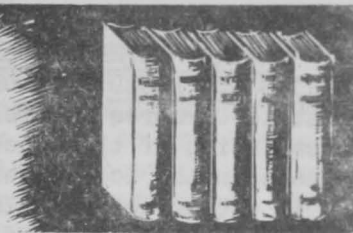




FEDERAL ACTIONS



Food and Drug Administration

PROPOSES TO EXTEND SEAFOOD INSPECTION SERVICE TO INCLUDE FRESH AND FROZEN

SHRIMP: The Food and Drug Administration has received requests from a number of packers operating under the provisions of the so-called "Seafood Amendment" (Section 702A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) for the extension to frozen shrimp of the Seafood Inspection Service at present operative with respect to canned shrimp and canned oysters.

In response to such requests, the Agency drafted and issued on April 21 some proposed regulations. These proposed regulations provide for the inspection and certification of canned, frozen, and iced shrimp. A 12-month inspection period would be established, to begin on July 1 of the year and to end on June 30 of the following year. During such period, the inspection service would apply to all shrimp handled and packed. Labels on shrimp packed and certified under the proposed regulations may bear inspection legends. Although the total annual cost of the service remains unchanged, fees are to be payable in 12 monthly installments of \$400. Applications for shrimp inspection are to be submitted (after 1950) by May 1 preceding the inspection period, accompanied by a \$400 deposit. This deposit will constitute the first of the 12 monthly payments.

Except as otherwise provided by the proposed regulations, the fee prescribed for the inspection service shall be 35 cents per 100 pounds of frozen or fresh raw headless shrimp, 40 cents per 100 pounds of frozen or fresh raw peeled shrimp, 70 cents per 100 pounds of frozen or fresh cooked peeled shrimp, and 11 cents for each case of canned shrimp. A case of canned shrimp shall be 48 No. 8Z short cans (211x300) or the equivalent thereof. The fees for specialty products shall be calculated on the basis of the amount of cooked peeled shrimp or equivalent contained therein.

Comments and suggestions on the proposed regulations were to be submitted in writing to the Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Building, Washington 25, D. C., by May 15, 1950. Copies of the proposed regulations are available from the same address.

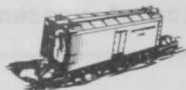
To permit the Food and Drug Administration to estimate the demand for the expanded inspection service, packers who contemplated applying for this new service were requested to state their interest by letter. A statement on the anticipated size of the pack in terms of cases of canned shrimp, and of pounds of frozen or iced raw headless, raw peeled, and cooked peeled shrimp, during the 12 months beginning July 1, was requested.

If a substantial portion of the industry evidenced a desire for the expanded service, upon receipt of written comments and suggestions as to changes in the proposed regulations, the Federal Security Agency plans to then formulate the regulations in final form and promulgate them for the guidance of packers and inspectors.

Interstate Commerce Commission

RAILWAY EXPRESS' CANCELLATION OF SCHEDULES INCORPORATING INCREASE IN ICE CHARGES POSTPONED: On one day's notice from the Railway Express Agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission postponed from May 1, 1950, to June 15, 1950, the cancellation of the schedules filed by the Express Agency and incorporating increases in the ice (water ice) charges for fish and shellfish shipments. This was in connection with Investigation and Suspension Docket No. 5612, "Billing Weights on Iced Fish and Shellfish--Express," which was submitted to the Commission on February 23, 1950, and decided upon and an order released by the Commission on March 22, 1950.

The decision was rendered by a Division of the Commission (composed of three Commissioners) and the Railway Express Agency could appeal the decision to the entire Commission.



Department of State

FOURTH SESSION ON GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE ENDS AT GENEVA: The fourth session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which began at Geneva, Switzerland, on February 23, 1950, ended April 4 with the conclusion of a long agenda covering the routine operation of the agreement, plans for a third round of tariff negotiations beginning in September of this year, and a searching examination of the trade practices of participating governments and their effect on the general reduction of barriers to international trade, which is the basic objective of the agreement. At the session of the Contracting Parties just ended more governments were represented, as contracting parties or observers, than at any preceding session. Two governments, Indonesia and Greece, became contracting parties to the agreement during this session, bringing the total number of contracting parties to 26, an April 5 State Department release stated.

The session just ended decided upon Torquay, England, as the site for the third round of tariff negotiations, to begin September 28 of this year. Certain fishery products are included. These negotiations will proceed among the present contracting parties as well as with newly acceding governments. In setting the stage for the forthcoming third round of tariff negotiations, the contracting parties took pains to insure that the third round should not be used as a medium for raising tariffs, even though the technical right exists for each contracting party to adjust individual rates after January 1, 1951. They also reaffirmed the negotiating rule followed at previous negotiations to the effect that the binding of a low rate of duty should be considered equivalent to the reduction of a high rate.

Among the most important work of the fourth session was an examination of the present operation of import and export controls of participating countries in order to assure that the basic obligations of the agreement are being complied with and to find means of hastening the end of post-war restrictive measures and the earlier achievement of the trade objectives of the agreement. In this connection, the Contracting Parties examined certain types of export and import restrictions which are being imposed for the purpose of protecting domestic industry or promoting exports.

In the field of import restrictions, it was recognized that even where such restrictions are imposed for balance-of-payments reasons, there could be an incidental protective effect which was not intended at the time they were imposed. The countries agreed that every effort should be made to minimize this protective effect to facilitate the removal of these restrictions as rapidly as balance-of-payments conditions permit. Member countries were urged to avoid encouragement of investment in enterprises which could not survive without protection when the balance-of-payments reasons for such protection have disappeared. They were urged to take every opportunity to impress upon producers who are protected by such restrictions the fact that these restrictions are not permanent. Countries were asked to administer such restrictions as are necessary on a flexible basis and to adjust them to changing circumstances. There was agreement that where quotas are necessary these should preferably be non-bilateral and should apply without discrimination to as many countries as possible.

Several specific types of misuse of import restrictions were cited as inconsistent with the General Agreement. Among these was the maintenance by a country of balance-of-payments restrictions which gave priority to imports of particular products on the basis of the competitiveness or non-competitiveness of such imports with a domestic industry. Another type of misuse is the imposition by a country of administrative obstacles to the full utilization of import quotas in order to afford protection to a domestic industry.

The Contracting Parties agreed in conclusion that each country should review its present system of quantitative import and export restrictions in the light of the discussions carried on during this meeting and of the conclusions reached. They also recommended to each country that every effort be made to acquaint those officials responsible for the administration of quantitative restrictions or the negotiation of trade agreements with the conclusions reached at this meeting and with the specific provisions of the General Agreement, in order that such types of restrictions as are not consistent with these conclusions or these provisions may be eliminated.

At the close of the conference the delegate of the United States made a brief statement to the effect that the United States still considered it important that the Contracting Parties devise a method of extending most-favored-nation treatment to Japan on a reciprocal basis and that the United States may raise this issue during the next session of the Contracting Parties at Torquay.

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INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COUNCIL MEETS AND UNITED STATES DELEGATES DESIGNATED:

Two members of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations were designated by the United States Department of State on March 14 as delegates to the Second Meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council which convened at Cronulla, Australia, on April 17, 1950. O. E. Sette, Director of POFI, has been designated as delegate, and Charles Butler, Chief of POFI's Technological Section, as alternate delegate. Both were United States delegates at the first meeting of the Council in Singapore.

The meeting dealt primarily with biological and technological fishery matters.

The inaugural meeting of the FAO Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council was held in Singapore on March 24, 1949. This Council came into being on November 9, 1948, when the fifth acceptance by a member country was received at FAO headquarters by

the Director-General. The agreement to establish the Council was formulated at a meeting called by FAO at Baguic, Philippines, in February 1948.

So far the following fourteen countries have accepted the agreement for the establishment of the Council:

AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	THAILAND
BURMA	INDIA	PAKISTAN	UNITED KINGDOM
CEYLON	INDONESIA	PHILIPPINES	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHINA	KOREA		

The Indo-Pacific Fishery Council was the first established of a series of such regional fisheries councils which FAO is initiating to encourage governments to work together to develop further the production and more effective utilization of fisheries products, aiming toward improved nutritional levels for the peoples of each area.



Eighty-first Congress (Second Session)

APRIL 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 March 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. 8023 (Ford) - A bill to amend chapter 61 (relating to lotteries) of title 18, United States Code, to make clear that such chapter does not apply to certain contests to advertise or develop the natural or recreational resources of a State or any region or section thereof; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- H. R. 8297 (Nicholson) - A bill for the safety of life and property by making all commercial fishing vessels subject to the rules and regulations of the United States Coast Guard marine inspection; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.
- H. Res. 558 (Thompson) - Resolution requesting the Secretary of State to investigate the seizure of five fishing vessels of the United States by the Republic of Mexico; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.
- H. Res. 559 (Bentsen) - Same as H. Res. 558.
- H. Res. 560 (Lyle) - Same as H. Res. 558.
- H. Res. 561 (Combs) - Same as H. Res. 558.
- H. Res. 564 (Rogers) - Resolution creating a select committee to attend the Third Round of Tariff Negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; to the Committee on Rules.

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

House of Representatives:

- H. R. 7462 (Bosone) - A bill to reestablish a Civilian Conservation Corps; to provide for the conservation of natural resources and the development of human resources through the employment of youthful citizens in the performance of useful work, including job training and instruction in good-work habits; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.
- H. R. 7575 (Nelson) - A bill to amend chapter 61 (relating to lotteries) of title 18, United States Code, to make clear that such chapter does not apply to certain contests to advertise or develop the natural or recreational resources of a State or any region or section thereof; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- H. R. 7619 (Mack) - Same as H. R. 7575; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- H. R. 7621 (Tollefson) - Same as H.R. 7575; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- H. R. 7721 (Wier) - Same as H. R. 7462; to the Committee on Public Lands.
- H. R. 7952 (Andresen) - A bill to extend until July 1, 1952, import-control powers with respect to fats and oils and rice and rice products; to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

Senate:

- S. 2786 (O'Connor and Magnuson) - A bill to amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, to further promote the development and maintenance of the American merchant marine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. (This bill refers to the fishery industries insofar as it changes Section 511 (d) of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 permitting a tax-free reserve fund for construction, reconstruction, reconditioning or acquisition of fishing vessels.)
- S. 3144 (Murray, Thomas, Pepper, Green, Kilgore, Taylor, Humphrey, Neely, and Lehman) - A bill to reestablish a Civilian Conservation Corps; to provide for the conservation of natural resources and the development of human resources through the employment of youthful citizens in the performance of useful work, including job training and instruction in good-work habits; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare.

