FOREIGN

International

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNITED STATES ON LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES OF FAO: The recommendations of the United States Government on the long-term activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations were released on February 16 by the Secretary of State. These recommendations were made at the request of the Director General of FAO, according to a Department of State news release.

The recommendations submitted for the Fisheries Division of FAO and their activities in world fisheries are as follows:

The United States has consistently recommended that the program of the Fisheries Division be carefully examined to determine whether its scope and the number of projects were not beyond the limitations imposed by the funds and personnel available. For example, the United States position on the Program of Work and Budget for 1951 was that, "in the absence of additional funds the Fisheries Division should bear in mind the need for consolidating, curtailing or eliminating some projects in order not to endanger others of greater importance." The United States also suggested that, "the initiation of a Latin American Fisheries Council (FI. 5.3.1) be held in abeyance and that the Fisheries Division's efforts in this field be devoted to establishing firmly the two Councils already in existence." The Report of the Committee on Financial Control, C50/5, August 14, 1950, for the recent Special Session of the Conference incorporated a United States suggestion that, "if additional funds cannot be made available, a more efficient utilization of funds might result from a designation of priorities, and the elimination of some of the projects of lower priority."

It is recommended that the Fisheries Division concentrate its efforts on fewer projects, choosing those of demonstrated value, international significance, and of the greatest possible importance.

In adapting its program to meet these criteria the following specific recommendations are made:

1. The Yearbook of Fishery Statistics should be continued. Improvement in its coverage should be sought as well as eventual issuance annually rather than biennially.

2. World Fisheries Abstracts should be continued with particular stress laid on improving its distribution in those countries which are so much in need of the technical information it contains.

3. The Fisheries Bulletin should be continued. The inclusion of important current statistical data of international significance should be stressed as long as the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics remains a biennial publication. The additional material in the Bulletin should include items which meet specific needs and are at least regionally significant and useful to large groups. As in the case of World Fisheries Abstracts every consideration should be given to correcting any deficiencies in distribution.

4. Improved pondfish culture practices should be introduced in those countries, especially in the Near East and Far East, where such procedures are adaptable to the environment. In these countries the production of pondfish probably offers one of the greatest potential contributions to the supply of local fishery foods.

5. Improved methods of producing, processing and distributing fish and fishery products should be taught in those countries where increased local supplies can be achieved by greater exploitation of available fishery resources, by introducing processing methods that preserve the raw material for longer periods, and by remedying distribution practices that limit the markets to the seacoasts.

6. Service to countries requesting assistance should be predicated on securing the utmost possible aid from the countries involved in order to (1) insure a mutual interest that

will guarantee successful completion of the project, and (2) the most effective use of available FAO funds and personnel.

7. The limited staff of the Fisheries Division should make itself most effective in introducing improved techniques by utilizing methods which will multiply its efforts. The staff should teach groups of teachers rather than groups of individuals. Technical handbooks should be developed. Demonstration manuals should be prepared. The establishment of fishery centers should be stimulated and those in existence aided. Where possible extension service practices should be adapted to local needs. Improving local methods should not be stressed unless the introduction of totally new techniques is well within the immediate abilities of the underdeveloped countries.

8. Despite the need for demonstrating results annually to the Conference, the Fisheries Division should balance its program between long-term and short-term projects. To meet the demand for assistance in carrying out the numerous minor, short-term projects of a localized nature, the Fisheries Division should develop a list of fishery consultants in the industrial, governmental, and educational fields to which the interested countries could be referred. The contribution of the Fisheries Division in these projects should vary with their regional significance from a review of the contemplated procedures and reference to qualified consultants to large-scale participation.

9. With regard to regional fisheries councils and the development of local fisheries, the Fisheries Division should be guided by the position endorsed by the Fifth Session of the Conference in November 1949 which is as follows:

"The Conference notes with satisfaction the progress made in establishing regional fisheries councils. The Conference feels, however, that the Organization, in continuing consultation with governments to carry out the mandate of former sessions, should give full consideration to work being carried on by international fisheries commissions or similar bodies already functioning in international waters. Finally, care should be taken in the formation of further regional fisheries councils, that there is sufficient technical fisheries personnel available in the potential member countries to ensure the council's success.....

The Conference draws attention to the need for emphasizing the guidance of underdeveloped countries in the development of local fisheries for improved nutrition of local populations rather than for export."

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION MOVES TO ROME: Removal of the Food and griculture Organization of the United Nations from temporary headquarters in Washington, D. C., to its permanent seat in Rome, Italy, got underway on February 17, hen the first FAO contingent sailed from New York. Others were scheduled to go n three subsequent sailings on March 1, 22, and April 4, according to a February 16 ews release from FAO.

This agency has made its temporary home in Washington since its founding in ctober 1945, when 44 nations agreed to work together to help solve world food and griculture problems. FAO now has a membership of 65 nations. Following the vote f the 1949 Conference to establish permanent headquarters in Rome, FAO has been orking on the complex task of transferring and housing the staff and their families, and of moving organization archives with a minimum of interruption in its orld-wide activities. Of a staff of 600, about 200 are moving. Clerical and maintenance staffs will be replaced largely by local employees in Rome.

FAO moves from its temporary headquarters building in Washington, D. C., nto a building provided by the Italian government in the ancient part of Rome, longside the Circus Maximus, not far from the Coliseum. A second building, adjoining the first, will be completed later this year, and will include additional FAO ffices, a conference room with modern equipment and facilities, and an expanded AO library. The library will include thousands of volumes from the former International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, making the combined library one of the argest in the world on agricultural subjects.

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INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY CAMBODIA: The Government of Cambodia has accepted the Agreement reached at Baguio, Republic of the Philippines, February 28, 1948, for the formation of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council. Notification was received by the Food and Agriculture Organization on January 20, 1951.

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INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COUNCIL[1/] ACCEPTED BY VIET-NAM: The Government of the State of Viet-Nam has accepted the Agreement reached at Baguio, Republic of the Philippines, February 28, 1948, for the formation of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council. Notification was received by the Food and Agriculture Organization on January 3, 1951.

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JULY 1950, P. 23.

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HUNGARY WITHDRAWS FROM FAO: The People's Republic of Hungary has given notice of withdrawal from FAO, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations advised member governments of FAO on January 7. This will take effect one year after the date of its communication to the Director-General, subject to provisions of the FAO Constitution.

Bermuda

HINTS OF NEW FISHING GROUNDS OFF BERMUDA: There is a possibility that new fishery resources may be opened up within the next few months a few miles off the the shores of Bermuda, according to Dr. Louis W. Hutchins, Director of the Biological Station of Bermuda. Sonic depth findings (500 fathoms) in a recent research survey have shown that there is a constant echo from something at that depth, reports a January 22 American consular dispatch from Hamilton.

It is hoped by local promoters that the reason for this constant echo may be shrimp or other valuable food, and that experiments may open up commercial fishing. There is some secrecy surrounding this research effort of the Bermuda Biological Station, which is operating on Government orders. Private interests are working simultaneously and are ready to exploit the new resources if they materialize.

Every effort is being made to make the first attempt of trawling these grounds with nets now on order from England and other countries before the Oceanic Fisheries Conference meets here on May 28, 1951.

There has been a lot of international interest shown in the matter already. Invitations to view the tests have been sent to fishing experts in many countries and several replies have been received. Representatives from the Bahamas will attend, together with groups from the United States.

Costa Rica

CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH U. S. SUBSIDIARY FISHERY FIRM PROVIDES FOR FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT: The Government of Costa Rica has renewed the contract under which a United State subsidiary refrigeration company at Puntarenas operates, according to a January 25 American Embassy dispatch from San Jose. This refrigeration company is a subsidiary of a large United States west coast fishery firm. Conditions now imposed on the contractor provide for normal development of the Costa Rican fishing industry. In effect, an export tax has been imposed on tuna caught outside Costa Rican waters and landed in Costa Rica for refrigeration and transshipment to the United States.

The contract under which the refrigeration company at Puntarenas operates in Costa Rica has been extended for a period of 15 years, renewable for an additional period of 15 years.

For several years Costa Rica has been giving serious consideration to development of a policy for expansion of the country's fishing industry. Among the factors which have been discussed have been (1) the possibility of maintaining a fishing fleet, (2) the possibility of fertilizer for national needs from the catch of a national fishing fleet, (3) the development of the local market for fresh fish, and (4) the development of Puntarenas as an operating base for tuna fishing boats supplying the American market. The provisions of the contract extension would indicate that the present policy envisages development of the local industry within its foreseeable possibilities.

The extension of the contract specifies that the contractor is not given a monopoly or exclusive concession. At the present time, however, the contractor operates the only refrigeration plant in Puntarenas and so in this position is better prepared to take advantage of the expansion that might take place in the industry than would be prospective newcomers in the field. Perhaps in nature of payment for the preferential position the contractor enjoys, he is now under obligation to provide certain services for all fishing boats, whereas heretofore services available through the plant facilities could have been restricted or offered at the discretion or pleasure of the contractor. Also, he is now obliged to provide fuel and other petroleum products required by fishing boats that may call on him for them as well as storage facilities for these products.

That provision of the current extension of the basic contract which permits exceptions from the provisions of the Labor Code as to percentage of Costa Ricans employed (and apparently from percentage of payroll paid them) raises the question of its consonance with provisions of the Labor Code.

The contractor must pay US$2.00 per ton gross weight on fish or shellfish shipped out of the country from the refrigeration plant. Practically all of such shipments consist of tuna caught by United States fishing boats outside of Costa Rican waters and actually under ownership of the United States boat owners or importers. That tuna is landed at Puntarenas only for refrigeration and shipment to the United States. In effect, therefore, the Government of Costa Rica is assessing an export tax on that tuna which has been temporarily in Costa Rica for processing and transshipment, and a great part if not all of which is of American ownership.

Finally, charges imposed by the renewed contract are specified in United States rather than in Costa Rican currency.

Cuba

PLANS TO MOTORIZE FISHING SCHOONERS: It has reportedly been agreed to motorize some 30 fishing schooners, thereby enabling them to fish outside the nine-mile Mexican territorial waters zone until such time as an agreement on jurisdictional waters is reached. Funds for the motorization of the fleet are to be procured from the newly-created Bank for Agricultural and Industrial Development, a February 2 American Embassy dispatch from Habana states.

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THIRTY DEEP-WATER FISHING VESSELS DISCONTINUE OPERATIONS: The Cuban Cooperative of Fishing Outfitters in mid-December 1950 formally notified the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture that on March 31, 1951, nearly thirty tank boats ("viveros") would discontinue operations. This Cooperative controls a fleet of about 60 deep-water fishing vessels and this action means that half its fleet will remain idle, reports a December 19 American consular dispatch from Habana.

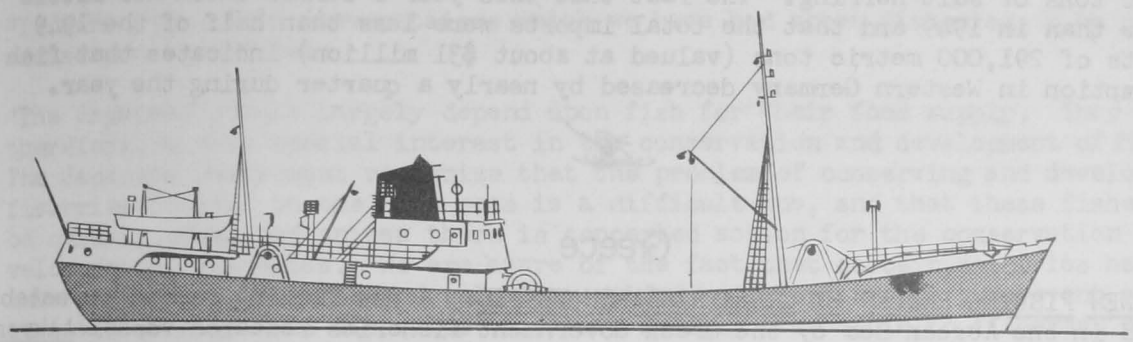
The Cooperative's communication to the Ministry, published in the Habana press of December 16, stated that the fleet of tank boats for the past ten years had been operating under most unfavorable conditions "because the (Cuban) Government has not solved with Mexico the problem of jurisdictional waters and these boats consequently have been prevented from penetrating into the zone of three to nine miles off the Mexican coast." It reported that the boats habitually fished in this area in the past, but since they have not been able to fish in the area in question, the catch has progressively declined. "To the reduction of the catch are added continued extraordinary disbursements caused by repeated detentions of these vessels in Mexico," the Cooperative continued.

The above decision apparently was taken not only because of losses resulting to the outfitters from the Mexican Government's assertion in 1935 of sovereignty over nine miles of waters off Mexico's coast, but also because the Cuban fleet of tank boats admittedly is largely antiquated, its operation consequently being unprofitable. It is understood that the other half of this Cuban deep-water fishing fleet, consisting of about 30 ice-laden vessels ("neveros"), will continue to operate.

German Federal Republic

FIRST DIESEL-ELECTRIC TRAWLER LAUNCHED: A Bremerhaven fishing company on September 20, 1950, took over the trawler Freiburg-im-Breisach—the first German Diesel-electric trawler. The vessel will be stationed in Cuxhaven and is one of a trio—the sisterships, the Tubingen and the Darmstadt, are now in the construction stage. The first two are Diesel-electrically propelled, whereas the Darmstadt is direct Diesel driven, a September 19 American consular dispatch from Bremerhaven reports.

Propulsion of the Freiburg-im-Breisach is by three single-acting, 6-cylinder, four-stroke-cycle supercharged Diesel engines of 700 shaft h.p. at 110 revolutions per minute. It is 160 feet in length over-all; with a beam of 28 feet, and a draught of 14 feet; measures 449 gross registered metric tons and 180 net registered metric tons. The vessel has a large fish storage capacity—a little less than 268



PROFILE OF THE FIRST GERMAN DIESEL-ELECTRIC TRAWLER--THE FREIBURG-IM-BREISACH. NOTE THE RAKED STEM AND TURTLEBACK FORECASTLE WHICH HAS FOR SOME YEARS BEEN A FEATURE OF THE LARGER TYPES OF GERMAN TRAWLERS. AN UNUSUAL CHARACTERISTIC IS THAT THE STRUCTURE AFT IS BUILT UP INTO A LONG POOP DECK WHICH IS NOW A FEATURE OF MODERN BRITISH MOTOR TRAWLERS.

metric tons or a cubic measurement of 17,390 cu. ft. There is also storage for 18.2 cubic feet of liver oil. The fuel tank has a capacity of 102 metric tons. The vessel is to be manned by a crew of 22 men. On the port side, the superstructure is flush with the hull. There is no open deck along the superstructure as far as the liver-boiling house, allowing the crew to be quartered in the stern. However, fishing can be done only on the starboard side.

The sistership Tubingen is similar to the Freiburg-im-Breisach, but there are some differences in the Darmstadt.

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DEEP-SEA FISHING INDUSTRY, 1950: Fishing Fleet and Leading Port: The West German fishing fleet consisted on January 1, 1951, of 231 fishing trawlers, totaling 95,000 gross registered metric tons, a January 31 American consular dispatch from Hamburg states. This includes the 52 new vessels built during the year and makes allowances for the 34 antiquated trawlers which were retired. Most of the new vessels are said to have been financed with the assistance of foreign capital, while before the war German capital supported the fishing industry almost entirely.

Bremerhaven maintained its position as the leading fishing port in Germany with 121 of the 231 vessels in the fishing fleet operating from that port. Fifty-four vessels were registered in Cuxhaven, 48 in Hamburg, and 8 in Kiel.

Catch: The total catch for 1950 was estimated at 365,400 metric tons as compared with 343,000 tons the preceeding year. This small increase in the catch was not commensurate with the 25 percent increase in catching capacity. This year's herring catch was especially small, totaling only 137,000 metric tons against 173,000 last year. Although higher prices were obtained for fish landed, these are said to have not compensated for increased operating expenses.

Totals given above do not include an estimated 75,000 to 85,000 metric tons of fish landed at the smaller coastal ports which reach only local markets.

Imports and Consumption: Imports of fish during 1950 totalled 113,000 metric tons, valued at about $15,500,000. Over half of these imports consisted of fresh

herring (74,000 metric tons), with the major portion of the balance being 20,000 metric tons of salt herring. The fact that this year's German catch was little larger than in 1949 and that the total imports were less than half of the 1949 imports of 291,000 metric tons (valued at about $31 million) indicates that fish consumption in Western Germany decreased by nearly a quarter during the year.

Greece

NEW FISHING RECORD BY GREEK RESEARCH VESSEL: A new fishing record was established in the Aegean Sea by the Greek Government fisheries research vessel Alkyoni, financed under Marshall Plan aid, when 6,000 pounds of fish were caught in a single haul of the net.

The haul was made in northern Aegean waters, the Economic Cooperation Administration reported on January 26. According to all available records, it was the largest single catch made in the Aegean Sea in modern Greek history.

The Alkyoni has been carefully charting fishing possibilities of Greek waters for more than a year. Scientists had suspected the existence of a large fish population far below levels usually fished by commercial fishermen. Locating a new fishing bank with the vessel's depth recorder, the crew lowered their net to about 220 fathoms. The big haul resulted.

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DEVELOPS OYSTER FISHERY: The well-known "Portugais" oyster, long a popular item on French menus, may soon be available on the Greek market, according to an Economic Cooperation Administration news release dated February 9. Early in February 1,540 pounds of the Portuguese-type seed oyster were planted in the oyster beds at Nea Krini, near Salonika, as the first of a series of experiments in producing cheaper and better oysters for Greece.

The seed oyster, brought from Arcachon, France, under the Marshall Plan fisheries program for Greece, will be watched closely by Greek and American fisheries experts. In its home waters, the Portugais is one of the most prolific of European oysters. Better than any present Greek type, and with a much shorter growing period, it should, if successful in Greek waters, permit Greek merchants to offer oysters at considerably lower prices.

Japan

JAPANESE POST-TREATY FISHERIES STATEMENT: In an exchange of letters between United States Ambassador John Foster Dulles and the Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida, the Japanese announce that they will voluntarily prohibit their resident nationals and vessels from carrying on fishing operations in presently-conserved fisheries (salmon, halibut, herring, sardine, and tuna fisheries in the waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea) where conservation measures have already been taken. The letters were dated February 7 and were released in Tokyo on February 13. Copies of the letters follow:

"My Dear Ambassador:

"In connection with converstaions which we have had about fisheries, I am glad to advise you as follows:

"The Japanese people largely depend upon fish for their food supply. They have, therefore, a very special interest in the conservation and development of fisheries. The Japanese Government recognize that the problem of conserving and developing fisheries located in the high seas is a difficult one, and that these fisheries may be quickly exhausted unless there is concerted action for the conservation and development of fisheries. We are aware of the fact that certain countries have adopted international agreements and voluntary self denying ordinances to prevent the exhaustion of high seas fisheries which are readily accessible to fishermen of their own country, and that if these conserved fisheries were to be subjected to uncontrolled fishing from other countries, the result would be international friction and the exhaustion of the fisheries themselves.

"Accordingly, the Japanese Government will, as soon as practicable after the restoration to it of full sovereignty, be prepared to enter into negotiations with other countries with a view to establishing equitable arrangements for the development and conservation of fisheries which are accessible to the nationals of Japan and such other countries.

"In the meantime, the Japanese Government will, as a voluntary act, implying no waiver of their international rights, prohibit their resident nationals and vessels from carrying on fishing operations in presently conserved fisheries in all waters where arrangements have already been made, either by international or domestic act, to protect the fisheries from over-harvesting, and in which fisheries Japanese nationals or vessels were not in the year 1940 conducting operations. Among such fisheries would be the salmon, halibut, herring, sardine and tuna fisheries in the waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea.

"The Japanese Government will set up a commission, composed of representatives of both government and industry, whose duty it shall be to see that the above mentioned prohibition is fully observed, and duly appointed representatives of interested foreign governments will be invited to sit on the commission as observers.

"Any party the Commission finds guilty of violation shall be subject to substantial penalty, including revocation of his fisheries license.

"I trust that the foregoing voluntary arrangements will constitute convincing evidence of the desire of the Japanese Government to deal with this whole problem in an equitable manner, designed to promote good will and the mutual interest of all who, directly or indirectly, depend for their livelihood upon fishing in the high seas.

"I remain with the highest consideration,

"Most sincerely yours,

Shigeru Yoshida Prime Minister."

"My Dear Mister Prime Minister:

"I am in receipt of your letter of February 7 with relation to high seas fisheries. I note with gratification the position of your government as therein set forth.

"It is a good omen for the future that the Japanese Government should already now indicate its willingness voluntarily to take measures for the protection of conserved fisheries.

"The Government of the United States, and I am confident other governments concerned, will be prepared, promptly after the restoration to Japan of full sovereignty by a peace treaty, to enter into negotiations with a view to establishing equitable arrangements for the development and conservation of fisheries which are accessible to the nationals of our countries. I am confident that our government will approach these negotiations in a spirit of good will corresponding to that which motivates your letter to me.

"Sincerely yours,

John Foster Dulles."

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STATEMENT ON JAPANESE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION: A visiting expert consultant on fisheries, Richard S. Croker, was in Japan the last three months of last year to assist and advise the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and Japanese Government officials in the development of a coordinated and unified fisheries administration program.1/ Croker, who is Chief of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the California Fish and Game Commission, issued the following press statement on Japanese fisheries administration after his survey, reports the December 23 Weekly Summary of SCAP's Natural Resources Section:

The Japanese fishing industry has made great advances during the past several years. Production of many species is at a high level, and important reforms have been effected. The extent of the industry's recovery during the four years since I left Japan is most gratifying.

However, expansion has brought its problems. The very great increase in the numbers of fishermen and fishing boats has resulted in an overcrowding of the coastal waters and increasingly intensive competition for the available fish. In their efforts to catch the fish before someone else does, growing numbers of fishermen are ignoring the regulations and building new boats even when permits to do so have been refused. They fail to realize that the regulations are enacted to protect the fish so there will be something to catch in years to come.

At the same time, the fisheries departments of the national and prefectural governments have not kept pace with the advance of the industry. Their organization is cumbersome, and liaison between the various bodies is slow or lacking.

The fishing industry is governed by laws enacted by the Diet, by ordinances issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, and by regulations issued by the prefectural governors. The basic laws have been improved recently, and the Fisheries Law of 1949 is a remarkably fine step forward. However, the ordinances and regulations are out of date and cannot cope with modern conditions. The na-

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, DECEMBER 1950, P. 69.

tional Fisheries Agency and many of the prefectural organizations realize this condition and have begun their modernization. They are to be congratulated for making this decision and should be encouraged to press this matter vigorously.

The weakest point in the administration of the fisheries is the absence of an effective method for enforcing compliance with the regulations. Laws, ordinances, regulations, license requirements, and agreements between prefectures are useless unless compliance is required. Unless compliance improves, the fishermen will soon destroy the productivity of the fisheries upon which they depend for their living.

In order to enforce compliance with the requirements an efficient fisheries patrol system is essential. The national Fisheries Agency now has authority under the law to maintain a patrol. However, in order to operate an effective patrol, an enforcement department must be established in this agency. The duties of this fisheries patrol department would be the detection of violations, apprehension of violators, preparation of evidence, and delivery of violators and evidence to the procurators.

For the sake of efficiency and economy, the patrol department should start as a rather small unit, growing as it gains experience. The patrol boats for apprehending violators along the coast and on the fishing banks should be small and fast. For open waters, boats of about 20 meters in length are most suitable. In sheltered waters, high-speed launches of eight meters are best.

The patrol staff of the national Fisheries Agency should be supplemented by similar units in the prefectures to enforce the regulations that concern the local fisheries.

If Japanese fisheries are to continue providing food for the people of the nation, it is imperative that the regulations be enforced strictly. The fisheries patrol system will provide the means for enforcement. If the fisheries patrol department is to succeed, the men who direct and operate it must possess ability, leadership, and courage. Everyone connected with the patrol, from the Director of the national Fisheries Agency down to the newest enforcement officer, must be determined to uphold the law in spite of any pressure that may be brought on him to relax. Only with such leadership and preformance can any hope be held for insuring continued fisheries production.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Kenya Protectorate

FIRM TO ATTEMPT FISHING OFF SEYCHELLES ISLANDS: A firm located at Mombasa has acquired the 250-ton steam trawler Derna and will soon try fishing off the Seychelles Islands, according to a February 7 American consular dispatch from that city.

Formerly owned by an East African company, the vessel attempted deep-sea trawling off the East African coast[1/] in November 1948. This enterprise was unsuccessful because the trawler was unable to locate renumerative fishing grounds before its owners went bankrupt. For more than a year thereafter, the Derna was anchored at Mombasa until purchased by the present owners.

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, FEBRUARY 1949, PP. 32-4.

In general, the Derna intends to fish hand lines in the Seychelles area, but trawling may also be attempted. This is the same area that the Colonial Development Corporation hopes to exploit from a Seychelles base.

With time and adaquate financing the new expedition should succeed. As a side line the Derna expects to catch and also to buy crayfish from the native fishermen for freezing and export to the United States.

Mexico

WEST COAST SHRIMP INDUSTRY HAS GROWTH DIFFICULTIES: The Mexican west coast shrimp fishing and freezing industry, which has enjoyed a boom period of almost phenomenal growth during the past four years, is presently being troubled by a number of production and distribution problems, a January 24 American consular dispatch from Guaymas reports. These include a general fear that the industry has expanded to quickly, the possible failure of some important operators, and a drive by the operators to secure a reduction of Mexican export taxes on shrimp.

The operations of the shrimp fishing fleet have been to a large extent largely financed, especially in the early stages of each season, by credit advanced by freezing plants, merchants, and banks. In turn, the freezing plants have been generously aided by the large distributing firms of the United States who often advance money for buying shrimp, the plants' raw material, and sometimes for all operating expenses.

The most common sequence of this financing system results in the boats delivering their shrimp to the freezing plants in return for 50 to 60 percent of the

prevailing price in cash and a written promise of the plant to settle and pay the balance immediately upon receipt of payment in full for that lot of shrimp from its distributor in the United States. The plants freeze and ship the shrimp to distributors in the United States who pay from 55 to 60 percent of the prevailing wholesale price immediately and promise to pay the balance, less certain expenses and a commission, usually within 40 days after selling the shrimp.

In past years, this system has worked quite satisfactorily. The people in the industry knew approximately when to expect the final liquidations; they made basic credit arrangements for supplies and repairs to allow for this time lag; the partial payments for shrimp delivered allowed them to pay their basic operating costs such as labor, fuel, and administrative expenses; and upon the final sale of the shrimp, the proceeds flowed back through the system to complete the credit cycle.

In the 1950-51 season, the following four factors combined to create the present difficulties of boat and plant operators: (1) during December and early January the shrimp fishermen were not able to find, catch, and deliver the amount of shrimp which experience had taught them to expect in this part of the season (the best available estimates indicate the total catch from December 1, 1950, to January 15, 1951, was about 20 percent less than in the previous season); (2) lower prices in the United States caused distributors to delay selling shrimp caught in October and November and consequently the liquidations of full payment to plants and boat operators for much of the early season catch have not arrived; (3) plant and boat owners invested heavily in boats and equipment in preparation for a record season and have little in the way of reserves to draw upon; and (4) there are at least two more freezing plants on the west coast of Mexico than in previous seasons, and an estimated 20 percent more boats fishing for shrimp.

After initial credits established at the beginning of the season were exhausted, many boat owners had only the partial payments made on shrimp at time of delivery to use for financing the continued operation of their boats. When the catch of shrimp fell off seriously, aggravated by the fact that this smaller catch was split among more boats than operated previous to this season, even the funds normally available to boat owners for running expenses became exceedingly short. The main factors which brought on the present situation, namely, the failure of the shrimp catch to expand in proportion to the investment in boats and plants and what were considered by the operators as relatively poor prices obtainable for frozen shrimp which were and are not subject to the control of the boat and plant operators. Their aggressiveness in expanding their facilities has resulted in their being less able to cope easily with the present crisis. Unless prices and/or the volume of the catch during the remainder of the season is above present expectations, these operators feel that the present season will be a poor one so far as their returns are concerned.

While admitting the above, many operators tend to place a part of the blame for their position on the Mexican export tax levied on frozen shrimp. They are expected to make strong efforts to have this tax lifted, claiming that the tax's primary purpose when imposed (to draw off the windfall profits caused by devaluation of the peso), has been outdated, and that it is a strong deterrent to the growth of an important infant industry.

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SPINY LOBSTER EXPORTERS GRANTED SUBSIDY: A subsidy has been granted to Mexican exporters of spiny lobsters by the Mexican Government, a February 12 American Embassy dispatch from Mexico reports. According to the Order (dated January 11, 1951) which appeared in the January 30 Diario Oficial, the subsidy will amount to 75 percent of the 15 percent ad-valorem export surtax imposed by the Mexican Government. To secure this subsidy, exportations must be made through, or with the permission of, the National Bank for the Development of Cooperatives. The subsidy is retroactive to January 1, 1951, and will remain in force to December 31, 1951, subject to reduction should the circumstances warrant it.

The Order states that the subsidy was granted because of the difficulty now being encountered by Mexican exporters in shipping spiny lobsters to foreign markets (mainly the United States) due to competition from the Australian and South African product. Since the increase in production costs and the low price received for Mexican spiny lobsters in foreign markets do not permit the Mexican exporters to cover completely the Mexican surtax of 15 percent ad valorem, the Mexican Government is hopeful that Mexican exporters with this subsidy will be in a better position to compete in foreign markets.

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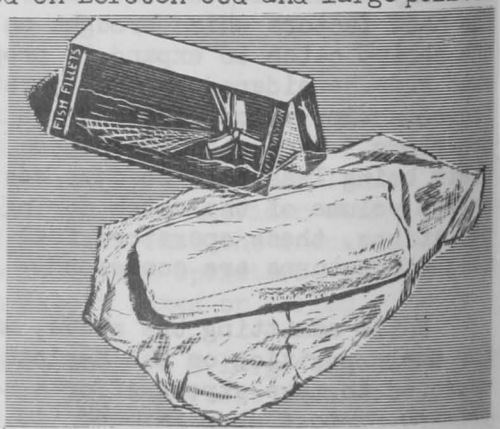
MULLET CLOSED SEASON MODIFIED: The Mexican closed season on mullet (various species of the genus Mugil) was modified by an Order which appeared in the Diario Oficial of January 25, an American Embassy dispatch dated February 6 from Mexico states. Taking of mullet is prohibited from January 16 to February 28 of each year. The Order, which became effective thirty days after its publication in the Diario Oficial, was issued as a conservation measure.

Norway

RESEARCH ON FROZEN FISH: The research division of the Norwegian freezer Laboratory in Bodo (northern Norway) has concentrated on Lofoten cod and large pollock. These two species are the most important in the Norwegian frozen fish industry, according to a report in the December 21 issue of Fiskaren, which quoted the newspaper Tromso.



ONE-POUND PACKAGE OF NORWEGIAN FROZEN FISH FILLETS DESTINED FOR THE SWISS OR FRENCH MARKET.

During last season's Lofoten fishing operations, the laboratory prepared, packed, and froze a number of samples of cod and pollock taken with various types of gear. Variations in the Lofoten fish were much greater than in species from other areas. It appears that the Lofoten fish are relatively unlike in physiological characteristics. There are striking differences between the males and females.

The seine fishery has played an important part in the frozen fish industry, but tests show that seine-caught cod are not especially well suited as raw material for filleting, even if handled very carefully. Seine-caught fish raise a number of special problems, but changes in seining techniques may make them usable for filleting. Use of smaller seines, which will limit

the catch, may be a solution. Also, fillets of gill-net fish were rough and partly of poor quality.

The Norwegian frozen fish industry has started to use varieties of fish which earlier were of little or no interest. One of these is wolffish (catfish), which is especially suited to filleting and freezing and has opened new possibilities for both fishermen and processors. There is hope of similar development for rosefish (ocean perch), halibut, and haddock.

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EVALUATION OF WINTER HERRING FISHERY: Of the total Norwegian fish catch, from 50 to 70 percent is made up of winter herring, according to an article which appeared in the January 27 issue of the Bergen newspaper Morgenavisen. Winter herring usually makes up one-third of the market value (value of fish after it has been prepared for sale) of all fish caught. The reason the market value is not as great as would be expected is due to the fact that the catch is so large and the season so short that with the present labor shortage there is insufficient time to prepare it properly in order to secure higher market prices--it is a matter of selling it with as little preparation and handling as possible.

The principal problem of the Norwegian winter herring industry is to get the catch out of the way as quickly as possible after landing and on to home and world markets with a minimum of handling and preparation. During recent years, daily catches of from 36,000-45,000 metric tons have been common, and because of the shortage of labor and shore facilities, the problem of handling these catches appears to be almost insurmountable. Canning is a detailed process and takes considerable time and labor, however, the demand for canned winter herring (kippers) varies to a considerable degree and it has now decreased to the point where production is negligible. The easiest way to prepare fresh herring for sale is to ice it, i.e., pack it in crushed ice. However, iced herring spoils if sent farther south than Boulogne, France--a serious limitation on sales. Freezing appears to be one way of meeting this problem, but this process increases the cost of the fish by almost 50 percent and also changes its physical characteristics, reducing the number of uses to which it can be put. Salted herring will not keep in hot climates and sale is consequently confined to the northern temperate zone where competition is very keen.

The winter herring fishery's safety valve is the tremendous mass which can be used by the herring meal and oil factories. This industry's modern unloading equipment, expanding storage facilities, and increasing ability to utilize a great amount of herring each day is chiefly responsible for the increase in and present importance of winter herring fishing. It is estimated that the herring meal and oil industry uses approximately three-fourths of the total catch.

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RECORD SLOE-HERRING CATCH REPORTED OFF WESTERN NORWAY: The 1951 fisheries of sloe herring off western Norway, which came to an end February 15, produced a record catch of 630,000 metric tons--almost 20,000 tons more than last year, the Norwegian Information Service reported on February 22.

First-hand or landed value of this year's sloe-herring catch is estimated at about $15,400,000.

More than 45,000 tons of the herring will be exported--considerably more than in 1950. Most of the catch (about 470,000 tons) will wind up as meal or oil, while

63,000 tons have been salted for sale to Norwegian consumers. Canning factories have bought 7,000 tons.

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NEW GROUNDS FOR SUMMER HERRING FISHING:[1/] The G. O. Sars, a research vessel operated by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries in Bergen, sailed on December 8, 1950, to prove the hypothesis that herring exist in the cold water flowing between Jan Mayen and Iceland and to the south in the direction of the Faeroe Islands, a January 25 American consular dispatch from Bergen reports. This stream also makes a sharp turn in the direction of the Norwegian coast. The vessel, which returned from this trip on January 23, 1951, has found that the hypothesis mentioned above is correct.

Finn Devold, the fishery consultant aboard the vessel, stated that herring was found for the first time on December 12, when they were quite far north and northeast of the Faeroe Islands. Large streams of herring were found in water having a temperature of 3° C.

An article on this trip of the G. O. Sars, which appeared in the January 24 issue of Bergens Arbeiderblad, states that during the summer, herring in the North Atlantic frequent warm waters where there is a good supply of food. The herring becomes very fat, and when their food supply disappears from surface waters in the autumn, they are forced to go through a fasting period which lasts throughout the winter. Herring, while fasting, must seek the coldest water possible in order to make the layer of fat they accumulated during the summer last as long as possible. It appears that this fat breaks down more rapidly when the herring remain in warm waters.

It seems that there is a comparatively small current of cold water flowing northeast of the Faeroe Islands towards the Møre coast (that portion of the Norwegian coast around Aalesund). The vessel found that the herring followed this cold current towards the Norwegian coast and was not to be found either north or south of it. When this cold current was finally absorbed by the warmer Gulf Stream close to the coast, the herring changed their swimming pattern from a rather compact group extending vertically to a depth of approximately 200 meters (650 feet) with a front of some 100 meters (328 feet) to one of only 30 to 40 meters (98-131 feet) in depth and covering a considerable area in the top layer of the Gulf Stream where the coldest water is found.

The "fathometer" on the vessel was suitable for tracing the herring groups in a vertical or almost vertical direction only; this is unsuitable for shallow coastal waters so the herring was lost when it came close to the coast. It is expected that the G. O. Sars will be equipped with a "fathometer" sending out sound waves in a horizontal direction next year in order to be able to trace the herring in shallow water. It was, however, able to trace the herring within 40 nautical miles of land.

The few vessels following directions given by the G. O. Sars caught approximately 1,677 metric tons of herring in one day at sea, far from the usual fish banks prior to the arrival of the herring in the usual fishing areas.

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JANUARY 1951, P. 68.

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WHALING EXPEDITION TO HUNT SPERM WHALES: A Norwegian whaling expedition was scheduled to leave the first part of February for Peru with eight whale catchers to hunt sperm whales, according to the December 21 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian fishery periodical. Manned by 280-290 men, the expedition will be operating for about 9 to 10 months. A portion of the expected production is destined for the United States.

The whale catchers, at the time of this report, were being repaired in Norwegian shipyards; however, the factory ship Anglo-Norse had been repaired in Kiel, Germany, and was reported to have left for Peru.

Peru

REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION AND SALE OF EDIBLE AQUATIC PRODUCTS: Regulations for the importation and sale of foreign aquatic products as well as for the sale of similar domestic products have been established in Peru by Supreme Resolution No. 2 dated January 29, 1951. This Resolution was published in the official gazette El Peruano of February 7.

The main provisions require that edible aquatic products in any form must be subjected to inspection of, and approval by, the Technological Laboratory of the Peruvian Bureau of Fish and Wildlife, which must extend a quality certificate in every case, reports a February 14 American Embassy dispatch from Lima.

Peruvian customhouses will not permit clearance of products lacking such certificates. Adulterated foreign products will be rejected and subject either to reexportation or confiscation. Domestic products will be likewise confiscated if found unsuitable for consumption. A period of 90 days from the date of the resolution is allowed to local fish-preserving enterprises for the codification[1/] of their products in order to identify the origin. Companies which fail to fulfill this requisite will not be permitted to undertake processing activities. Inspections and examinations will be made in conformity with the rules of the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife regarding the control and sanitary condition of edible aquatic products.

The preamble of the resolution states that this measure is taken because it has been found that the quality of certain foreign and domestic-preserved fish and shellfish sold in the Peruvian market is unsuitable for human consumption; that in several cases statements on the labels do not correspond to the contents; that the Technological Laboratory of the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife has the technical personnel and facilities required for such inspection; and that it is the duty of the Government to safeguard the interests and health of the consumers.

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NEW FISHERIES LAW SUBMITTED TO LEGISLATURE: A new fisheries law, prepared by a commission representing government, fishermen, and the fishery industry, was submitted to the Peruvian legislature for enactment on December 6, 1950. Reports received from the Director of Fisheries indicate that it is very possible that this legislation will be enacted without any drastic changes, states a January 29 American consular dispatch from Lima.

1/ OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT THAT "CODIFICATION" MEANS THE SERIAL NUMBER, DATE, AND TIME OF ELABORATION, AND THAT THIS IS REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING FINDINGS IN CASE OF POOR QUALITY LOTS.

In its present form, the new fisheries law is reported to be entirely satisfactory to those American firms already operating in the Peruvian fishery industry. Every facility appears to be offered by the new law to protect and develop this phase of the Peruvian economy by both Peruvian and foreign capital.

Portugal

SARDINE INDUSTRY CONFRONTED WITH SERIOUS TIN PLATE SHORTAGE: Shortages of tin plate continue to be a serious problem for the Portuguese sardine industry, according to a January 18 American consular dispatch from Lisbon.

The sardine industry had sufficient tin plate to meet its requirements for the current season which ended about January 15, but was completely bare of stocks for the new season which starts about May 1. Efforts to purchase tin plate in the United States continued unsuccessfully, but there were hopes that it might become available from Belgium, where a new tin plate mill was expected to come into production in February.

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ARTIFICIAL DRYING PLANT FOR FISH: Portugal's first artificial drying plant for cod was inaugurated at Alcochete, across the river from Lisbon, on January 27. The artificial-drying fish plant, built from Portuguese-Italian patents, uses conditioned air distributed by large electric fans, reports a February 2 American consular dispatch from Lisbon. The plant has a capacity of 21 metric tons of cod, and the process takes 36 hours. In addition, there is an area to be used for sun-drying, when the weather permits, with a capacity of 240 metric tons. The plant also has a refrigerated storage space for salted cod awaiting drying with a capacity of 3,600 metric tons.

Spain

FISHERIES REVIEW FOR 1949: Introduction: The activities of the Spanish fishing industry during 1949, while better than in the previous year, were still far from satisfactory, states a December 14 American consular dispatch from Vigo. However, the removal of government controls during the second half of the year and the lifting of ceiling prices on the sale of fish for a temporary period were very helpful to the industry in offsetting increased operation costs.

Fuel supplies for the fleet, which for years has been one of the main problems of the industry, improved substantially during 1949, especially for coal-burning ships, since adequate stocks of English and Spanish coal were made available. The supply of adequate fishing equipment, however, continued unfavorable. Spanish substitutes, in addition to being of poor quality, were not readily obtainable thus forcing the trade to go into the free market for replacements, which were much more expensive.

Type and Size of Fleet: Well informed and reliable trade sources estimate the Spanish fishing fleet to number about 37,500 units of all types (250,000 gross

registered metric tons). However, according to a semi-official trade paper Espaka Pesquera (January 1950) published by the National Fishing Syndicate, the number of fishing craft as of January 1, 1950, was 38,241 with a gross tonnage of 224,324, and a declared total value of 1,038 million pesetas (approximately $94,795,000).

The fleet operates out of numerous ports scattered along the Spanish littoral, but the focal point of the deep-sea fishing industry is centered in the northern and northwestern sections of Spain, between the French and the Portuguese borders, where the three principal fishing ports of the country, Vigo, Pasajes de San Juan, and La Coruna, are located. The combined fishing craft of these two regions are reported to represent over 50 percent of the total Spanish fishing fleet.

The wide variety of small steamers, motorboats, row boats, and sailing vessels which are used for fishing along the coast and protected waters, constitute, by far, the largest percentage of the units and tonnage.

Many important improvements have been developed during recent years in the construction and propulsion of fishing vessels and at present a substantial number of the deep-sea fishing fleet is made up of steel craft with Diesel engines, displacing from 150 to 250 metric tons. But coal-burning craft, with wooden hulls, still outnumber steel ships.

While the opinion is repeatedly expressed that many of the difficulties confronting the Spanish fishing industry are the result of an over-sized fleet, impartial appraisers state that rather than the size of the fleet, the old fishing methods, the deteriorated condition of equipment, and the old and expensively operated coal-burning ships are responsible for the situation.

Fishing Grounds: The Purcupine banks (near Ireland), the Grand and Petit Soles, the coast near La Rochelle in the north, and the waters between the Canary Islands and the African coast in the south comprise the main areas for deep-sea fishing, which is an important item in the fresh fish industry. However, the scarcity of fish that has been developing since 1947 in these waters, which since 1929 were the normal fishing grounds of the offshore fleet, forced operators to leave these grounds for the banks off Iceland and Newfoundland during the last half of 1949. Catches brought in from the latter, being abundant and remunerative, helped to cushion the poor returns of the first half of the year. The operation of the fleet in such distant waters, however, required the refitting of the ships and since the industry was not able to undertake such additional costs, operations in those grounds were limited to the larger steel craft.

The coast of Africa and the South Atlantic coast of Spain are the areas where tuna and some specimens of the cod family are caught.

The north coast of Spain, and the coast of Portugal supply nearly all sardines and other preservable varieties, as well as a large number of species for fresh consumption. In addition to the catches by the fleet, there is a fair volume of fish which is caught from the shore with nets.

Catches: While total catches for 1949 increased 4.4 percent over the previous year (table 1), they were 1.9 percent below 1947. The fishing grounds in which the fleet usually operated commenced to show the first signs of depletion early in 1949, resulting from intensive dragging and the killing of immature specimens. Catches in 1949 were 6.2 percent below 1946, which was the peak year of the Spanish fishing industry in the past decade. The increase in the 1949 production was due almost entirely to the larger cod catches. Almost without exception the catches

Table 1 - Spanish Fisheries Production (Quantity and Landed Value), 1940 and 1946-9

	Quantity	Value	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 Pesetas	1,000 U.S. $
1949:			
Fish.....	1,117,149	1,925,454	175,840
Crustaceans...	38,782	133,765	12,216
Mollusks.....	70,084	103,262	9,430
Total....	1,226,015	2,162,481	197,486
1948:			
Fish.....	1,092,467	1,645,851	150,306
Crustaceans...	34,368	130,931	11,957
Molusks.....	47,962	90,580	8,272
Total.....	1,174,797	1,867,362	170,535
1947.....	1,249,251	2,032,046	185,575
1946.....	1,307,412	1,715,951	156,708
1940.....	951,811	725,788	66,282

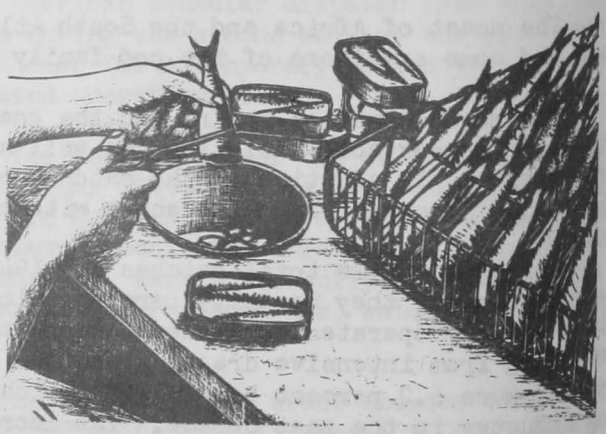
the fresh fish markets of the country.

Byproducts Industry:[1] The Spanish fishing fleet does not operate for processing purposes other than canning, pickling, and salting. Occasionally, however, particularly during the summer months, because of the low prices that prevail due to large catches of jurel, some of these catches are diverted to fish-meal production. The Spanish byproducts industry must depend for its raw materials on the residue of the canning plants. There are in Spain 42 fish byproducts plants with an average output of 27,739 metric tons per year, valued at 85,878,677 pesetas (about $7,843,000). The output of this industry, which employs about 332 persons, is as follows (in metric tons): fish oil, 13,280; fish meal, 13,928; other fish byproducts, 500.

Composition of Catches: As may be seen from table 2, notwithstanding the disappearance of sardines from its former breeding grounds along the coast, this species, which is the main source of revenue for the coastal fishing craft, continued to lead all others followed by small hake and cod. The last two species are brought in by the larger vessels engaged in offshore fishing.

Fish Canning Industry: The critical situation in which the Spanish fish canning industry found itself in 1949 on account of the raw material shortages stands out clearly when one considers that in 1935, the last normal year for fish canning, 1,501,668 standard cases (clubs, 30 mm.) were shipped abroad as against 355,980 cases for 1949. On the whole, however, canning activities for 1949 were the best since the termination of World War II, and showed an important improvement over 1948. Shortages of raw materials, while still acute, improved during 1949 by the allotment and receipt of larger quantities of Spanish tin plate and especially by the arrival of several of all other species upon which the greater part of the fishing fleet depends were smaller than in 1948.

Catches Utilized Mainly For Human Consumption: With the exception of about 30 percent of the catches which are normally absorbed by the canning and pickling industries, the output of the fishing industry is consumed through



PRODUCTION LINE IN SPANISH SARDINE CANNERY--WOMEN TAKE FISH FROM SPECIAL SHAPED WIRE BASKETS, CUT TO CONVENIENT SIZE, AND PACK IN CANS. FISH ARE PLACED IN THE BASKETS DIRECTLY FROM THE BRINE TANK.

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1950, PP. 66-8.

Table 2 - Spanish Fisheries Production by Species (Quantity and Landed Value), 1948-9

Species	1949			1948		
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 Pesetas	1,000 U.S.$	1,000 lbs.	1,000 Pesetas	1,000 U.S.$
Fish:						
Sardines	147,668	253.407	23,142	167,483	234,648	21,429
Anchovies	79,897	86,565	7,905	97,283	90,861	8,298
Bonito and tuna	65,474	169,692	15,497	40,711	107,946	9,858
Hake	59,488	256,208	23,398	63,522	235,947	21,547
Small hake	100,810	262,616	23,983	115,258	273,188	24,949
Cod[1]	138,668	103,028	9,409	113,204	63,321	5,783
Other	525,144	793,938	72,506	495,006	639,940	58,442
Total	1,117,149	1,925,454	175,840	1,092,467	1,645,851	150,306
Crustaceans:						
Lobster	1,409	9,817	896	650	7,935	725
Barnacles	969	2,820	258	1,242	3,401	310
Crab	754	2,940	268	671	2,517	230
Langostino	5,399	33,207	3,033	5,803	33,733	3,081
Giant shrimp	23,324	70,134	6,405	21,781	70,282	6,418
Shrimp	114	570	52	269	1,137	104
Other	6,813	14,277	1,304	3,952	11,926	1,089
Total	38,782	133,765	12,216	34,368	130,931	11,957
Mollusks:						
Squid	5,939	24,731	2,258	8,944	32,112	2,933
Cuttlefish	12,350	26,612	2,430	8,571	21,345	1,949
Octopus	10,113	19,421	1,774	9,063	16,362	1,494
Clams	30,673	17,081	1,560	15,658	11,113	1,015
Mussels	5,869	8,285	757	3,000	4,933	451
Razor clams	442	529	48	54	68	6
Oysters	872	390	36	521	263	24
Other	3,826	6,213	567	2,151	4,384	400
Total	70,084	103,262	9,430	47,962	90,580	8,272
Grand Total	1,226,015	2,162,481	197,486	1,174,797	1,867,362	170,535

1/ Includes only production by regular cod-fishing fleet, and not catches of smaller vessels which are included in "other."

small but substantial shipments of American tin plate. The latter shipments permitted exports of canned fish to the United States that could not otherwise have been made since Spanish tin plate (because of its lack of uniformity of calibration, excess of lead content, and other technicalities) does not meet the standard requirements of the United States and other foreign markets.

The establishment of the more favorable export rate of Pesetas 21.90 per $1.00 and permission to retain 13 percent of the foreign exchange received by packers for their exports, which could be freely invested in the purchase of materials and equipment, was also an incentive for the resumption of packing operations. In addition to enabling packers to renew contacts with former buyers and markets from which they had been isolated for a number of years, because of their inability to compete at the high prices resulting from conversion at the fictitious rate of exchange applied to exports by the Spanish government, the small balances of foreign exchange created by the more favorable rate enabled packers to place orders, although small, for some of the more essential raw materials, such as tin plate and rubber, thus permitting the industry to operate at a higher output than before.

In addition to the shortages of raw materials, another problem pressing the industry was that of reducing costs of production which were necessarily high because of low output, thereby placing the cost of the finished product completely out of reach of foreign markets. While the industry's claims for the removal of controls and application of a more favorable export rate received more sympathetic

consideration by the government during the year under discussion and in general operated under better conditions than in the previous year, it still had a long way to go before it approached its prewar level. First of all it needed financial revitalization, the longer period of idleness having practically exhausted its ready capital and forced it to operate on bank credit.

Exports: Table 3 shows the quantities of canned fish that have been exported from Spain for the past twenty years. The gap between 1937 and 1942 (Spanish Civil War and World War II years) covers a period during which there was an embargo on exports, the total production during that period having been consumed in the national markets in substitution for other food products not then available.

Table 3 - Spanish Exports of Canned, Salted, Smoked, and Frozen Fish, 1931-5 and 1942-9

Year	Sardines in Oil		Other Fish in Oil		Total Canned Fish 1/		Salted, Smoked, and Frozen Fish	
	Cases	Lbs.	Cases	Lbs.	Cases	Lbs.	Cases	Lbs.
1949	240,772	9,534,594	115,208	5,069,183	355,980	14,603,776	53,830	4,737,081
1948	176,311	6,981,968	131,673	5,504,099	307,984	12,486,067	24,950	2,195,431
1947	135,720	5,374,512	159,659	6,673,757	295,379	12,048,269	95,822	8,432,369
1946	186,109	7,347,846	75,414	3,150,367	261,523	10,498,213	14,901	1,311,200
1945	99,246	3,930,300	187,530	7,836,726	286,776	11,767,026	39,665	3,402,740
1944	34,099	1,350,360	47,837	1,999,666	81,936	3,350,026	9,349	822,800
1943	90,233	3,573,240	59,269	2,479,605	149,502	6,052,845	288,318	25,372,160
1942	133,400	5,282,640	157,698	6,591,781	291,098	11,874,421	132,414	11,650,540
1935	1,175,691	47,877,500	325,977	13,626,138	1,501,668	61,503,638	37,759	3,322,880
1934	1,136,104	44,990,000	388,665	16,246,285	1,524,769	61,236,286	41,275	3,631,980
1933	930,656	36,854,400	431,595	18,041,045	1,362,251	54,895,445	75,697	6,661,380
1932	896,703	35,509,980	622,407	26,017,097	1,519,110	61,527,077	93,075	8,195,440
1931	1,129,340	44,722,260	825,489	34,505,504	1,954,829	79,227,764	107,809	9,487,720

1/WHILE EXPORTS OF CANNED FISH COMPRISE A VARIETY OF SPECIES, THEY CONSIST PRINCIPALLY OF SARDINES, ALBACORE, AND ANCHOVIES IN OIL.

Spain's exports of preserved fishery products in 1949 totaled 19,340,858 pounds valued at 26,100,785 gold pesetas (U. S. $8,527,126). United States imports of these products comprised 31 percent of the quantity and 25 percent of the value. Exports to the United States of canned sardines made up 60 percent of the total quantity and 63 percent of the value.

The United States is the most important export market for Spanish canned sardines, followed by Italy, the United Kingdom, and Brazil. For all other canned fish, Italy is the leading importer, followed by Switzerland, France, Egypt, and Cuba. For salted, smoked, and frozen fishery products, Spain's best customer is the United Kingdom, followed by Brazil, Italy, Portugal, Argentina, and the United States.

Total Spanish exports to the United States of preserved fishery products amounted to 6,003,498 pounds, valued at 6,651,011 gold pesetas (U. S. $2,172,885). Of this total, 5,746,305 pounds, valued at 6,389,646 gold pesetas (U. S. $2,087,497) consisted of sardines in oil; 135,388 pounds, valued at 192,387 gold pesetas (U. S. $62,853) of other canned fish in oil; 121,805 pounds, valued at 68,978 gold pesetas (U. S. $22,535) of salted, smoked, and frozen fishery products.

NOTE: VALUES IN U. S. DOLLARS BASED ON 10.95 PESETAS EQUAL U. S. $1.00 AND 1 GOLD PESETA EQUALS U. S. $0.3267.

United Kingdom

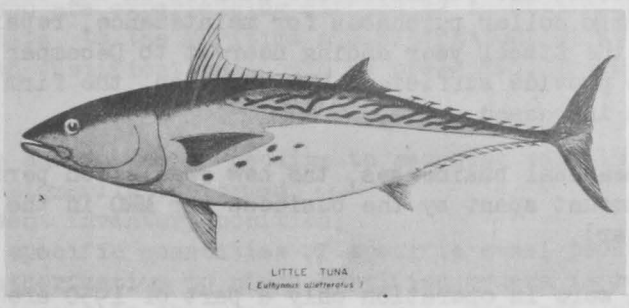
WHITE-FISH SUBSIDY CONTINUED: The subsidy[1/] granted by the British Government to catchers of white fish in the inshore, near, and middle waters (inaugurated in July 1950 for six months, ending January 30, 1951) has been extended another six months, reports the January 27 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical. - This interim subsidy was originally initiated to secure improvement for the white-fish industry until the White-Fish Authority would be able to apply long-term remedies. In addition, it is meant to encourage the catchers of prime fish to maintain supplies of the better types of fish.

Certain changes were made in the scale of payments for vessels over 70 feet in length, but there were no changes in the rates payable to inshore fishermen with boats not exceeding 70 feet in length--10d per stone (about 82 cents per hundredweight) for fish sold other than at retail, reduced to 8d per stone (66 cents per hundredweight) for most varieties if landed round. As originally administered, the subsidy will not be payable to vessels of 140 feet and over. As a condition of receiving the subsidy during the extended period, owners of vessels fishing in the near and middle waters will have to furnish the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries or the Scottish Home Department by the end of April with detailed accounts of the operations of their vessels for the year 1950.

The maximum subsidy payment varies from £10 (about $28) to £12 ($33.60) per day at sea or from £100 ($280) to £168 ($470.40) for the voyage, and also varying according to the gross earnings of each voyage, the type and size of vessel, and the fishing grounds. No subsidy is payable if gross earnings (including subsidy) reach or exceed either £45-90 ($126-252) per day at sea or £450-1,260 ($1,260-3,528) for the voyage, depending on the type and size of the vessel.

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, AUGUST 1950, PP. 59-60.

"LITTLE TUNA" OF THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS



Recent developments offer some encouragement for the commercial canning of "little tuna," Euthynnus alletteratus, along the Atlantic and the Gulf Coasts. For many years this fish has been caught in varying amounts in these areas. From Cape Cod to the Florida Coast, and also along the Gulf, the little tuna has been reported in abundance at certain seasons of the year. It has also been reported to be in fair abundance in various parts of the Caribbean Sea.

—Fishery Leaflet 353