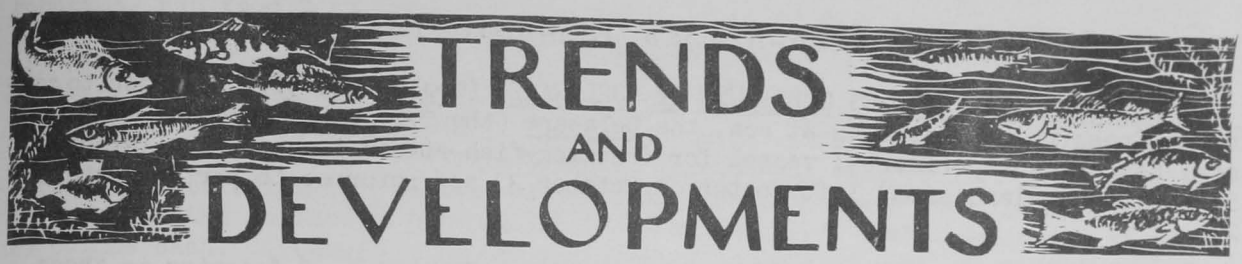


Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

Fifty-two vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during August 1951--21 less than in August 1950. California led with 12 vessels, followed by Washington with 8 vessels, and Texas and Louisiana with 6 vessels.

A total of 599 vessels were documented for the first time as fishing vessels during the first eight months of 1951 as compared with 602 vessels for the same period during 1950.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, August 1951

Section	August		Eight mos. ending with Aug.		Total
	1951	1950	1951	1950	1950
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	1	2	26	22	36
Middle Atlantic	1	6	28	36	45
Chesapeake Bay	-	10	19	60	81
South Atlantic	8	18	76	100	153
Gulf	15	13	129	114	157
Pacific	21	17	247	187	231
Great Lakes	2	3	11	9	12
Alaska	3	3	60	71	83
Hawaii	1	1	3	3	4
Total	52	73	599	602	812

NOTE: VESSELS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE VARIOUS SECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR HOME PORT.

Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, SEPTEMBER 1951: A total of 4,315,242 pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products were purchased by the Army Quartermaster Corps during September 1951 for the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force (see table). Compared with August 1951, September purchases increased 44 percent in quantity and 57.5 percent in value. Compared with the same month of 1950, this year's September purchases were greater by 268.2 percent in quantity and 362.5 percent in value. Purchases for the first nine months of 1951 and 1950 show an increase of 108.2 percent in quantity (nearly 13 million pounds) and 106.1 percent in value for 1951.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army (September and the First Nine Months, 1950 and 1951)

QUANTITY				VALUE			
September		January-Sept.		September		January-Sept.	
1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	$	$	$	$
4,315,242	1,171,779	24,585,449	11,810,436	1,758,296	485,069	10,093,380	4,897,322

Freezing-Fish-At-Sea Technological Studies

FREEZING FISH STUDIES CONTINUED BY "DELAWARE" (Cruise No. 5): In order to continue freezing fish studies at sea, the Delaware (the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries experimental vessel for freezing-fish-at-sea technological studies in the New England area) left Boston on October 23 and returned to port on October 27.

A total of 6,000 pounds of fish were frozen. The rates of freezing in these commercial-size quantities correspond closely with the rates of small-scale studies on shore.

Fish, principally scrod haddock, were weighed out in cotton-mesh bags in approximately 120-pound lots. Twelve of these bags were placed two each in six compartments of the rotor in the freezing apparatus. A second group of fish were frozen by submerging the bags in the freezing medium (brine) but without rotation of the equipment.

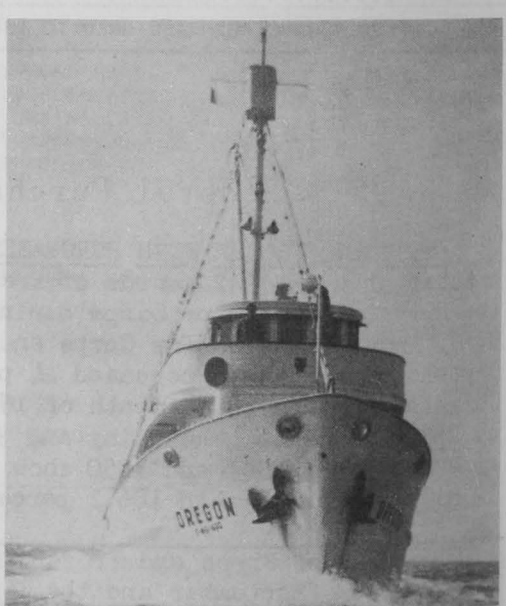
The two large drags of scrod haddock taken by the vessel were split into approximately equal-size lots. One lot was frozen and the second lot was dressed and iced in the normal commercial manner. Experiments will be conducted on shore on thawing rates, fillet yields, quality characteristics, and commercial cold-storage characteristics.

Information obtained on the operational characteristics of the refrigeration machinery indicates that it will perform in a satisfactory manner but there still remains the matter of obtaining the lowest desirable storage temperatures for the frozen fish.

Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

"OREGON" EXPLORES FOR RED AND GROOVED SHRIMP AND LOOKS FOR TUNA (Cruise No. 11): The object of the second and major portion of the Oregon's Cruise No. 11 was to explore for red and grooved shrimp in the northeast Gulf. Following observations of tuna made in late August, the first part of this trip was devoted to a check of the north Gulf area (just off the continental shelf) for tuna. This vessel of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, which is conducting fishery exploratory work in the Gulf, left on this cruise on September 5 and completed it on October 15.

During the first half of September, the Oregon made two short trips off the Mississippi coast to follow up the late August observations of Gulf tuna. The first part of the trip ran from September 5 to 8. Nine trawling stations were made in depths of 185 to 240 fathoms, using large trawls. Catches of red shrimp (Hymenopeneus



THE M/V OREGON THE SERVICE'S BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES VESSEL NOW EXPLORING NEW SHRIMP GROUNDS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

robustus) ran from 0 to 108 pounds per hour. Both 80-foot balloon trawls and 100-foot flat trawls were used. Several nets were damaged and one trawl door was broken when it was bagged in the soft mud. Throughout this time the seas were calm. On September 7, several large schools of tuna were observed in the vicinity of latitude 28°58' N., longitude 88°39' W. Two specimens taken on trolling rigs have been provisionally identified as blackfin tuna (Parathunnus atlanticus). The schools were characteristically centered around a single whale shark feeding in a verticle position at the surface. The size of the tuna was quite small, estimated at 5 to 15 pounds each. Although there were scattered schools of small fish at the surface, the stomach contents of the two tuna captured contained predominately stomatopod larvae (young squilla or "sea lice").

From September 12 to 14 the Oregon returned to the same area. Heavy seas made observations difficult. Although several trolling rigs were hit and broken by fish, no observations of schools of tuna were made, and no tuna were caught.

On September 27 the Oregon left Pascagoula for the northwest coast of Florida. Three deep-water drags were made in 190 to 250 fathoms off Tampa Bay. A few pounds of red shrimp were taken between 200 and 250 fathoms. Bad weather forced the Oregon to tie up in St. Petersburg, Florida, on October 1 and needed repairs and bad weather kept the Oregon in that port until October 13.

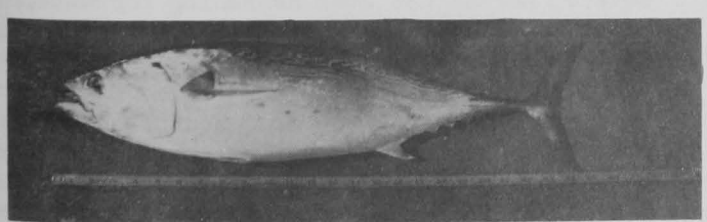
A large school of little tuna (Euthynnus alletteratus) was observed on October 13 between Tampa Bay and Cedar Keys. The next morning several 10-to 15-pound little tuna were caught on trolling rigs.

After a brief port call in Pensacola on October 15, the Oregon made two drags off Pensacola in 58 fathoms. Five pounds of 4-count brown-grooved shrimp were taken. Trawls were damaged on each drag due to rough seas.

Middle and South Atlantic Tuna Explorations

LITTLE TUNA EXPLORATIONS CONTINUED BY "ATLANTIC EXPLORER" (Cruise No. 3): Explorations for little tuna off the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook southward to Barnegat Entrance were continued by the Atlantic Explorer. The explorations were conducted at distances up to 50 miles offshore from September 21 to October 10. The Atlantic Explorer is being operated under a cooperative arrangement between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two Beaufort, South Carolina, fishery firms.

Prior to the vessel's arrival off New Jersey on September 21, reports indicated that little tuna had been present in schools near the beach. Pound nets on several occasions made substantial catches, and sport fishing for this species had been good. However, the Atlantic Explorer encountered winds from various directions ranging in force from gentle to near-gale proportions on all but two days and no surface schools of little tuna were seen. During the time the vessel was operating in the area, the catches by the pound nets were negligible and catches by offshore sport fishermen were erratic. One body of fish was located by trolling about 25 miles offshore on a course of 110° magnetic from Manasquan Inlet. The trolling catches indicated tuna to be very widely scattered and no surface signs were seen.



LITTLE TUNA (EUTHYNNUS ALLETTERATUS) SPECIMEN CAUGHT BY ATLANTIC EXPLORER.

The unfavorable weather in this area and apparent absence of fish coupled with reports of schools of fish in the Morehead City, North Carolina, area indicated that the vessel should operate in the latter area. The Atlantic Explorer arrived at Morehead City, North Carolina, on October 12, 1951, and exploratory operations for little tuna were started. This was Cruise No. 4 for the vessel and it was to operate in the area until October 27. Operations were to be conducted from Cape Hatteras to Cape Fear as weather conditions permitted and reports of fish dictated. Trolling was to be continuously conducted to help in locating fish and when found, attempts were to be made to capture them with a purse seine.

New Chief for Service's Office of Foreign Activities

The promotion of Dr. John Laurence Kask to the position of Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Foreign Activities was announced on November 1 by the Secretary of the Interior.

Dr. Kask, who has been Assistant Director of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations in Honolulu, T. H., will succeed Dr. Hilary J. Deason who resigned in September because of poor health.

Dr. Kask investigated the biology and utilization of the Pacific halibut for the International Fisheries Commission from 1929 to 1939; was associate scientist and assistant director of the International Salmon Commission from 1939 to 1943; and curator of aquatic biology at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco from 1943 to 1948. In 1948 he was appointed as chief biologist of the Fisheries Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Washington, D. C., where he served as adviser to member Governments of FAO on fishery research and developmental programs.

During 1945 and 1946, Dr. Kask spent 15 months in Japan in Military Government duties with the Fisheries Division of SCAP. During 1948, 1949, and 1950, he traveled extensively in New Zealand, Australia, the Far East, Middle East, and Europe on various FAO missions.

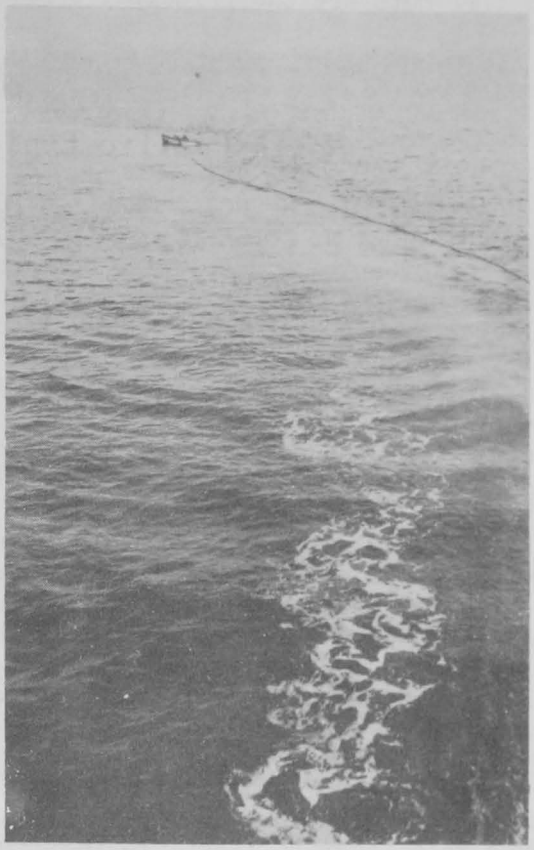
Dr. Kask will report for duty in Washington, D. C., as soon as he completes certain phases of his investigations in Hawaii.

New England Tuna Explorations

"WESTERN EXPLORER" MAKES FINAL TUNA EXPLORATION TRIP (Cruise No. 7): The seventh and final trip of the 1951 season by the M/V Western Explorer was concluded on October 4 when the vessel docked at Boston. This vessel, operated by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, for several months has been searching for untapped resources of bluefin tuna in waters principally off the shores of Maine and Massachusetts. The vessel started this final trip on September 23.

The vessel departed from Gloucester and headed for the area southeast of Cape Cod Light where large schools of tuna had been sighted during the previous voyage. While many schools were sighted after two days of cruising it was impossible to make a set due to the erratic behavior of the fish and adverse weather conditions. Many of the otter trawlers on the grounds were successful in catching substantial quanti-

SHADING A CATCH OF BLUEFIN TUNA (THUNNUS THYNNUS) ABOARD THE WESTERN EXPLORER. THESE FISH WERE CAUGHT NEAR BOON ISLAND ON THE VESSEL'S CRUISE NO. 5.



WESTERN EXPLORER'S SKIFF HOLDING END OF SEINE AT THE BEGINNING OF A SET AROUND A SCHOOL OF BLUEFIN TUNA (THUNNUS THYNNUS).

tities of tuna by means of baited hooks, using fresh herring caught in the otter trawls for bait. The largest tuna catch reported by trawlers amounted to 15 tons of fish, averaging 75 pounds each.

Increasing northeast winds precluded further fishing operations and the vessel took shelter at Provincetown. The cruise was resumed when the weather improved. A cruise to the northeast, covering Stellwagen Bank, Jeffreys Ledge, and the coastal waters off the Maine Coast as far north as Mt. Desert Rock was carried out during the next few days. No tuna were sighted during this period and the vessel returned to the South Channel area where reports stated that the otter trawlers were still catching tuna.

During the next few days fresh easterly winds prevailed and only one small school was sighted in the area. Schools of tuna were reported by a dragger on Jeffreys Ledge (27 miles east by south of the Gloucester breakwater). The Western Explorer steamed to the position reported. Moderately heavy fog and brisk northwesterly winds were encountered in the area, and following a fruitless search for seven hours and with weather conditions steadily worsening, the ship returned to Boston.

Since the start of actual fishing operations on June 23, the Western Explorer made twelve sets and succeeded in capturing 90 tons of tuna. The fish were of medium size, averaging 25 pounds each with the exception of one trip made up of 41 fish that averaged about 225 pounds each.

It is expected that exploratory fishing operations for bluefin tuna will be continued next summer with further exploration of New England waters. Long lines and gill nets are the principal types of gear which will be fished.

North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

DEEP-WATER COMMERCIAL TRAWLING POSSIBILITIES OFF COAST OF WASHINGTON INVESTIGATED BY "JOHN N. COBB" (Cruise No. 9): After completing the first phase of a program to investigate deep-water commercial trawling possibilities off the coast of Washington, the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries exploratory fishing vessel John N. Cobb returned to Seattle on October 19.

The vessel's operations were confined to the offshore waters lying between Destruction Island and Swiftsure Bank, at depths from 80 to 530 fathoms. The survey lasted eight weeks. On this trip 61 otter-trawl drags were made. Also, considerable time was spent sounding out and locating trawling bottom.

Standard commercial otter-trawl nets of 400-mesh size were used on this trip. Several types of deep-water floats were tested for their ability to withstand the great water pressures encountered in deep water. An aluminum spherical-type float operated successfully at depths exceeding 500 fathoms.

Fishing results reveal that three species of fish--sablefish, Pacific ocean perch, and Dover sole--were available in commercial quantities at depths between 100 and 200 fathoms during the period of operations. In the deep trench which extends from Cape Flattery offshore in a southwesterly direction, good catches of both sablefish and Dover sole were made. Catches up to 3,200 pounds per hour of large Dover sole (average length 19 inches) and 2,500 pounds per hour of sablefish (average weight almost 10 pounds per fish) were taken in the best tows.

Pacific ocean perch (a red rockfish) was the most abundant variety found on this trip. This species was present in most hauls. In some instances, a drag of one hour's duration caught more than 5,000 pounds of Pacific ocean perch. Best fishing for Pacific ocean perch was in an area 40 miles west of Lapush, at depths of from 150 to 200 fathoms.

Some snags and tear-ups of gear were encountered on this cruise. The area approximately 54 miles west of Cape Flattery was especially foul.

Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

"JOHN R. MANNING" TRIES GILL-NET FISHING FOR SKIPJACK (Cruise No. 8): Fishing experimentally for skipjack with gill nets off the leeward coast of the Hawaiian Islands was one of the principal purposes of the John R. Manning's Cruise No. 8. In addition, the vessel made plankton hauls and temperature observations each week from 22°48' N. to 20°07' N. latitude on 158°25' W. longitude. This vessel of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations left Pearl Harbor on September 23 and returned on October 19.

A total of 13 gill-net sets was made in the lee waters of Oahu, Kauai, Hawaii, and Lanai--12 at night and 1 practice set during daylight. All sets were made in the absence of surface signs of fish. The catch was very small.

The tunas caught consisted of 1 skipjack (Katsuwonus pelamis) 4½ pounds, and 1 little tuna (Euthynnus yaito) 7 pounds. The skipjack was caught on the 5" nylon, treated with a green preservative, 1½ fathoms from the surface, and the little tuna was caught on the 10" linen, treated with another type of preservative, 2 fathoms from the surface. Other catches included one 158-pound marlin; 5 sharks, ranging from 50-130 pounds; 1 mahimahi, 35 pounds; 1 barracuda, 4 pounds; and 2 manta rays, 500 and 400 pounds.

Tuna schools were small and scarce in the leeward areas. Attempts were made to encircle schools during daylight hours with the gill nets but it was not possible to approach a school.

On the basis of this cruise and a previous attempt to gill net tuna in the Hawaiian area, there is no evidence of the possibility of catching tunas in commercial quantities.

The plankton hauls and temperature observations which were a part of a program to determine the oceanographic conditions associated with the disappearance of skipjack (aku) were conducted successfully by the John R. Manning. The observations are being continued by the Hugh M. Smith. No results are apparent yet.

Outlook for Fishery Products for Balance of 1951 and 1952

CONSUMPTION, RETAIL PRICES, AND PRODUCTION: U. S. civilian per-capita consumption of fishery products during the rest of 1951 is likely to be slightly larger than in the same months of 1950. With civilian demand for fish and shellfish expected to be maintained at a high level, retail prices for these food items probably will average somewhat higher than for the last quarter of 1950, especially for canned fish. This is the prediction contained in the outlook report prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and published in the former agency's Oct.-Dec. 1951 issue of The National Food Situation.

Commercial landings of fishery products and commercial freezings of these commodities will decline seasonally as the year comes to a close.

CANNED FISHERY PRODUCTS: The 1951 pack of canned fishery products which has now begun to move to market in large volume probably will not exceed that of 1950. The new pack of canned salmon was larger than a year earlier, due mainly to increased output of pink salmon. Supplies of red salmon will be much smaller than in the same part of last year, while those of pink and chum salmon will be larger. The pack of tuna and Maine sardines will be down. Stocks of tuna, however, are substantial, so that the total supply is about equal to that of last year.

OUTLOOK FOR 1952: Prospects for 1952 are that total domestic supplies of fresh and processed fish and shellfish will be about the same as this year. More fresh and frozen fishery products probably will be available, but supplies of the canned products may be slightly smaller, at least until the 1952 packs start moving to market in large quantities after mid-year. Increased military procurement of canned fishery products from the 1951 pack will reduce somewhat the supplies of these products that will be available to civilians in the first half of next year. Civilian consumption of fish and shellfish products per capita in 1952 probably will be a-

bout as large as this year with perhaps more emphasis on the fresh and frozen items. The domestic demand for meat and other high protein foods is likely to continue strong so the retail prices of most fishery products next year probably will average close to those of 1951. Prices of several canned fish items from the 1951 packs probably will be substantially higher than those from the 1950 packs.

Imports of fishery products next year are expected to continue on as high a level as this year. Exports, however, may be somewhat lower, especially if dollar resources of principal foreign markets continue to decline.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1951: Prices for edible fishery products during September were substantially lower than in the same month of 1950. However, lighter production and a seasonal increase in demand were responsible for a slight increase in prices from August to September this year. The edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) wholesale index for September was 104.9 percent of the 1947 average (see table)--1.4 percent higher than in August, but 6.8 percent below September 1950, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Indexes of Fish and Shellfish, September 1951, with Comparative Data

GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION	POINT OF PRICING	UNIT	AVERAGE PRICES ($)			INDEXES (1947 = 100)		
			Sept.1951	Aug.1951	Sept.1950	Sept.1951	Aug.1951	Sept.1950
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)						104.9	103.5	112.5
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:						104.8	103.6	113.3
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:						113.6	112.0	129.2
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.10	.10	.13	106.4	107.6	130.7
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.32	.32	.40	93.4	93.3	115.3
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	"	.53	.53	.56	130.1	129.9	138.0
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.63	.47	.51	182.7	135.8	147.1
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.75	.51	.79	170.1	115.8	179.4
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.54	.53	.47	118.6	116.4	103.8
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	New York City	"	.58	.60	.58	134.6	141.1	135.5
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):						94.0	93.3	95.0
Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.28	.28	.27	102.0	100.6	97.7
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.52	.53	.59	75.6	76.5	85.3
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	5.00	4.88	4.50	123.1	120.0	110.8
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):						101.2	99.8	103.5
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. bxs.	Boston	lb.	.42	.42	.35	135.6	135.6	113.0
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.24	.24	.26	108.1	106.3	115.4
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.24	.23	.24	120.3	114.4	122.2
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. bxs.	Chicago	"	.57	.57	.61	81.7	82.5	88.2
Canned Fishery Products:						105.1	103.4	111.3
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	20.68	1/20.68	22.90	134.9	134.9	149.3
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. ½ tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	12.75	12.75	14.81	82.9	82.9	96.4
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	" "	"	6.75	6.75	6.25	75.5	75.5	69.9
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. ¼ drawn (3¼ oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	8.68	7.46	5.75	85.1	73.2	56.4

1/ CORRECTED.

Drawn, dressed, or whole finfish prices in September were 12.1 percent below the corresponding month a year ago, but 1.4 percent above August this year. Hebraic-holiday buying during September accounted for most of the latter increase. Higher quotations were reported for all fresh-water fish included in the index, except yellow

pike which sold at slightly lower prices. Fresh large offshore haddock prices dropped slightly from August to September and were 18.6 percent below September 1950. Although halibut and salmon prices were slightly higher in September, they were 19.0 and 5.7 percent lower, respectively, than during the same month a year ago.

Processed fresh fish and shellfish prices in September were 1.1 percent lower than in September 1950, but rose 0.8 percent from August to September this year. Higher prices for fresh haddock fillets and shucked oysters were offset by lower prices for fresh headless shrimp. The latter dropped 1.2 percent from August to September and were quoted 11.4 percent lower than in September 1950.

From August to September, frozen headless shrimp prices dropped 1.0 percent and were reported 7.4 percent lower than during the same period in 1950. This decline was offset by higher prices for frozen haddock and ocean perch (rosefish) fillets during the same period, but these products were priced lower than in 1950 by 6.3 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively. Prices for frozen flounder fillets remained unchanged. The processed frozen fish and shellfish index for September was 1.4 percent higher than in August, but 2.2 percent below September 1950.

Canned fishery products prices in September were 5.6 percent lower than in the same month of 1950, but increased 1.6 percent from August to September. During the latter period, prices for canned Maine sardines rose 16.3 percent, while canned pink salmon, tuna, and California sardine (pilchard) prices remained unchanged at August levels. Compared with September 1950, this year's prices were lower by 9.6 percent for canned pink salmon and 14.0 percent for canned tuna. The Maine sardine pack this year is reported at approximately one-third of the 1950 pack, and this year's California sardine pack is not very much larger than last year's.

RETAIL PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1951: Moderate-income urban families paid slightly more for all foods between August 15 and September 15 than they did for the previous 30-day period. While the adjusted retail price index for all foods advanced 0.1 percent, fishery products in all categories showed a general decrease during this period.

The all-foods index at retail in mid-September was 227.3 percent of the 1935-39 average, some 8.2 percent higher than the corresponding period of 1950 (see table 2).

A MODERN RETAIL FISH COUNTER.

Retail prices paid for all fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) averaged 353.2 percent of the 1935-39 base in mid-September--a decrease of 0.9 percent as compared with the previous month, but still 13.4 percent higher than the 1950 average for the same date.

Fresh and frozen fish retail prices averaged 0.8 percent less during the August 15-September 15 period with the retail price index settling at 290.1 percent of the 1938-39 average. Prices for fresh and frozen fish and shellfish were, however, 5 percent above the same period in 1950.

Canned pink salmon retail prices continued their downward trend throughout the country. The adjusted retail price index on September 15 was 503.1 percent of the 1938-39 average--1.1 percent lower than the previous month, but 32 percent higher than the corresponding period of 1950.

Table 2 - Adjusted 1/ Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Fishery Products, September 15, 1951, with Comparative Data

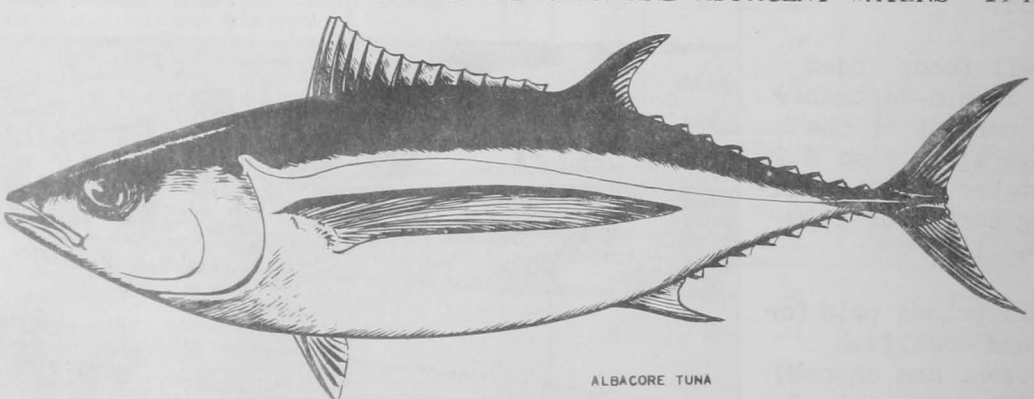
Item	Base	INDEXES		
		Sept.15,1951	Aug.15,1951	Sept.15,1950
All foods	1935-39 = 100	227.3	227.0	210.0
All fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned)	do	353.2	356.4	311.4
Fresh and frozen fish	1938-39 = 100	290.1	292.5	276.2
Canned salmon: pink	do	503.1	508.2	381.1

1/ INCLUDES ADJUSTMENTS TO IMPROVE THE CONSUMER'S PRICE INDEX AND TO MAKE IT A MORE ACCURATE MEASURE OF PRICE CHANGES IN THE MOBILIZATION PERIOD (SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, MARCH 1951, P. 21).

Economic Cooperation Administration Authorizations

Included among a list of firms given authorizations to import commodities into the Philippines under ECA financing for resale were five firms importing fish hooks and fish nets suitable only for commercial purposes. These firms were scheduled to purchase $56,118 worth of these products, according to an October 17 ECA news release. Some $200,000 in ECA funds are still available for the purchase of fish nets and fish hooks by the Philippines from 1951 appropriations.

ALBACORE TUNA EXPLORATION IN ALASKAN AND ADJACENT WATERS--1949



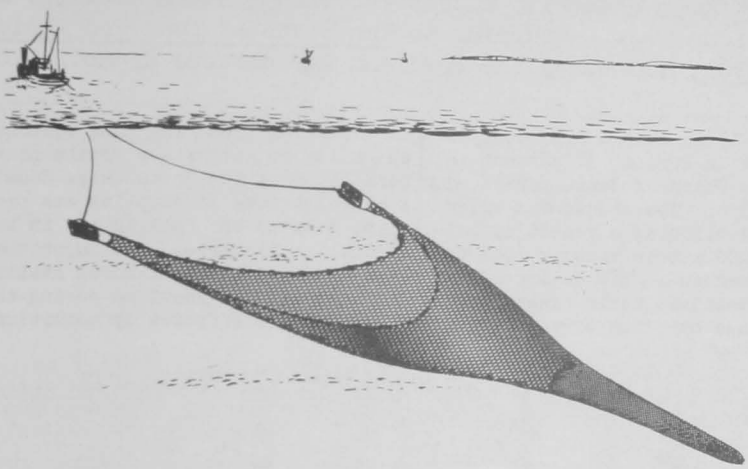
ALBACORE TUNA

Among the several species of tuna which make up the commercial pack in the United States, the albacore, Thunnus alalunga, the white-meat tuna, is the most highly prized. Although this fish has been caught commercially in California waters since the beginning of the tuna industry, it was not until the summer of 1937 that albacore were landed in commercial quantities in Pacific Northwest waters. In 1938, the first sizable pack was put up in Oregon and Washington, and since that time an ever-increasing number of boats have been engaged yearly in tuna fishing off the northwest coast.

--Fishery Leaflet 376

GULF OF MEXICO SHRIMP TRAWL DESIGNS

Newly-introduced styles of shrimp trawls are being developed on a large scale for the first time in many areas of the Gulf of Mexico. The Atlantic Coast boats brought the "balloon trawl," as it is known locally, into prominence in the Gulf where only "flat-type trawls" were regularly used before. At Key West they became the favored type of gear due to a reported cleaner catch, although experimental trawling by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Exploratory Vessel Oregon (operating in the Gulf) does not indicate that balloon trawls produce more shrimp in that area than do flat trawls.



Reports from Biloxi in February 1951 show a sweeping trend toward balloon trawls by the local fishermen in an area that has worked flat trawls almost exclusively in the past. At present the industry is more conscious of the design of gear than ever before, and many changes in usage of different trawl styles may be expected in the next few years.

Fishery Leaflet 394, Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Trawl Designs, recently issued by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, gives detailed construction information about three principal styles of nets now in use in the Gulf of Mexico's shrimp fisheries.

These trawls are not recommended over other designs now in use, but they are trawls used successfully by the Oregon in different areas of the Gulf and are presented to illustrate the basic construction details of similar styles of nets used or constructed by fishermen and trawl makers.

The more important terms used in the different fishing regions of the Gulf are defined and the most commonly used synonyms are given. The handling of fish netting is discussed and illustrated.

Descriptions of the 40-foot no-overhang flat trawl, 100-foot overhang flat trawl, and 74-foot four-seam balloon trawl are presented, accompanied by illustrations showing construction details.

The 40-foot no-overhang flat trawl has had its greatest usage off the Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana coast. The Oregon has used a 40-foot no-overhang flat trawl as an exploratory try net with very good results. This net has fished well from shallow water to depths of 500 fathoms when used with weighted doors, and it is one of the simplest designs now in use.

The 100-foot overhang flat trawl has been used widely along the Texas and Louisiana coasts and is often referred to as the "Texas" rig. It differs from the 40-foot flat type in that the bottom of the body and the bottom wings have been set back (or undercut) 36 meshes.

The 74-foot four-seam balloon trawl is the style commonly used in the East Gulf of Mexico fishery. There are several different modifications of this type resulting from individual preferences for a longer or shorter body. The first balloon trawl used by the Oregon was made by a Florida trawl maker catering to the local fleet. This style and modifications of it have been tested in two sizes. A 74-foot model has proved satisfactory in Florida waters. A 40-foot trawl built on these lines has been found consistently to "choke-off" at the throat so the catch builds up in the body of the net. The balloon trawl differs from the flat-type shrimp trawls in having dogears, wings that do not extend to the throat, different hanging, and a much wider throat.

Trawl doors or otter boards used on shrimp nets are considerably lighter than those used on the North Atlantic fish trawls. The types and sizes used are described in this leaflet.

Free copies of Fishery Leaflet 394 are available upon request from the Division of Information, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.