PURSE-SEINE CATCHES: A new fishing device has made it possible to save even the largest purse-seine catches, according to the Norwegian newspaper Tidens Krav, quoted by the September 14 issue of Fiskaren. A type of security or safety net, which already has been tested with excellent results, has been devised by Ole Hasseloesaether, from Kjonnoy, near Kristiansund. The motor vessel Ullasund, which was high boat during the winter herring season, experimented with the new net and with its help saved a haul of about 500 metric tons of herring.

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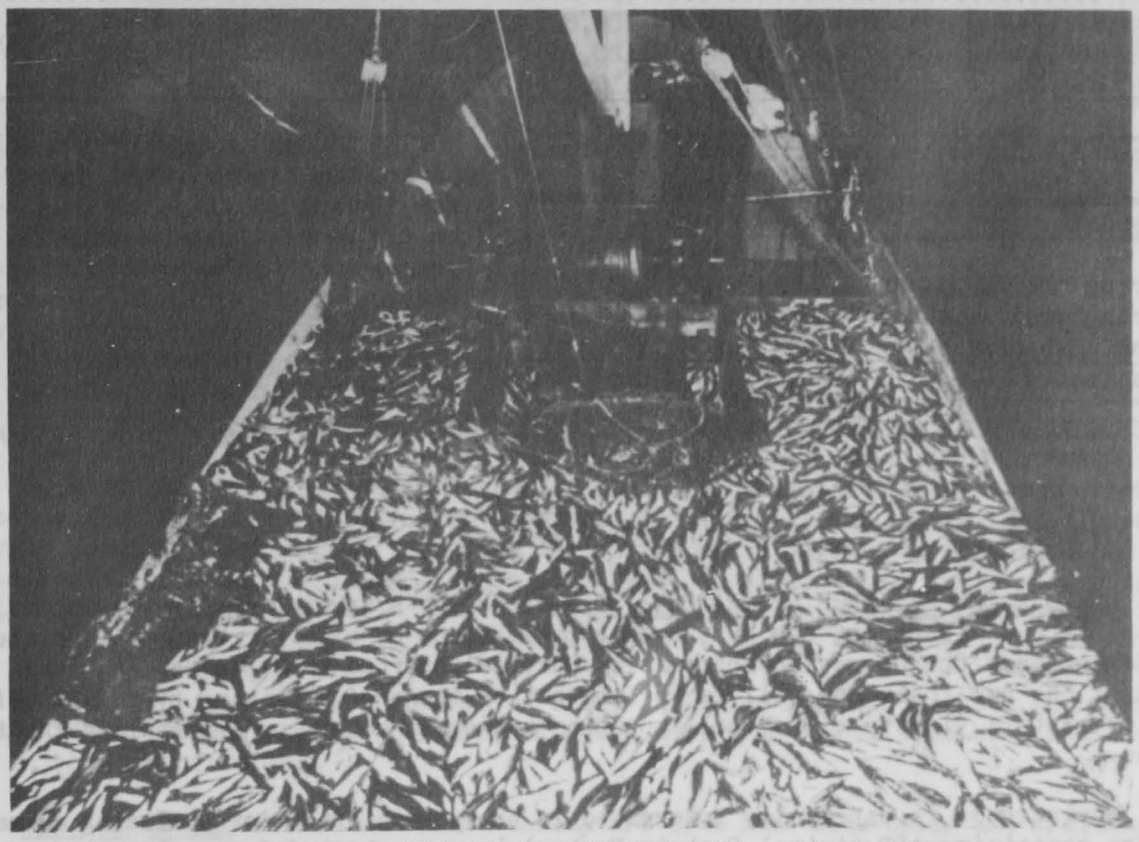
ESTIMATED FISH CATCH FOR 1950: It is expected that the total Norwegian fish catch in 1950 will reach a record total of 1,263,500 metric tons as compared to 1,054,000 tons in 1949, a September 1 semi-annual economic report from the American Embassy at Oslo states. This year's catch will probably consist of 912,300 metric tons of herring and 351,000 tons of cod and other species, compared to 718,723 tons of herring and 336,000 tons of cod and other species in 1949.



A NORWEGIAN HERRING VESSEL STEAMING TO PORT WITH A FULL LOAD OF HERRING.

Table 1 - Norwegian Herring "Winter," "Spring," "Fat," and "Small" Catch, 1949-50

Type of Herring	1950	1949
	(in metric tons)	
"Winter" and "spring"	771,342	567,486
"Fat"	1/ 24,994	21,766
"Small"	1/ 99,975	101,086
Total	896,311	690,338

1/Estimated.

HERRING FISHERIES, 1950:1/ Although the 1950 winter herring fishing season was short, abundance of fish was great. Daily catches at times reached peaks overtaxing shore facilities for marketing and processing. Fishing had to be discontinued for one week; this resulted in a presumed loss of an additional 93,000 metric tons which the fisheries would otherwise have yielded.

A catch of winter herring of 771,900 metric tons in 1950 was almost as high as the all-time record catch of 820,260 tons in 1948 (table 1).

1/DOES NOT INCLUDE BRISLING FISHERY.

Table 2 - Norway's Utilization of the Winter-Fished Herring, 1948-50 ("Winter" and "Spring")

Year	Total Catch	Utilization						
		Exported Fresh	Fresh-Home Consumption	Salted	Canned	Processed (Oil and Meal)	Bait	Other
	(in metric tons)							
1950	771,342	56,544	3,720	59,892	10,044	634,260	6,882	-
1949	567,486	120,714	4,929	125,736	13,485	294,624	7,905	93
1948	820,260	119,691	7,533	118,110	17,763	540,051	17,112	-

Table 3 - Norwegian Production of Fish Meal and Herring Oil, 1948-50

Product	1950 1/	1949	1948
	(in metric tons)		
Herring oil	45,000	26,800	40,500
Herring meal	120,000	72,000	110,000
Other fish meal	5,000	13,637	11,904

1/ Estimated.

Although the 1950 catch was large, the export market demand for herring products was held to be the poorest in more than 25 years, with the exception of the war years. As a result, greater quantities than ever before were allocated to the production of herring oil and meal (table 3).

NOTE: CATCH DATA CONVERTED FROM HECTOLITERS TO METRIC TONS ON THE BASIS OF 10.75 HECTOLITERS EQUAL 1 METRIC TON OR 1 HECTOLITER EQUALS 0.093 METRIC TONS.

* * * * *

NEW WHALING RESEARCH LABORATORY: One of Norway's leading whaling operators, Consul Lars Christensen, has announced establishment of a large research laboratory in Sandefjord, the Norwegian Information Service reported on September 14. Main task of the new institute will be to find better means of utilizing byproducts of whales, with a view to closer collaboration between the farming and whaling industries.

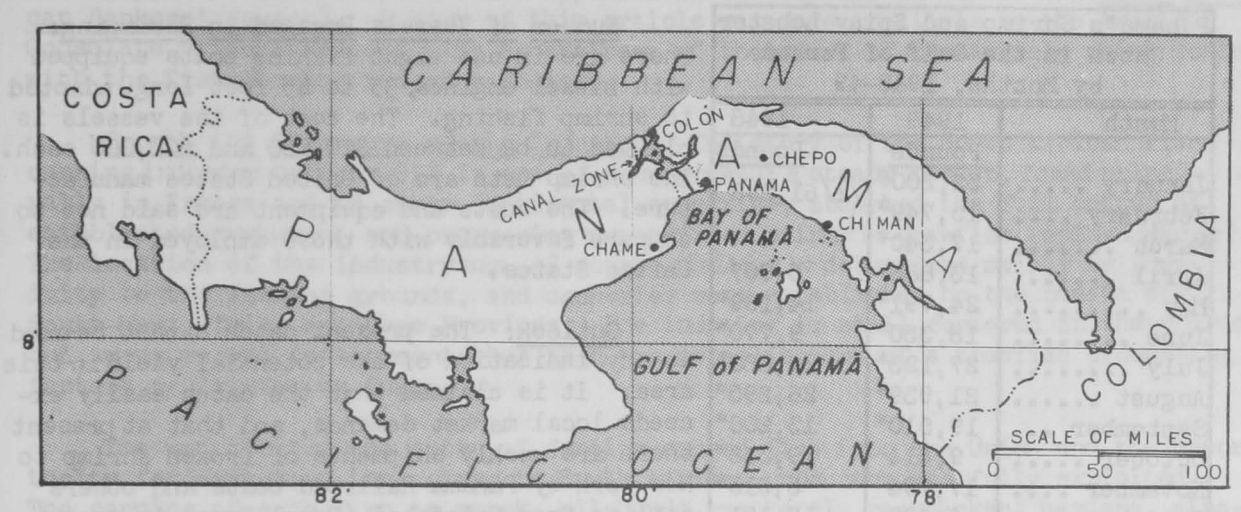
Christensen is especially interested in the possibilities of producing animal fodder containing APF (Animal Protein Factor) in concentrated form. Recent research, initiated in the United States, has proved that infinitesimal amounts of APF is sufficient, but also essential, to insure healthy animal growth. It is only 1½ years since the first results of APF could be proved, but already during the last whaling season Christensen's company was able to produce APF-rich whale meal on a small scale.

This coming season, the research will be expanded to ascertain how APF concentrates can be made from whale byproducts in large quantities.

Republic of Panama

SHRIMP FISHERY: Development of the Panamanian shrimp fishery is claimed to be due to the efforts of an American citizen who, approximately a year ago, imported a vessel and equipment suitable for general fishing, a report dated September 6 from the American Embassy at Panama City states. When the vessel found shrimp in its nets instead of fish, it concentrated on fishing for shrimp.

Panamanian waters, particularly those on the Pacific Coast of the country, have always been known to be productive of edible fish, including shrimp. Since Colonial days, all fish taken were for local consumption. There are no facilities for canning, smoking, drying, salting, pickling, or otherwise preparing fishery products for export.



Most of the residents of the islands and lands around bays have engaged in subsistence fishing in connection with farming. Until a year ago, there was only one private concern which bought fish from the fishermen to be sold to hotels, clubs, restaurants, and the Canal Zone. This firm, which handled a very large percentage of the country's total Pacific fish catch, also engaged in shipping fish in ice to Colon on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus.

Information as to the abundance of fish, including shrimp, is based on estimates of fishermen who have always claimed that both shrimp and spiny lobsters are plentiful in the Bay of Panama.

Type of Shrimp: The Panamanian shrimp are of a pale blue color and are reported to be abundant, with sizes ranging from 10 to 15 heads-off shrimp per pound. They may be any one or several of four species found in the Gulf of Panama.

Location of Shrimp Grounds: Shrimp are found mainly in the Gulf of Panama. Their exact whereabouts, however, vary in accordance with the season. The best shrimp grounds are located 30 to 80 miles offshore of Chame, Chiman, Chepo, and Chepigana.

Season: Shrimp are found in large quantities from September to December, the period of greatest abundance being the time of the "spring tides" occurring usually in October and lasting about a week. They are somewhat scarce throughout the cold-water period, i.e., from December to May.

Production: Annual production of shrimp was officially estimated at around 30,000 pounds until the end of 1947.

The total shrimp catch in 1949 (not including crayfish) in the Gulf of Panama was 131,988 pounds, while the spiny lobster catch was a little less than 93,000 pounds.

At present there are three concerns engaged in large scale shrimp fishing in Panama. One of these, which owns two fishing vessels, did not operate the last two weeks in August because of damage to boats. This firm has in the past been a steady supplier of shrimp to Panama and the Canal Zone.

Panama's Shrimp and Spiny Lobster Catch in the Gulf of Panama by Months, 1948-49

Month	1949	1948
	Pounds	Pounds
January	32,200*	1/ 61,298
February	15,749*	
March	17,340*	-
April	13,886	5,007
May	24,791*	14,169*
June	18,350*	9,770*
July	27,123*	32,882*
August	21,939*	26,295*
September ...	19,510*	13,200*
October	9,614	19,332*
November	17,794	5,015*
December	6,605	9,151
Total	224,901*	196,119*

*Includes crayfish production.
1/Not available by months.

Number of Vessels Engaged in Shrimping: There are in use eight fishing boats equipped with Diesel engines, 35 to 45 feet long, adapted to shrimp fishing. The cost of the vessels is claimed to be between $10,000 and $20,000 each. The shrimp nets are of United States manufacture. The boats and equipment are said not to compare favorably with those employed in the United States.

Outlook: The present catch cannot be used as any indication of the potential yield in this area. It is claimed that the catch easily exceeds local market demands, and that at present there are weekly shipments of frozen shrimp to New York by Panama Railroad boats and others sailing from Cristobal (Canal Zone) in quantities of from 6,000 to 15,000 pounds.

The lack of adequate quick-freeze facilities is handicapping production, an official of one of the concerns in the shrimp fishing industry stated, and there is a very definite need for such equipment. He added that freezers received from California (which reach freezing point in one-hour's time in California) require approximately five hours in Panama to provide identical results.

Sweden

SOVIETS REPORTED ORDERING MORE FISHING VESSELS FROM SWEDEN:1/ It was reported unofficially that the Soviets are attempting to order from the Swedish Association of Smaller Shipyards more than the 29 fishing vessels already on order, a September 19 American Embassy dispatch from Stockholm states. The Soviets wish the Association to take over the contracts for the 21 vessels originally placed with small shipyards outside of the association, which have been unable to fulfill delivery. In addition, the Soviets are also said to be negotiating for changes in the construction which are not standard for fishing vessels and which will permit the vessels to be used for purposes other than fishing. The association appears to be asking for a considerable increase in delivery price to cover these changes.

1/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, FEBRUARY 1950, P. 60.

Union of South Africa

A REVIEW OF THE FISH CANNING INDUSTRY: An analysis of the South African canning industry was published in an article ("A Review of the South African Canning Industry," by W. S. Parker) which appeared in the May 1950 issue of the South African Bankers' Journal. A copy of this article was made available by the American Consulate at Johannesburg, and an abstract of that part of the article which deals with the fish canning industry follows.

Growth and Structure of the Industry: The story of the South African fish canning industry before 1939 is one of slow growth; a steady market, found principally in France and in other Continental countries, absorbed the full output of established producers, and processing was confined mainly to crawfish (spiny lobster). The location of the industry was, of course, initially determined mainly by proximity to the fishing grounds, and canneries were established on the coasts of South-West Africa and Cape Province. The industry is still centered in these areas, but among recent developments has been the establishment of a crawfish processing factory on Tristan da Cunha.

The war limited the entry of foreign canned fish into the Union and the opportunity for expansion thus given to South African producers was fully exploited. The canning of such fish as snoek, pilchards, mackerel, maasbanker, harders, albacore and stockfish was developed, and the production of byproducts, such as fish meals and oils was greatly expanded. From the outbreak of World War II most of the surplus production of South African canned crawfish was purchased by the British Ministry of Food, so that throughout the war years the crawfish industry was enabled to maintain full production. The expansion of the fish canning industry as a whole was, in fact, almost as remarkable as that of the fruit and vegetable canneries.

The total value of the output of the industry, including byproducts, which had averaged approximately £348,000 (about $1,643,000) in the years 1932 to 1939, rose in 1946-47 to £2,287,268 ($9,172,000) while the number of factories in operation increased from 22 in 1929 to 28 at the end of war. Wages paid to all employees amounted to £60,062 ($240,000) in 1929, £62,051 ($273,000) in 1939, and £184,648 ($735,000) in 1944, although the total number of workers in the industry rose only by 351 during that period, from 1,311 to 1,662.

This development has been guided and assisted to no small extent by several organizations representing the various sections of the industry. The provisions of the 1944 Fishing Industry Development Act enabled the establishment in October 1944 of the Fisheries Development Corporation of South Africa, Ltd., to promote the expansion of the South African fishing and fish-canning industries. Other organizations directly concerned with the expansion of fish canning in the Union and the marketing of the industry's products are the South African Food Canners' Council, Inc., and the South African Rock Lobster Packers' Association, while problems relating to the processing of fish and the extraction of byproducts are dealt with by the Fishing Industry Research Institute. Half the cost of this latter organization is borne by the fish canning industry and half by the Government-sponsored Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Recent events have shown, however, that, in addition to the services of organizations devoted to research and marketing, a new industry has need of the guidance of well-defined standards of quality for its product, standards which must be rigidly enforced. Through the lack of such standards, goods of inferior quality were

marketed on occasion in recent years by the South African canning industry, both at home and abroad. To ensure adherence to a high standard of quality in the future, a system of inspection has been instituted, and to this end the South African Bureau of Standards undertook the construction of a table of standards for the range of products of the industry.

The Market: During the war, imports of canned fish and fish products largely fell away, while at the same time demand was augmented by the requirements of the armed forces. The total production of South African canneries was almost fully absorbed by the home market and the British Ministry of Food, which also sustained the crawfish canning industry.

Since the war, no appreciable contraction in demand has been noticeable, largely due at first to buying on the part of the British Ministry of Food, while a broad new market for crawfish tails, sold as Cape rock lobster, has been successfully developed in the United States. As in the case of South African canned fruit, jam, and vegetables, the world shortage of food provides large potential markets for canned fish and fish products. Resources of the raw materials of the industry are considerable; the fishing grounds off the South African coast are largely untouched; crawfish, the export of which is now limited on a quota system in order to conserve resources, are to be fished off Tristan de Cunha at an annual planned rate of 1,600,000 crawfish, and it is likely that these conservation measures together with the development of the Tristan industry will enable a profitable export trade in crawfish products, of an annual value of over £900,000,1/ to continue for a considerable number of years. Research into the commercial possibilities of plankton, resources of which are virtually inexhaustible, indicate that once satisfactorily marketable forms of this marine growth are devised, a profitable and extensive branch of the canning industry could be established.

The demand for shark liver oils has recently eased, but fish oils find a ready market and the South African product, which is concentrated and of good quality, is able to compete with the products of Argentina, Norway, and the United States.

A further potential market which is engaging the attention of South African fish canners is the development of the non-European trade within the Union. Expansion in this quarter depends largely on the production of a low-priced commodity of suitable and consistent quality, and on the ability of the non-European consumer to afford this addition to his diet. The possibility of extending the home market in this direction is small, however, owing to the limited purchasing power of the consumer group in question and the difficulty which will be met in attempting to substitute fish for any portion of the natives' accepted diet. Nevertheless, the present shortage of meat provides an opening for skilful salesmanship.

A wide market for canned fish products is available, therefore, but there are indications that the foreign market is becoming more competitive: the reduction in price on the Union market in 1947, for example, was due to the need to compete with lower priced imports; and again, in the United States market for crawfish, competitors from the Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico, and Australia are appearing. While in the United States the South African crawfish is particularly favored, as the tails are larger than the varieties offered by most other exporters, one competitor, Australia, can compete both in the size and flavor of its product; in addition, the price of the Australian tails is below that at which the South African product can be sold. It is apparent, therefore, that South African producers no longer enjoy a sellers' market abroad; at home the market can be described as steady but not strong.

1/ ABOUT $250,200,000.

While it is probable that further reductions in cost of production will have to be effected in order to sell South African canned fish on a fully competitive market, one factor which has already led to a lowering of costs has been the development of the canning of fish other than crawfish, thus enabling factories to work throughout the year instead of producing in the crawfish season only. As a result, overhead costs have been distributed over a greatly increased volume of output and the subsequent fall in the cost of production for each unit of the product has been reflected in lower prices to the consumer.

Conclusion: In conclusion, then, it can be said of the canning of both farm- and fish-products in the Union that the continuance of a wide market is essential for the maintenance of the industry's prosperity, since capitalization is now on a scale which demands an outlet for a large volume of production, and the number of workers whose livelihood would be affected by any significant contraction in output is considerable. To ensure adequate sales it would seem to be essential to reduce costs of production and so to lower the selling price, as overseas markets are becoming increasingly competitive. In this connection, as in relation to most secondary industries in the Union, the low purchasing power of the vast majority of the people denies the enjoyment of the economics of large scale production without the development of a large export market.

The fish canning industry is assured of readily available and plentiful supplies of cheap raw materials, and the industry is not handicapped to any great extent by natural factors. Nevertheless, the canneries are in competition with large-scale overseas industries, based on broad markets and having at their disposal greater resources of technical knowledge and traditional skill. It is therefore essential for this section of the canning industry to maintain a competitive selling price, and for the industry as a whole to guard against deviations from high standards of quality.

The industry as a whole has enjoyed great advantage in its growth; a period of consolidation rather than expansion is now necessary to retain the benefits of its maturity.

United Kingdom

BRITIAN PLANS TO SELL KIPPERS IN U. S.: Plans for a sales campaign to sell Scottish kippers in the United States and Canada are completed, according to the August 26 Fish Trades Gazette, a British fishery periodical.

The kippers will be cellophane-wrapped in pairs, deep-frozen, and shipped to American and Canadian cold-storage warehouses at strategic sales points. Sales will be made from September through May by a London merchant bank through its American trading company, who in turn will sell directly to food and fish brokers.

The first year's export sales target is 80,000 cases (44 kippers to a case). Sales will open in test areas. The campaign will not be confined just to hotels, restaurants, and the catering trade, but will also aim to promote and sell kippers as a home product. Newspaper, radio, possibly television, and public relations will be employed as promotion aids to the sales campaign.

Uruguay

GOOD PROCESSING RESULTS OBTAINED WITH URUGUAYAN SEALSKINS: Satisfactory results were obtained by an American fur company in processing 10 of 31 Uruguayan sealskins (Lobos)--a simple shipment made by the Servicio Oceanografico y de Pesca (SOYP), states a September 27 American Embassy dispatch from Montevideo.

The American fur company stated that if skins equal in quality to those in the sample shipment were shipped, a good permanent market could be developed for these skins in the United States. Their value is estimated to be somewhere between the value of Alaska and Cape Hope sealskins. In the last spring auction in St. Louis, Alaska sealskins averaged $64.20 each and the Cape Hope skins averaged $21.89 each. However, it is estimated that the market presently is up at least 50 percent.

The Uruguayan Government owns a seal rookery at Isla de Lobos, about 70 miles from Montevideo. The herd on the Island is estimated to contain up to 300,000 seals.

This year an estimated 2,000 skins have been taken, although the season does not end until October 15. Selective methods were followed with only male seals being killed.

West Africa (British Colonies of Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Nigeria)

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES PLANNED: Establishment of Fisheries Research Institute: A West African Fisheries Research Institute is to be established at Freetown, Sierra Leone, according to a September 23 American consular dispatch from Monrovia. It is estimated that a capital expenditure of $554,400 will be necessary. This will be supplied by the United Kingdom, which will also contribute $504,000 for operating expenses over a period of five years. This latter sum is to be matched by an equal amount from the colonies of Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast,[1/] and Nigeria.

Several buildings facing on Cline Bay, just outside of Freetown, have been acquired by the Institute from the British Admiralty for use as laboratories and administration use. One of the buildings will be used as a pilot plant for processing shark livers.

A research ship, costing around $255,000, is to be launched the first part of 1951.

In addition to the actual research of the Institute, it is planned later to establish laboratories for training in research in tropical fisheries. The facilities of these laboratories will be made available to visiting scientists of all nationalities.

Programs Planned for Expanding the Fisheries: The ultimate purpose of the Institute is to make protein more available to the native populations of West Africa. In some areas the incidence of leprosy runs as high as one in nine of the population. It has been found that a high protein diet considerably reduces the incidence of leprosy and there are, of course, other benefits.

Prior to World War II, Scandinavian dried fish was available for about 2 cents a pound, which was the equivalent of four to five pounds of canned fish. This dried

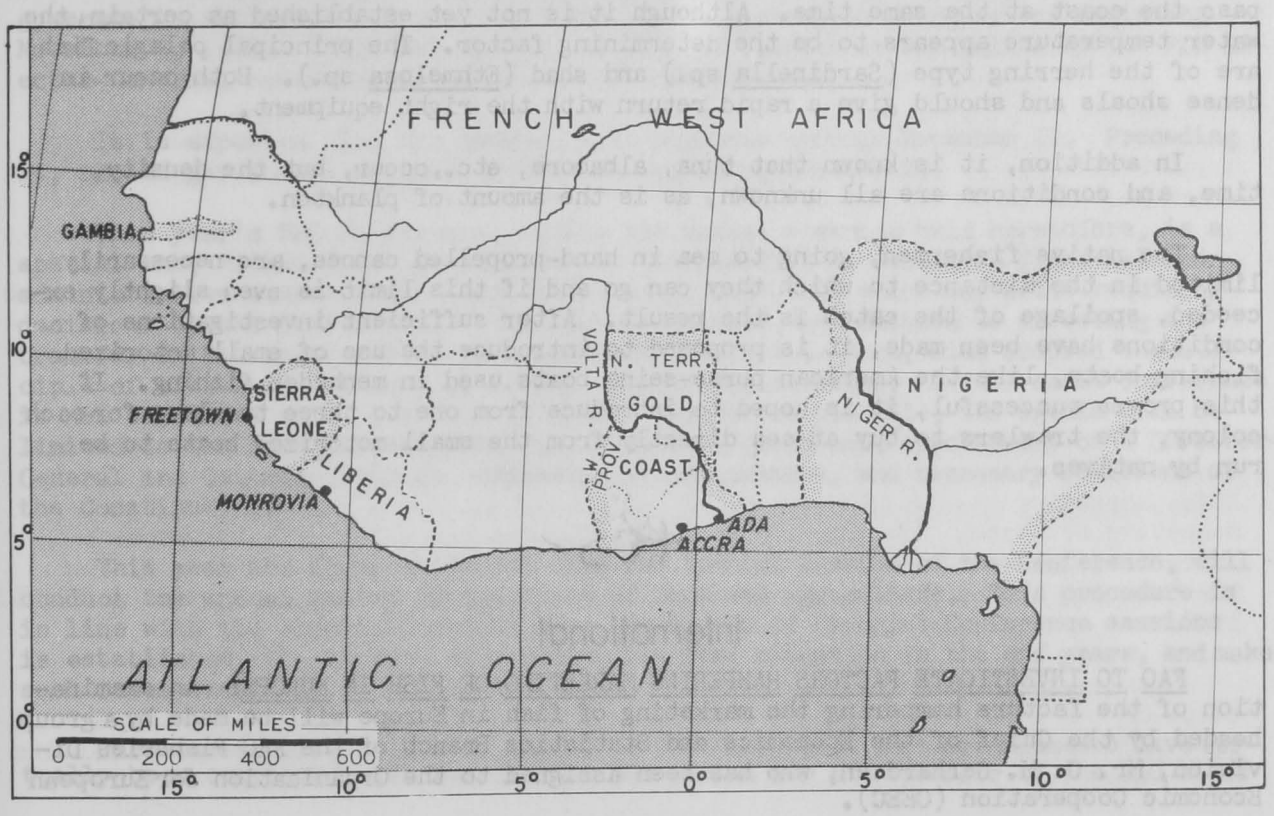
1/ALSO SEE P. 57 OF THIS ISSUE.

fish came chiefly from Greenland, but the increase in wages paid there since the war has resulted in pricing the dried fish out of the local market. The director of the Institute estimates that at present canned fish cannot be procured for distribution in the interior for less than 2 to 3½ cents a pound, which is too expensive for the native population. With a view to making cheap protein available, several different programs are being planned and started.

The humidity in West Africa is too high for heavy salt curing. Sun-dried fish, with a slight salt preservative, will keep for about two weeks in Sierra Leone without redrying and this will undoubtedly be one of the methods used. It is, however, desirable to preserve fish for longer periods.

The Torrey Research Station at Aberdeen, Scotland, has developed a smoking and drying kiln in the form of a wind tunnel. The kiln burns sawdust, uses steam pipes to maintain temperature control, and fans to dry the air. The smoke from the burning sawdust is also used in preserving. It is estimated that such a kiln can be locally constructed for $420 and it is planned to build one.

This is the preserving method to be used: The fish is first boiled so that the flesh comes off the bones. The meat is then minced and spread on sieve-like drying trays, which are stacked in the smoke tunnel, and the fish is dried to about 4 percent moisture. It is hoped to package the dried fish in a newly-developed aluminum package costing about the same as a paper package. The packages will be 10 and 20 pounds each, and the market women will be able to sell the dried fish at from 1-1½ cents a cup (9½ oz.), thus securing the widest distribution of protein at a minimum cost. The dried fish looks like desiccated vegetables, but according to the Director it reconstitutes well and fish balls prepared from it are almost indistinguishable from fish balls made from fresh fish.



The shark liver project will be simply a pilot plant. This project was approved by the four colonies in August 1950, and has now gone to the United Kingdom for Treasury sanction. The Treasury had previously indicated its approval, so little delay is anticipated. Very simple equipment will be used—a tank for livers, an emulsifier to break it down, and reagents to neutralize it. The liver will be chopped up and emulsified, made slightly akaline, and cooled to the critical point at which the oil separates from the water. This method eliminates scorching and the consequent reduction of the vitamin A content. The liver residue has a very high content of the animal protein growth factor, which can be used for animal feeding.

A fish pond has been started at Newton, about twenty-five miles from Freetown. At present, a kind of perch (Tilapia melano pleura) is being grown. This is a vegetable eater and is being used as a starter. Later, it is planned to add two other kinds of fish so that there will be surface-feeding fish and bottom-feeding fish, as well as vegetable eaters. This will secure maximum use of the water. One difficulty which has been encountered is that West African fish reproduce so young that the food supply is insufficient to grow large fish. It is hoped that a type of bottom-feeding fish can be found that will eat enough of the smallest fish so that enough food will remain to enable some fish to grow large, and it is considered possible that an abundance of food might result in a change of the breeding pattern.

Another problem which is being investigated is the development of vegetable-eating fish that will not be destructive of rice paddies.

Offshore and deep-sea fishing also will be investigated. Bottom fish and pelagic fish are the principal sources. Investigations have so far failed to reveal any concentrations of bottom fish, which appears to be fairly evenly and not densely distributed over the bottom. The pelagic fish appear to be migratory, but the migrations do not appear to be related to breeding, as fish of all different sizes pass the coast at the same time. Although it is not yet established as certain, the water temperature appears to be the determining factor. The principal pelagic fish are of the herring type (Sardinella sp.) and shad (Ethmelosa sp.). Both occur in dense shoals and should give a rapid return with the right equipment.

In addition, it is known that tuna, albacore, etc., occur, but the density, time, and conditions are all unknown, as is the amount of plankton.

The native fishermen, going to sea in hand-propelled canoes, are necessarily limited in the distance to which they can go and if this limit is even slightly exceeded, spoilage of the catch is the result. After sufficient investigations of conditions have been made, it is proposed to introduce the use of small motorized fishing boats, like the American purse-seine boats used in menhaden fishing. If this proves successful, it is hoped to introduce from one to three trawlers for each colony, the trawlers to buy at sea directly from the small motorized boats to be run by natives.

International

FAO TO INVESTIGATE FACTORS HAMPERING MARKETING OF FISH IN EUROPE: An examination of the factors hampering the marketing of fish in Europe will be made by a group headed by the Chief of the Economics and Statistics Branch of the FAO Fisheries Division, Mr. G. M. Gerhardsen, who has been assigned to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC).

The apparent overproduction of fish in Europe, as compared to the actual demand, has become a matter of great concern. Although the fish which have been caught have been disposed of in some way or another, the outlets have been of an alarmingly unstable character.

When the OEEC Subcommittee on Fisheries considered the situation in July 1949, it felt that "there is a considerable scope for an over-all increase in consumption," but there are certain factors which obviously limit the possibilities. The subcommittee found that it was not possible to frame specific proposals for increased consumption of fish without first making a more detailed survey.

Upon the unanimous recommendation of the principal European fisheries administrators, it was decided that OEEC should seek the services of the Chief Economist of the FAO Fisheries Division for six months to act as head of a team of experts, who are to be nominated by the countries concerned. This team will conduct a survey of the factors limiting the consumption of fish in Europe, so that the necessary adjustments may be made to bring about an increased consumption. The survey will deal with such things as the structure of the distribution trade, transport, handling and storage facilities, structure and behavior of prices and finance, seasonal fluctuation in fish supply and quality, consumer preference, and, finally, government policy on quotas, import duties, and local taxation. It is felt that practical information on these matters would very likely make it possible for the governments themselves to make adjustments that would lead to the desired increase in consumption of fish and fisheries products.

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SPECIAL SESSION OF FAO CONFERENCE: With the Food and Agriculture Organization's move to permanent headquarters in Rome scheduled for early in 1951, FAO's 63 member governments will meet for the last time at its Washington headquarters beginning November 3, 1950. A Special Session of the FAO Conference was called by the FAO Director-General, according to an October 23 news release.

It is expected that the session will continue through November 11. Preceding it, the 18-government Council of FAO met beginning October 25.

This year's FAO Conference, unlike the annual sessions held heretofore, is a special one, "limited (as recommended by the Council) to essential financial and administrative matters and to any other urgent questions which may arise requiring decisions by the Conference." The 1949 Conference, in addition to directing the transfer of FAO headquarters to a permanent location in Rome, also adopted the principle of biennial, rather than annual, Conference sessions. A full-scale Conference is not scheduled until the fall of 1951. Insofar as possible, the agenda will be limited to the headquarters transfer, financial questions, appointment of a Director-General and Council Chairman, admission of new members, and necessary revisions of the Constitution.

This year the Council, rather than the Special Session of the Conference, will conduct the annual review of the state of food and agriculture. This procedure is in line with the expectation that when the system of biennial Conference sessions is established, the Council will review the food situation in the off years, and make such recommendations as are called for.

Director-General Dodd will report to the Conference that arrangements have virtually been completed with the Italian Government for the transfer of the FAO staff

and equipment to Rome. The staff transfer will take place in four groups, sailing from New York for Naples on February 17, March 1, March 22, and April 4, 1951.

In Rome, FAO will occupy two buildings which the Italian Government has under construction. The first is expected to be ready in February, and the second by October.

Among other matters which the Director-General will bring before the Conference are:

1. The rapidly growing FAO expanded program for technical assistance. The report will cover requests for technical assistance received from member governments, and methods of handling them within FAO and in cooperation with other United Nations agencies.

2. A report from the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems established by the last Conference. Beginning with 1946, each FAO Conference has given great attention to commodity problems--particularly to surplus situations existing side by side with hunger in many parts of the world--and there have been several proposals for improving the distribution of basic foods. Much attention was given last year to a proposal, advanced by the Director-General, for the creation of an International Commodity Clearinghouse to provide a bridge across which surpluses could move into consumption. While member governments could not see their way clear to adopt this proposal, interest in the problem has continued high.

3. Action taken by FAO to prepare for relief and rehabilitation work in Korea in response to the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

The terms of six Council members--Brazil, Canada, Chile, Italy, the Union of South Africa, and the United States of America--also expire. The Conference will elect members to these places on the 18-government Council.

Four applications for membership in FAO are on the proposed Conference agenda. These are from the State of Cambodia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, and the State of Viet-Nam.

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SECOND MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION:[1/] The Second Meeting of the International Whaling Commission was convened at Oslo, Norway, on July 17, 1950, according to the official report of the United States Commissioner to the Secretary of State. The Commission is established pursuant to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed at Washington, December 2, 1946. The business of the Commission was continued on July 18, 19, and concluded on July 21, 1950.

During its deliberations, the Commission (1) considered the future relationships of the Commission with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other specialized agencies of the United Nations; (2) decided the next meeting of the Commission

1/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JULY 1950, P. 57.

should be convened at Capetown, South Africa, on July 23, 1951; (3) considered recommendations made by standing committees; and (4) adopted certain regulations amending the Schedule annexed to the Whaling Convention of 1946.

The countries represented by Commissioners, and their advisors, having full voting rights in the Commission were as follows: The United States of America, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark France, Iceland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. New Zealand and Panama were not represented. Argentina and Chile were represented by observers--these countries are signatories to the Whaling Convention but have not deposited their instruments of ratification. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers at Tokyo, and the Association of Whaling Companies were each represented by an observer.

At this meeting, among other actions, the Commission adopted the recommendation that countries who have not as yet ratified the 1946 Convention shall be notified that after the third meeting (July 1951) they will not have another opportunity to send observers.

The American Commissioner, Dr. A. Remington Kellogg, Director of the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., was assisted by the following advisors: Dr. Hilary J. Deason, Chief, Office of Foreign Activities, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior; Fred E. Taylor, Foreign Affairs Specialist, U. S. Department of State; and Harry Conover, Second Secretary, American Embassy, Oslo, Norway.

Inclusion of the quota of 1,250 humpbacks permitted to be taken south of 40° S. latitude within the annual limitation of 16,000 blue-whale units for the Antarctic whale catch was confirmed, and by this action, the interim decision made by the Chairman of the Commission was approved.

Certain minor recommendations regarding whaling laws and infractions were also adopted, and questionnaires and standard forms to be used by governments in reports to the Commission were approved.

The Contracting Governments are required under the 1946 Convention to decide within two years after the coming into force of that Convention whether the Commission should be brought within the framework of a specialized agency related to the United Nations, namely FAO. The Commission decided that so long as the Commission receives the office and staff facilities now provided by the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, it should continue to be independent, as at present, since that is the most economical plan.

The Commission agreed to the following amendment to paragraph 6 of the Schedule, as amended in 1949 (new matter underscored), and this amendment will become effective November 1, 1950, unless a contracting government objects:

> "6. It is forbidden to use a factory ship or a whale catcher attached thereto for the purpose of taking or treating humpback whales in any waters south of 40° South Latitude; provided that, in the pelagic whaling season 1950/51 a maximum of 1,250 humpback whales may be taken in these waters <u>commencing on February 1</u>."

The notification procedure provided for in paragraph 8(c) of the Schedule has not proven satisfactory as regards the reporting of the catch of humpback whales by factory ships operating in the Antarctic. Therefore the Commission added the following section to paragraph 8 (which becomes effective November 1, 1950, unless a contracting government objects):

> "(e) On the basis of data on the number of humpback whales taken in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 and reported in accordance with subparagraph 8 (c), the Commission, or such other body as the Commission may designate, shall determine the date on which the maximum catch of humpback whales shall be deemed to have been reached and shall notify each factory ship and each Contracting Government four days in advance thereof. The taking of humpback whales in all waters south of 40° South Latitude shall be illegal after midnight of the date so determined."

Active and full participation by the United States in the work of the Commission is now facilitated by the approval, on August 9, 1950, of legislation to implement the 1946 Convention (P. L. 676, 81st. Cong.[2]). The President of the United States has appointed the permanent United States Commissioner and the Deputy United States Commissioner.[3]

2/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, SEPTEMBER 1950, P. 65.
3/SEE P. 46 OF THIS ISSUE.

OLDEST TAGGED HALIBUT EVER CAUGHT

The oldest tagged halibut ever caught was landed this summer at Seattle, according to an August 15 report from the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist stationed in that city.

The dressed halibut weighed 100 pounds and was 25 years old. Originally caught and tagged by an International Fisheries Commission research vessel in 1935 on one of the halibut banks off the coast of British Columbia, the halibut was retaken by a commercial fishing boat only a short distance from where it was released 15 years ago.