



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of Commerce

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

CERTAIN COMMODITIES DELETED FROM POSITIVE LIST: Certain additional commodities were deleted from the Positive List effective December 29, 1949, according to the Department of Commerce. Among the deleted commodities was "...fish meal for feed..." Schedule B No. 119900. This was the only item deleted of interest to the fishing and allied industries. (See Commercial Fisheries Review, January 1950, p. 54; and November 1949, p. 68).



Federal Trade Commission

COMMERCIAL COLD STORAGE INDUSTRY TRADE PRACTICE CONFERENCE HELD: A commercial cold storage industry trade practice conference was called by the Federal Trade Commission on March 23, and announced in the Federal Register of March 2. The conference was held at Chicago.

The conference was and further proceedings will be directed toward the eventual establishment and promulgation by the Commission of trade practice rules for the industry under which unfair methods of competition, unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and other trade abuses, may be eliminated and prevented.

All persons, firms, corporations and organizations engaged in the business of renting, leasing or otherwise providing refrigerated storage space for foods and other products, issuing warehouse receipts for such products, and in supplying services and facilities in connection with such storage, were invited.



Department of State

OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF CARIBBEAN COMMISSION REAFFIRMED: The four Member Governments of the Caribbean Commission (France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States) issued a statement on March 6 reaffirming the Member Governments' continuing support of the objectives and principles of the Caribbean Commission and announcing policies on certain recommendations of the West Indian Conference (Third Session), according to the United States Department of State.

In this statement, which was issued simultaneously March 6 in the Caribbean Area, Paris, London, and The Hague, the four Governments reaffirm the principles that the Caribbean Commission is an agency of the Member and Territorial Governments

for the collection of factual information and statistics on problems of regional significance (including fisheries); a clearing house for the dissemination of such information and statistics; and an agency for reporting and making recommendations on specific problems of economic and social development. In its role as a coordinating agency, the Commission will place at the disposal of the Caribbean territories as wide a range of technical assistance as possible by such means as sponsoring the exchange of scientific and technical information, and by developing scholarship arrangements and direct exchange of technical workers.

So far as future joint action is concerned, the Governments pledge their continued support to the principle of industrial diversification appropriate to the economies of the various Caribbean territories, as a means of supplementing and diversifying their economies. Further, the Governments express interest in seeing that trade barriers are kept to a minimum with a view to promoting trade.

The Caribbean Commission is an outgrowth of the former Anglo-American Caribbean Commission which was established March 9, 1942, for the purpose of encouraging and strengthening social and economic cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom and their non-self-governing territories in the Caribbean area.

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UNITED STATES-COSTA RICA INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION:^{1/} The Convention between the United States and Costa Rica for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, signed at Washington, May 31, 1949, entered into force on March 3, upon the exchange by representatives of the two countries of the respective instruments of ratification.

This Convention is the result of increasing evidence during recent years that the United States and Costa Rica should undertake cooperative scientific investigation of the yellowfin and skipjack tuna in the waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean fished by nationals of the two countries, the kinds of fishes commonly used as bait in the tuna fisheries, and other kinds of fish taken by tuna fishing vessels. The scientific information presently available is not sufficiently extensive to indicate whether or not tuna stocks are now in danger of depletion. Accordingly, the Convention has for its purpose the making of a joint study and the gathering and interpretation of factual information with a view to maintaining the populations of the fishes covered by the Convention at a level which will permit maximum utilization year after year without depletion. This will be done through a joint Commission composed of a United States section and a Costa Rican section. Inasmuch as the fisheries concerned in the Convention present problems of interest to a number of countries besides the signatories, a provision was inserted making possible adherence by other countries whose nationals participate in the fisheries involved.

This Convention is similar to the conventions between the United States and Canada regarding sockeye salmon and halibut, which were signed on May 26, 1930, and January 29, 1937, respectively, in that the objectives are to be attained through a Commission composed of representatives of both Governments and which shall have investigatory powers. Unlike the salmon and halibut commissions, however, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission is a purely investigatory body and any regulatory measures which are indicated by the study would have to be the subject of future negotiations between the two countries.

^{1/}See Commercial Fisheries Review; November 1949, pp. 71-2; June 1949, pp. 59-62.

Eighty-first Congress (Second Session)

FEBRUARY 1950

Listed below are public bills, resolutions, etc., introduced and referred to committees, or passed by the Eighty-First Congress (Second Session) and signed by the President during February 1950, which affect in any way the fisheries and fishing and allied industries. Public bills, resolutions, etc., are mentioned under this section only when introduced and, if passed, when they are signed by the President.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:House of Representatives:

- H. R. 7209 (Bonner) - A bill authorizing and directing the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior to undertake a continuing study of the shortage of white shad, herring, and other fish in the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds and tributaries with respect to the biology, propagation, and abundance of such species to the end that such Service may recommend appropriate measures for arresting the decline of valuable food fish for increasing the abundance and promoting the wisest utilization thereof; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.
- H. R. 7441 (Thompson) - A bill to promote development and improvement of standards for frozen fishery products and to provide for voluntary grading, inspection, and certification of such products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

The following bills introduced prior to February 1, 1950, were not previously shown under this section:

- H. R. 6835 (Herter) - A bill to promote the foreign policy of the United States and to authorize participation in a cooperative endeavor for assisting in the development of economically underdeveloped areas of the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- H. R. 6902 (Scudder) - A bill to provide for the determination of peril points with respect to foreign trade agreements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
- H. R. 6905 (Stockman) - A bill to require the establishment of a classification of freight and a scale of class rates, for application to transportation of property by railroad, so adjusted as not to discriminate among regions or territories in the United States; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.
- H. R. 7062 (Furcolo) - A bill to aid in the use, conservation, and development of the natural resources of the New England Resources Survey Commission; to the Committee on Public Works. (Same as S. 2847.)

Senate:

- S. 3123 (Johnson) - A bill to amend section 5 of the act of February 26, 1944 entitled "An act to give effect to the Provisional Fur Seal Agreement of 1942 between the United States of America and Canada; to protect the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands; and for other purposes;" to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

The following bills introduced prior to February 1, 1950, were not previously shown under this section:

- S. 2847 (Green) - Same as H. R. 7062; to the Committee on Public Works.
- S. 2905 (Thye) - A bill to extend until July 1, 1951, import control powers with respect to fats and oils and rice and rice products; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.
- S. 2917 (Saltonstall) - A bill to promote the foreign policy of the United States and to authorize participation in a cooperative endeavor for assisting in the development of economically underdeveloped areas of the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.



NOTES ON SHRIMP FISHING ALONG THE NEW ENGLAND COAST

There lives along the North American coast from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia a large population of northern shrimp. Found in depths of 35 to over 400 fathoms, they are very different in appearance from the small shrimp of shallow brackish sloughs or from the large ones of the Gulf of Mexico. They are the largest shrimp of the New England coast, reaching a total length of about eight inches, and the most brilliantly colored, being deep pink to bright red all over the body.

They are most commonly found in water of 60 to 100 fathoms in depth, usually (though not always) on soft mud. During the late winter, however, they move inshore to spawn in depths of 20 to 50 fathoms. At that time, they are often taken incidentally in lobster pots or in flounder trawls. Some time in late spring or early summer they return to their usual haunts in deeper water. They may be taken on the bottom only during the day and in greatest quantities on brightest days. They are usually found in regions where several kinds of bottom-living fishes are also abundant. Hence, catches of shrimp are nearly always associated with large quantities of rosefish (breem), whiting, hake, flounders, etc.

Although it has long been known that northern shrimp are probably commercially abundant, their habits are such that special gear and methods are needed to catch them in profitable quantities.

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