



Food and Drug Administration

LACK OF INTEREST ON INSPECTION OF FRESH AND FROZEN SHRIMP: Lack of interest was displayed on the part of those who have expressed their views for the expansion of the Food and Drug Administration's Seafood Inspection Service to cover frozen and iced shrimp products, according to a June 21 report from that Agency.

On April 21, 1950, the Food and Drug Administration issued a draft of proposed regulations for the expansion of the Seafood Inspection Service to cover frozen and iced shrimp products. At that time the industry was invited to submit comments and suggestions in writing by May 15, 1950.

In response to requests that informal conferences with interested persons be held, the dates for receiving comments was extended to June 15, and conferences were scheduled. Comments at these conferences and responses to the proposed expansion of the Inspection Service indicate a lack of interest for the expanded service. Therefore, no further efforts will be made to promulgate the regulations in final form unless there are submitted written requests for the expanded service from a substantial portion of the industry. Should a substantial number of requests be received, it will be necessary to study more thoroughly the suggested changes in the regulations before drafting the regulations in final form. In this event, the final regulations cannot be made effective before January 1, 1951.

Current regulations for the inspection of canned shrimp will remain effective for the year beginning July 1, 1950. Applications for Canned Shrimp Inspection Service will not commit the canner to accept the inspection service on frozen and iced shrimp during the applicant's inspection period, if the service is later extended to these products.

Acceptance of the Inspection Service on canned shrimp has never been compulsory. If Inspection Service is eventually established for frozen and iced shrimp, it likewise will not be compulsory.



Department of State

TERMINATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO CHANGES UNITED STATES IMPORT TARIFF STATUS OF CERTAIN FISHERY PRODUCTS: Notes have been exchanged between representatives of the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States terminating the trade agreement between the two Governments signed December 23, 1942. As the result of this exchange of notes, the United States - Mexican trade agreement will cease to be in force after December 31, 1950.

As a result of the termination of the trade agreement between the United States and Mexico, which becomes effective January 1, 1951, the following changes in United States import duties and tariff status for fishery products will automatically take place:

Tariff Act or 1930 Paragraph	Description of Product	Current Rate of Duty or Tariff Status	Rate of Duty or Tariff Status After Jan.1,1951
717(a)	White sea bass or totoaba, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), whole, or beheaded or eviscerated or both, but not further advanced (except that the fins may be removed)	$\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb.	1¢ per lb.
718(a)	Tuna, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in oil or in oil and other substances	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ad val.	45% ad val.
1761	Abalone, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), or prepared or preserved in any manner (including pastes and sauces)	Free (bound)	Free
1761	Shrimp and prawn, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice)	Free (bound)	Free

The changes in duty and tariff status will apply to United States importations of these fishery products from all countries.

By legislation it would be possible after January 1, 1951, to change the import duty status of any of the items listed above. Specific or ad-valorem duties could be imposed on duty-free items, and dutiable items could be increased or decreased or changed from a specific duty to an ad-valorem duty or vice versa through legislation.

Since the signing of the trade agreement, Mexico was confronted with a large imbalance in its trade with the United States which resulted in a serious drain on its reserves of dollar exchange. Mexico, therefore, in 1947 took a number of steps--restricted imports (including some items covered by the trade agreement), and changed to the ad-valorem equivalent (or higher) of the duty in 1942 on some 5,000 items not covered by the trade agreement. By the end of that year it became evident that the Mexican Government would also find it necessary to make similar increases in rates on products included in the trade agreement.

Rather than denounce the agreement, the United States agreed to provisional increases by Mexico in duties on the trade-agreement items to levels equivalent on an ad-valorem basis to those provided in the trade agreement when it first came into effect. From the point of view of the United States, this materially lessened the benefits of the agreement, and the Mexican Government agreed on its part to negotiations intended to restore the balance in the agreement through revision of the new Mexican rates on items not previously included in the trade agreement. These negotiations were begun in April 1948.

Since it has proved impossible to achieve a mutually satisfactory revision of the agreement, the two Governments have consequently agreed that it should be terminated.

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PACIFIC OCEAN WEATHER STATIONS PROGRAM: The establishment at an early date of a joint Pacific network of ocean weather ships has been agreed upon by the Canadian and United States Governments, it was announced June 23 at Ottawa and Washington by the Canadian Minister of Transport and the United States Secretary of State.

Agreement has been reached on a plan to establish a network of seven stations across the North Pacific to provide an interim program until a broader international agreement can be worked out by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Five Weather Stations (called "N" for Nan, "O" for Oboe, "Q" for Queen, "S" for Sugar, "T" for Tare) are to be operated by the United States, and one (Station "P" for Peter), by Canada. The Japanese will continue to operate a Station "X" for X-ray in the Far Western Pacific.

The Canadian Government has been operating an Atlantic Ocean weather station at Position "B" for Baker, off the Labrador Coast, on a joint basis with the United States Government. Under the new agreement, the United States will take over complete operation at Station "B", allowing Canada to concentrate her full efforts on the Pacific.

The new agreement is in full conformity with previous international agreements on the establishment and maintenance of weather-ship networks on both the Atlantic and the Pacific.

The agreement marks a significant step forward in ensuring better weather forecasts for both countries, as well as further guarding the safety of trans-oceanic aviation and shipping.

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES IN FORCE: The International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, opened for signature at Washington from February 8 to 22, 1949, entered into force on July 3, 1950, in accordance with the terms of Article XV thereof which provides that it shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by four signatory governments. The fourth instrument of ratification was deposited on July 3, 1950, by Canada with the United States Government, which is designated by the Convention as the depositary government, the Department of State announced. The United States, Iceland, and the United Kingdom had previously deposited instruments of ratification.

Under the terms of the Convention there will now be established the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and separate panels for each of the five subareas constituting the over-all area covered by the convention. All contracting governments will be represented on the Commission and those contracting governments having particular fishing interests in each subarea will be represented on the panels of the subareas.

The primary function of the Commission will be to collect, collate, and disseminate scientific information on international fisheries in the Convention area. While the Commission has no direct regulatory powers, any panel may trans-

mit through the Commission to the contracting governments recommendations for measures, based upon scientific information, which are deemed necessary for maintaining those stocks of fish which support international fisheries in the Convention area. Within a specified time after acceptance of such recommendations by the panel governments of each subarea affected, the measures will become applicable to all contracting governments.

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UNITED STATES-MEXICO CONVENTION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF TUNA IN FORCE:^{1/} A Convention between the United States and Mexico for the establishment of an International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna, signed at Mexico City on January 25, 1949, entered into force July 11 upon the exchange of instruments of ratification by Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Rafael de la Colina, Mexican Ambassador, the Department of State announced during the month.

This Convention provides for a Commission composed of two national sections of four members each, which will engage in scientific investigation of the tuna and tuna-like fish of the eastern Pacific Ocean, as well as those fish which are used for bait in the tuna fisheries. Scientific information now available, based on studies made in the past, is not sufficiently extensive to indicate whether or not tuna stocks are in danger of depletion. The two countries will cooperate under the Convention with a view to maintaining the populations of these fish at a level which will assure a maximum utilization year after year without depletion.

This Convention is similar to 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, in that the Commission to be established is an investigatory body and any regulatory measures which are indicated by the study would have to be the subject of future negotiation between the two countries.

^{1/} See Commercial Fisheries Review, November 1949, pp. 71-2; February 1949, pp. 68-9; December 1948, pp. 74-7 (full text of Convention).



Eighty-first Congress (Second Session)

JUNE 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 June 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:

Senate:

- S. 3707 (Green, for himself, and Leahy, McMahon, Benton, and Lehman) - A bill to aid in the use, conservation, and development of the natural resources of the river basins in

the New England States and the State of New York and to establish the New England-New York Resources Survey Commission; to the Committee on Public Works.

- S. 3765 (Tydings) - 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 contests wherein prizes are awarded for the species, size, weight or quality of fish caught by the contestant; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- S. 3771 (Magnuson) - A bill to provide transportation on Canadian vessels between Skagway, Alaska, and other points in Alaska, between Haines, Alaska, and other points in Alaska, and between Hyder, Alaska, and other points in Alaska or the continental United States, either directly or via a foreign port, or for any part of the transportation. (Companion bill to H. R. 6536, 81st. Cong. 2nd session.)

House of Representatives:

- H. R. 8692 (Jackson) - A bill to provide for the conservation of natural fish resources and for an adequate and balanced flow of fish and fish products in interstate and foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. (This bill has three parts: Price Support, Fisheries Stabilization Corporation Creation, and Marketing Agreements and Orders.)
- H. R. 8693 (Mitchell) - Same as H. R. 8692; to Committee on Banking and Currency.
- H. R. 8747 (Lane) - Same as S. 3707.
- H. R. 8766 (Underwood) - A bill to establish rearing ponds and a fish hatchery in the State of Kentucky; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.
- H. R. 8945 (King) - A bill to give effect to the Convention for the Establishment of an International Commission for the Scientific Investigation of Tuna, signed at Mexico City on January 25, 1949, by the United States of America and the United Mexican States, and the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, signed at Washington May 31, 1949, by the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The following bills introduced prior to June 1, 1950, were not previously reported under this section.

House of Representatives:

- H. R. 8378 (Burnside) - A bill to encourage the improvement and development of marketing facilities for handling perishable agricultural commodities; to the Committee on Agriculture (May 4, 1950).

H. R. 8485 (Phillips of California) - Same as H. R. 8378; to the Committee on Agriculture (May 11, 1950).

H. R. 8083 (Spence) - A bill to amend the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended (59 Stat. 526,666; 61 Stat. 130), to vest in the Export-Import Bank of Washington the power to guarantee United States investments abroad; to the Committee on Banking and Currency (April 18, 1950).

H. J. Res. 453 (Sabath) - Joint resolution authorizing the President to invite the States of the Union and foreign countries to participate in the First United States International Fair, to be held at Chicago, Illinois, August 7 through 20, 1950; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs (April 6, 1950).

TREATY RATIFIED:

Convention between U. S. and Canada for Port Privileges to Halibut Fishing Vessels:

On June 27, the Senate ratified convention between U. S. and Canada, for extension of port privileges to halibut fishing vessels on the Pacific coasts of these two nations, signed at Ottawa on March 24, 1950 (Exec. M., 81st Cong., 2nd sess.).

BILLS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT:

Public Law 535 (H. R. 7797) - An act to provide foreign economic assistance. Signed June 5, 1950. (Includes Title I - Economic Cooperation Act of 1950; Title II - China Area Aid Act of 1950; Title III - United Nations Palestine Refugee Aid Act of 1950; Title IV - Act for International Development; Title V - International Children's Welfare Work.

Public Law 584 (S. 3771) - An act to provide transportation on Canadian vessels between Skagway, Alaska, and other points in Alaska, between Haines, Alaska, and other points in Alaska and between Hyder, Alaska, and other points in Alaska or the continental United States, either directly or via a foreign port, or for any part of the transportation. Signed June 29, 1950.

CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS:

House of Representatives:

Committee reports (available only from the committee) on bills reported in this section;

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

Report No. 2331 (June 26, 1950), 5 p. printed, to accompany H. R. 7887, granting the consent and approval of Congress to an amendment to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact,

and repealing the limitation on the life of such compact. Bill reported favorably with an amendment by the Committee and passage recommended.

Report No. 2329 (June 26, 1950), 3 p. printed, to accompany H. R. 7209, 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. Bill reported favorably with amendments by the Committee and passage recommended.

Report No. 2327 (June 26, 1950), 3 p., printed, to accompany H. R. 6533, to provide that the United States shall aid the States in fish restoration and management projects, and for other purposes. Reported favorably with amendments by the Committee and passage recommended.



THE SHRIMP AND THE SHRIMP INDUSTRY OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF OF MEXICO

The shrimp fishery of the United States is centered primarily in the eight South Atlantic and Gulf States where almost 200 million pounds are taken annually. The shrimp ranks first in value among all the fisheries of the South and usually rates as the sixth most valuable fishery of the United States, including Alaska. There are three species of shrimp, all members of one family (Penaeidae) which are of commercial importance in this area. The common shrimp, Penaeus setiferus, yields at least 95 percent of the total catch whereas the grooved shrimp, Penaeus brasiliensis, and the sea bob, Xiphopenaeus kroyeri, produce the remainder.

--Fishery Leaflet 319