

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

During September 1951, a total of 53 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft-- 16 less than in September 1950, according to the Bureau of Customs. California and Texas led with 7 vessels each, followed by North Carolina and the West Coast of Florida with 5 vessels each.

A total of 652 vessels were documented for the first time as fishing vessels during the first nine months of 1951, compared with 671 vessels for the same period during 1950.

Section	September		Nine mos. ending with Sept.		Total 1950
	1951	1950	1951	1950	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England.....	4	6	30	28	36
Middle Atlantic.....	-	3	28	39	45
Chesapeake Bay.....	3	3	22	63	81
South Atlantic.....	12	17	88	117	153
Gulf.....	14	21	143	135	167
Pacific.....	11	13	258	200	231
Great Lakes.....	5	1	16	10	12
Alaska.....	4	5	64	76	83
Hawaii.....	-	-	3	3	4
Total.....	53	69	652	671	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 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, OCTOBER 1951: The considerable increase in the purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products by the Army Quartermaster Corps during the past few months reflected the increased food requirements of the Armed Services and their difficulty in obtaining other types of protein foods. October 1951 purchases for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force totaled 3,260,165 pounds (valued at \$1,545,701)—the second highest purchase for any one month since January 1948. The highest monthly purchase was in September this year--4,315,242 pounds (valued at \$1,758,296).

Purchases this October were higher than in October 1950 by 25.7 percent in quantity and 47.1 percent in value (see table).

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army (October and the First Ten Months, 1951-50)							
Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
October		January-October		October		January-October	
1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
3,260,165	2,593,246	27,845,614	14,403,682	1,545,701	1,050,634	11,639,081	5,947,956

For the first ten months this year total purchases were above the corresponding period a year ago by 93.3 percent in quantity and 95.7 percent in value. If the present rate of purchases by the Quartermaster Corps continues for November and December, total purchases for 1951 will be almost double those for any year since 1948.



Fishery Methods and Equipment Specialist Examination

The Civil Service Commission on November 6 announced unassembled examinations for the position of Fishery Methods and Equipment Specialist, grades GS-5 through GS-13. Entrance salaries range from \$3,100 to \$7,600 per year (not including the recent Federal pay raise). No closing date has been specified.

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior requires Fishery Methods and Equipment Specialists for exploratory fishing and for improving methods of fishery operations. Experienced commercial fishermen or men trained in applicable branches of fishery biology, technology, or engineering should find these positions attractive. The positions require sea duty in varying localities, chiefly in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. These specialists advise on, direct, examine, analyze, or perform work in connection with: (1) the appraisal of fishery resources; (2) methods and techniques for locating new fishing areas and taking fish; (3) designing, fabricating, installing, and testing improved equipment for taking fish and for handling, storing, preserving, processing, and transporting fish at sea and on shore.

Except for the substitution of education for experience as provided for in the announcement, applicants must have had experience of the length shown and of the kind described, commensurate in quality with the grade level for which application is made. The amount of experience ranges from 3 years of general, plus 1 year of specialized experience for the GS-5, to 3 years of general, plus 4 years of specialized for the GS-13 grade.

Successful completion of course of study in schools above high-school level, with major study in the fields of fishery technology, fishery engineering, or fishery biology, may be substituted on the basis of 1 year of education for 1 year of the required general or specialized experience; other courses, such as biological sciences, engineering, physical sciences, general food technology specifically including courses involving fishery products, may be substituted on the basis of one year of education for 6 months of the required general or

specialized experience up to a maximum of 2 years. In addition, graduate study in fishery technology, fishery engineering, or fishery biology successfully completed at an accredited school, may be substituted for the required experience on the basis of 1 year of graduate study for 1 year of specialized experience.

Types of general experience considered qualifying include: mate or engineer on a fishing vessel, net-loft supervisor, commercial fisherman, licensed deck officer, and similar or closely related types of experience.

Types of specialized experience considered qualifying include: port captain or fleet supervisor of a fishing fleet, master of fishing vessels over 25 net tons, navigator of fishing vessels operating offshore, designer of fishing vessels and equipment, cannery superintendent, including supervision of fish production, technical employment in conducting fishery exploration or in developing fishery gear equipment, and other closely related types of experience.

Competitors will not be required to report for a written test, but will be rated on the extent and quality of their experience and training relevant to the duties of the positions.

To apply for this examination, file Card Form 5001-ABC, Form 57, and Standard Form 15. These forms, as well as a copy of Announcement 310, giving the particulars of this examination, are obtainable from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C.; or from any of its Regional Offices, or from any first- or second-class post office. Applications are to be sent to the Executive Secretary, Committee of Expert Examiners, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C. Applications will be accepted until further notice.

Freezing-Fish-At-Sea Technological Studies

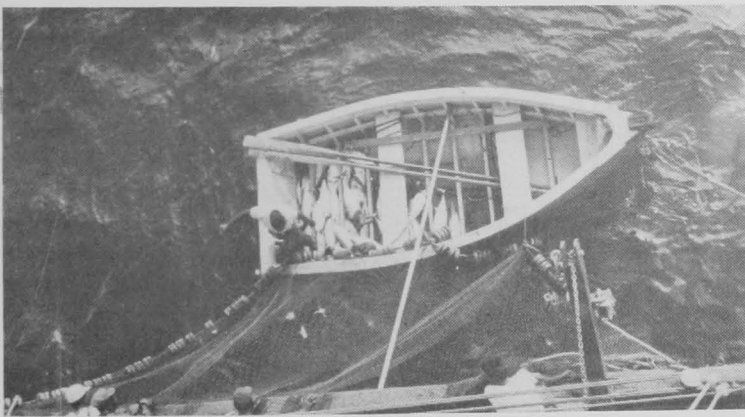
MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES CURTAIL "DELAWARE'S" CRUISE NO. 6: It was not possible for the Delaware to freeze fish at sea while on Cruise No. 6 because of the mechanical difficulties which developed with the heat exchanger that refrigerates the brine in which the fish are frozen. The vessel left port on November 8 for a six-day cruise, but it was forced to return to Boston on November 9. This vessel is being used by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries in its freezing-fish-at-sea studies.

The purpose of the cruise was to continue full-scale experimental freezing studies at sea, and test the freezing apparatus and refrigeration machinery under rated capacity loads. In addition, experiments on containers in which fish will be frozen were to be carried out.



Middle and South Atlantic Little Tuna Explorations

SOME LITTLE TUNA SEINED BY "ATLANTIC EXPLORER" (Cruise No. 4): Two sets made by the Atlantic Explorer during Cruise No. 4 on rather poor surface showings of little tuna yielded 35 and 40 fish, respectively, or a total of 75 fish with an average weight of approximately 13 pounds each. These explorations for little tuna in the Middle and South Atlantic area are being conducted on a cooperative arrangement between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two Beaufort, South Carolina, fishery firms.



COMPLETING BRAILING OF A SET OF LITTLE TUNA (EUTHYNNUS ALLETERATUS) MADE BY THE ATLANTIC EXPLORER. NOTE LITTLE TUNA AT BOTTOM OF SKIFF.

The Atlantic Explorer started exploratory fishing operations out of the Morehead City, North Carolina, area on October 12 and temporarily terminated operations in this area on November 1. The weather throughout most of this period was unsuitable for purse-seining except in the lee of land, and even with offshore winds the search was necessarily confined to an area within ten miles of shore from Cape Lookout to Bogue Inlet, North Carolina.

Small spots of fish showing from one to ten individual fish could be seen with a degree of frequency nearly every day from daybreak until about 2 p.m. These showings, however, were usually observed some distance from the boat and generally were not persistent enough to fix the position of a school for setting the seine. One set was made on October 12 in the hope that the school would remain near the last observed position but no tuna were captured. It was estimated that at least ten tons of small fish, presumed to be feed for the tuna, were in the seine when pursing was completed.

The gonads of the little tuna captured by the two successful sets were small and firm, indicating that they had spawned some time ago and that a considerable period can be expected to elapse before similar fish would again be ripe.

Party boat fishermen, trolling deep, had consistently good catches of tuna varying from 5 to 50 fish per day, but it was their impression that (1) the tuna were scattered rather than in concentrated schools, and (2) that there are less tuna in the area than during a similar period last year.

This cruise terminates this year's little tuna survey as the cooperating companies considered further operations inadvisable due to unfavorable weather conditions prevailing in the coastal waters of the Middle Atlantic States. The M/V Atlantic Explorer used for these explorations was a 104-foot boat which had been converted to operate a Pacific Coast-type purse seine.



Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

"HUGH M. SMITH" STUDIES HYDROGRAPHY OF HAWAIIAN WATERS (Cruise XII): The primary mission of the Hugh M. Smith's Cruise XII was to: (1) Obtain information on the hydrography, chemical nutrients, and zooplankton of Hawaiian waters, and correlate these with the distribution of tunas. In particular, the cruise was designed to note whether or not significant changes occurred in the hydrography of the region between July and October, and (2) to collect tuna eggs and larvae by surface tows at each station, as well as (3) to estimate the abundance of tunas by daylight observations of birds and fish schools.

This vessel of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations left Pearl Harbor October 23, 1951, and returned November 3, 1951.

Temperature and current observations were made by means of Nansen bottle casts and the GEK. Local currents appear to be both changeable and complicated. Two well-developed counterclockwise eddies were observed, one centered about 70 miles SW. of Oahu, the other about 90 miles SW. of Hawaii. Near islands, currents appeared variable in strength and direction.

Surface tows were made at 30 stations for eggs and larvae. Some 14 eggs were taken, 6 of which have been tentatively identified as tuna eggs. No fish were raised to the point at which they could be identified.

Continuous daylight observations of birds and fish schools were made. Of the 22 schools sighted, 8 were identified as skipjack, the remainder being unidentified.

The Hugh M. Smith has been scheduled for use in gear-testing and gear-standardization experiments until November 25, at which time the vessel will go on drydock for annual overhaul.



California

SARDINE 1951 SPAWNING SET OFF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ONLY MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL: The 1951 spawning set of sardines off the southern California coast and northern Mexico "is not more than moderately successful," according to a news release of November 7 of the California Department of Fish and Game.

The observation was made following the latest cruise of the Yellowfin, 100-foot research vessel operated by the California Bureau of Marine Fisheries. Although adult and juvenile sardines were caught at numerous points, they were "nowhere in striking abundance," the report stated.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, OCTOBER 1951: Although edible fishery products prices in October continued substantially lower than in the same month of 1950, lighter production in all fisheries was responsible for an increase in prices from September to October this year. The edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and, canned) wholesale index for October was 106.4 percent of the 1947 average (see table 1)-- 1.4 percent higher than in September, but 4.0 percent below October 1950, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

Drawn, dressed, or whole finfish prices in October were 7.3 percent below the corresponding month a year ago, but 2.2 percent above September this year. Boston haddock landings this October were considerably below those of a year earlier and prices of fresh drawn haddock rose 8.9 percent from September to October. During the same period, halibut rose 1.5 percent but salmon remained steady at September prices. However, all of these items were still priced substantially below October 1950: fresh drawn haddock by 10.4 percent, halibut by 18.3 percent, and king salmon by 4.9 percent. Although lower prices were quoted in October for most freshwater fish (except whitefish at Chicago), all of these fish were substantially

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Indexes of Fish and Shellfish, October 1951, with Comparative Data							
GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION	POINT OF PRICING UNIT	AVERAGE PRICES (\$)			INDEXES (1947 = 100)		
		Oct. 1951	Sept. 1951	Oct. 1950	Oct. 1951	Sept. 1951	Oct. 1950
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)					106.4	104.9	110.8
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:					106.2	104.8	109.1
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:					116.1	113.6	123.2
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston lb.	.11	.10	.12	115.9	106.4	129.4
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City "	.33	.32	.40	94.8	93.4	116.1
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	.53	.53	.56	130.1	130.1	136.8
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago "	.64	.63	.45	184.9	182.7	130.0
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh	New York City "	.66	.75	.53	149.2	170.1	120.5
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago "	.51	.54	.43	111.4	118.6	95.1
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	New York City "	.49	.58	.40	115.2	134.6	93.9
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):					93.8	94.0	89.3
Filletts, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston lb.	.36	.28	.27	127.7	102.0	95.4
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City "	.49	.52	.54	71.1	75.6	77.2
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area gal.	5.00	5.00	4.40	123.1	123.1	108.3
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):					102.6	101.2	102.6
Filletts: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. bxs.	Boston lb.	.42	.42	.35	135.6	135.6	113.0
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	" "	.26	.24	.24	118.1	108.1	109.7
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester "	.26	.24	.26	128.5	120.3	129.8
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. bxs.	Chicago "	.53	.57	.59	77.2	81.7	84.6
Canned Fishery Products:					106.8	105.1	113.2
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle case	20.68	20.68	23.64	134.9	134.9	154.1
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 1 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles "	12.75	12.75	14.75	82.9	82.9	96.0
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. 1 drawn (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City "	9.83	8.68	5.75	96.4	85.1	56.4

higher-priced than in October 1950 because production was considerably lighter this year and also because of the Hebraic holidays celebrated during the month.

Processed fresh fish and shellfish prices in October were 0.2 percent lower than in the previous month, but 5.0 percent higher than in October 1950. Higher prices for fresh haddock fillets were offset by lower prices for fresh headless shrimp. Because of lighter production and a shortage of frozen haddock fillets, fresh haddock fillet prices jumped 25.2 percent from September to October this year. On the other hand, fresh headless shrimp prices continued to drop (6.0 percent) because of the usual seasonal increase in production, while shucked oysters remained steady at September levels. Compared with October 1950, fresh headless shrimps sold 7.9 percent lower, but fresh haddock fillets were priced 33.9 percent higher.

From September to October frozen headless shrimp prices continued to fall (5.5 percent), but this decline was more than offset by higher prices for frozen haddock fillets (9.3 percent) and frozen ocean perch fillets (6.8 percent). A labor dispute between management and one section of the Longshoremen's Union on the East Coast held up the normal flow of frozen fishery products imports from countries other than Canada. Foreign frozen fillets were particularly short during the month and the demand for domestic frozen fillets was quite active. Flounder fillets remained unchanged at September prices. Compared with October 1950, frozen headless shrimp sold 8.7 percent lower and frozen ocean perch (rosefish) fillets 1.0 percent lower, but frozen haddock fillets were priced 7.7 percent higher and frozen flounder fillets 20.0 percent higher. The index for processed frozen fish and shellfish for October was 1.4 percent higher than in September, but the same as in October 1950.

An increase of 13.3 percent in canned Maine sardine prices accounted for the rise of 1.6 percent from September to October of the canned fishery products index. An increase of 15 percent over the average price which would be permissible under CPR 22 was allowed by OPS on October 17 when it issued a specific dollars-and-cents ceiling price for sales by canners of Maine sardines (CPR 85). A ceiling price of \$10.50 for a case of 100 standard $\frac{1}{4}$'s keyless cans of Maine sardines packed in oil was set by the regulation which was issued by OPS to take account of the low volume of fish available this year. Latest reports indicate that this year's pack is only 40 percent of last year's production of 3,844,164 cases. Although the California sardine pack to date is also considerably below last year's, prices for this product remained steady at September levels. Canned pink salmon and canned tuna prices also remained unchanged. Prices for canned pink salmon were 12.5 percent lower and those for canned tuna 13.6 percent lower than in October 1950, but canned California sardines and canned Maine sardines sold 8.0 percent and 70.9 percent higher, respectively.

RETAIL PRICES, OCTOBER 1951: Although urban families of moderate incomes paid slightly higher prices for all foods between mid-September and mid-October, fishery products prices at retail showed no change (see table 2). The adjusted retail price index for all fresh, frozen, and canned fish and shellfish in mid-October remained

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

Item	Base	I N D E X		
		Oct.15,1951	Sept.15,1951	Oct.15,1950
All foods.....	1935-39 = 100	229.2	227.3	210.6
All fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned)	do	353.2	353.2	328.8
Fresh and frozen fish....	1938-39 = 100	294.7	290.1	277.1
Canned salmon: pink.....	do	489.1	503.1	446.9

at 353.2 percent of the 1935-39 average, but was still 8.8 percent higher than on October 15, 1950.

However, fresh and frozen fishery products prices at retail in mid-October this year were 1.6 percent higher than in mid-September and 6.4 percent above mid-October 1950.

To compensate for the increase in fresh and frozen fish and shellfish, canned pink salmon continued to decline. The retail index for canned pink salmon in mid-October was reported at 489.1 percent of the 1938-39 average—9.4 percent lower than during the same period a year earlier, but 2.8 percent lower than the previous month.



OYSTERS ARE GOOD THE YEAR-AROUND

The wide-spread notion that oysters are harmful to consumers when eaten during the "non-R" months is debunked by the Assistant Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service in a statement issued on September 1, the opening date of the traditional oyster season. "Oysters are edible the year-around," the Assistant Surgeon General declares, "but they are fatter, more palatable and more plentiful on the market during those months that contain the letter 'R'. It is only coincidental that those months in which the oyster is most palatable happen to be the 'R' months."

The Assistant Surgeon General said the tradition that oysters must be eaten only in the "R" months may have originated somewhat as follows: In that species of oyster eaten in the Old World for centuries, fer-

tization of the seed from which the baby oysters grow takes place within the shell of the parent oyster. Shortly before the baby oysters are ejected by the parent to fend for themselves, they begin to develop a shell. If the Old World oyster is eaten at this stage of incubation, the large number of almost microscopic baby oysters, each developing a shell, impart a gritty quality to the meat. Because the reproductive period of



PACKING SHELL OYSTERS IN BARRELS FOR SHIPMENT TO MARKET.

all oysters is in the summer, early settlers of this country, cognizant of this but mindful of their Old World variety, avoided placing New World oysters on the menu until later in the year.

Even after our forefathers discovered that the North American east coast oyster fertilizes its eggs in the sea water outside the parent shell, oyster consumption in this country continued, for the most part, to be a winter activity. Partly responsible for this was the fact that only until recent years have refrigeration facilities been developed whereby oysters can be preserved in warm weather while being transported from the coastal growing areas.

Today, when perishable food products are transported thousands of miles by railroad and airplane, yet preserved by refrigeration, the greater portion of the country's shellfish consumers still cling to the old tradition.

The advent of quality frozen oysters available throughout the year, however, may change this custom.