


TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 41 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during August 1952--11 less than in August 1951. California led with 6 vessels, followed by Louisiana with 5 vessels, and Alaska and Texas with 4 vessels each, the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department announced.

Section	August		Eight mos. ending with August		Total 1951
	1952	1951	1952	1951	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	3	1	23	26	36
Middle Atlantic	1	1	22	28	34
Chesapeake	3	-	43	19	36
South Atlantic	6	8	57	76	118
Gulf	15	15	88	129	173
Pacific Coast	9	21	187	247	284
Great Lakes	-	2	77	11	25
Alaska	4	3	80	60	71
Hawaii	-	1	-	3	3
Total	41	52	507	599	780

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



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Holds Annual Meeting

The 11th Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission concluded a three-day session at Boston on September 5. Ninety-four Commissioners, Federal and state fishery administrators, scientists, and staff members attended the general session on September 4. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported on research undertaken in a variety of fields for the Commission.

The Commission discussed ways of defining "inland" marine waters to facilitate the regulation of out-of-state boats and the need for better state catch statistics to aid both research and administration.

The Commission adopted the recommendations of its striped bass committee for the establishment of a cooperative Federal-state research program relating to striped bass and immediate opposition to the Clemente Bill, H. R. 8067, which would transfer the regulation of striped bass to the Federal Government, and would make it a Federal offense to catch striped bass anywhere in the marine waters of the U. S. except by hook and line. The Committee found and the Commission agreed that there was no evidence of over-all striped bass depletion, that the states were able and ready to enact any measures needed, that the Clemente Bill is contrary to precedent and without justification, and that its penalties are preposterous.

After the general sessions on September 4, the Chesapeake Bay and South Atlantic Sections met, and September 5 was devoted to meetings of the North and Middle Atlantic Sections of the Commission.

The four Sections reported to the September 5 afternoon closing session at which the Commission approved three recommendations from the North Atlantic Section, to request continuation by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the clam study and of the yellowtail study, and to urge the reconstruction of the obsolete Fish and Wildlife Service Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass.

The various Section meetings received detailed reports on many special problems relating to their particular areas.

On September 6 members of the Commission and visiting scientists participated in demonstrations staged by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of freezing fish in the round at sea on board the motor trawler Delaware and of Japanese long-line fishing methods for catching tuna on the Marjorie Parker, both of which sailed from the Service's East Boston docks for a full day's cruise.



BRINE-FROZEN FISH BEING INSPECTED ABOARD THE RESEARCH TRAWLER DELAWARE BY MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION AND VISITING SCIENTISTS. THE ONE-DAY CRUISE WAS TO DEMONSTRATE THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S EXPERIMENTS ON FREEZING FISH IN THE ROUND AT SEA.



Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, AUGUST 1952: For the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, the Army Quartermaster Corps this August purchased 3,999,589 pounds (valued at \$1,676,942) of fresh and frozen fishery products (see table). This was an increase of 75.4 percent in quantity and 52.8 percent in value as compared with the previous month, and 33.5 percent in quantity and 50.2 percent in value over August 1951.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army (August and the First Eight Months, 1952 and 1951)							
Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
August		January-August		August		January-August	
1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
3,999,589	2,996,287	22,504,070	20,270,207	1,676,942	1,116,243	10,245,608	8,335,084

January-August purchases this year rose 11.0 percent in quantity and 22.9 percent in value, compared with the corresponding period in 1951. The average cost per pound was 45.5 cents for the first eight months this year as compared with 41.1 cents for the same period a year earlier.

In addition to the purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products indicated above, the Armed Forces generally make some local purchases which are not included in the above figures. Therefore, actual purchases are somewhat higher than indicated.

ed, but it is not possible to obtain data on the local purchases made by military installations throughout the country.

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NO CANNED SALMON FROM 1952 PACK REQUIRED BY ARMED FORCES: "Due to conditions prevailing in the Far East Command and because stocks on hand are sufficient to meet the needs of the Armed Forces during the next 12 months, the Army Quartermaster Corps does not plan to purchase any canned salmon from the 1952 pack," states a September 8 Department of Defense news release.

The announcement was made to inform industry of the Armed Forces' position in reference to its needs for canned salmon so that industry may plan accordingly. For the past several months, according to the release, troops in Korea have been supplied mostly with fresh foods. This reduced the requirement for canned foods--one of the chief components of operation rations which are served when fresh foods are not available.

Although the Department announced that canned salmon is occasionally served with the fresh-food rations supplied to troops both overseas and in the Continental United States, it is expected that requirements through calendar year 1953 can be met from stocks on hand.



Fishery Marketing Specialist Examination Announced

FISHERY MARKETING SPECIALIST EXAMINATION ANNOUNCED: An examination for Fishery Marketing Specialist (GS-5, \$3,410 a year) was announced by the U. S. Civil Service Commission on September 16, 1952 (Announcement No. 336). The registrates established from this examination will be used to fill positions in the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., and throughout the United States. However, this same examination may be used to fill positions in other Federal agencies in Washington, D. C., and vicinity. The closing date for this examination is November 18, 1952.

Except for the substitution of education for experience as provided, applicants must have had 3 years of responsible experience in any position involving (a) the collection and compilation of market information and statistics on fishery products and the preparation from such data of analytical articles or bulletins for publication; or (b) marketing research requiring an intimate knowledge of commercial methods and practices in producing, processing, transporting, or marketing of fishery products. Study successfully completed at an accredited college or university with specialization in fisheries may be substituted for experience at the rate of one (1) academic year of education for 9 months of experience, up to a maximum of 3 years of the required experience; study successfully completed at a college or university with specialization in economics or marketing may be substituted for experience at the rate of one academic year of education for 6 months of experience, up to a maximum of 2 years of the required experience.

All competitors will be required to take a written test consisting of questions on paragraph reading, meaning of words, English usage, graph and table interpretation, and arithmetic reasoning. Examinations will be held at the places listed on the examination announcement.

Announcement No. 336 (dated September 16, 1952) which gives full details and information, and application blanks are obtainable from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C., from any of the Commission's regional offices, or from any first- or second-class post office.



New England Tuna Explorations

"MARJORIE PARKER" ENCOUNTERS BEST TUNA FISHING OFF MASSACHUSETTS ON FISHING CRUISE NO. 6: A catch of approximately 2,000 pounds of bluefin tuna was made by the schooner Marjorie Parker on the sixth cruise of this year's New England bluefin tuna exploration. This vessel, which has been chartered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for this cruise left Portland, Maine, on August 14 and returned to the same port on August 29. Adverse weather and a breakdown of the Japanese line hauler resulted in the loss of six fishing days during the cruise.

A total of 28 long-line sets was made during the trip and resulted in a catch of 56 tuna, averaging 35 pounds (round weight) each. Three tuna were caught with surface trolling lines, and two were captured on hand lines. Catches of blue sharks greatly outnumbered the tuna catch. Considerable time was lost in repairing the damage to the main and branch lines caused by the sharks.

Operations were conducted in four general areas: west southwest of Mt. Desert Light, Maine; east southeast of Cape Ann, Massachusetts; southeast of Cape Cod Light, Massachusetts; and southeast of Pollock Rip Lightship. The best results were obtained in the latter area where a set of 10 baskets (70 hooks) produced 13 tuna on the afternoon of August 25. Schools of tuna were sighted on four separate occasions in the waters southeast of Cape Cod Light, and another school was observed on Stellwagen Bank, about 10 miles northeast of Race Point on August 27. One small school of tuna was chummed alongside the vessel, using alewives for bait, but only two fish were taken with hand lines.

Landings were made at Gloucester and Provincetown, Massachusetts, and the catch was sold to commercial fish companies for \$240 and \$220 per ton.

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POOR FISHING PLAGUES "MARJORIE PARKER" ON FISHING CRUISE NO. 7: On Fishing Cruise No. 7 the schooner Marjorie Parker encountered and caught only a few tuna. Long lines and trammel nets were used. The vessel left Portland, Maine, on September 3 and completed the trip at Boston on September 23. Some fishing time was lost due to unfavorable weather. Fishing was conducted in five general areas: southeast of Portland Lightship, Maine; Boon Island, Maine; southeast of Cape Ann, Massachusetts; southeast of Cape Cod Light, Massachusetts; and southeast of No Mans Land, Massachusetts. Results were poor in all areas fished.

A total of 198 baskets of long-line gear was set, which resulted in a catch of approximately 850 pounds of bluefin tuna. A set of three trammel nets was unsuccessful. One bluefin tuna was captured with surface-trolling gear. Over 180 sharks (mostly blue sharks) were caught on the long-line gear.

Most sets produced sharks but no tuna. No surface schools were observed, although small scattered tuna were seen jumping south of No Mans Land. On Septem-

ber 21, a few unusually small tuna were taken on the long line about 50 miles south of Block Island. They ranged in size from about 7 to 12 pounds and were the smallest tuna yet taken in the Service's two years of tuna explorations in these waters.

The tuna catch was sold to commercial fish firms for \$240 per ton.

The vessel left Boston, Massachusetts on September 26 on Fishing Cruise No. 8 and was scheduled to return about October 4. Using long lines, gill nets, trammel nets, surface-troll lines, and hand lines, the vessel expected to fish on Cashes Ledge, Tobins (southeast of Cape Cod Light), and on the northern edge of Georges Bank.



North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

ALBACORE TUNA EXPLORATION BY "JOHN N. COBB" (CRUISE NO. 12): An eight-week albacore tuna exploration off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and the northern part of California was conducted by the John N. Cobb in June and July. This exploratory fishing vessel is operated by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries in the North Pacific.

To secure information concerning surface ocean currents in waters off Washington, Oregon, and northern California, a total of 5,000 drift cards were released on a course commencing 50 miles west of Cape Flattery, Washington, and terminating 500 miles west of Cape Blanco, Oregon, on June 19.

After release of the cards, trolling for tuna commenced and the first albacore of the trip was caught on June 24, approximately 525 miles west of Trinidad Head, California. Scattered tuna were taken in the same general area until June 28. Although trolling was carried on continuously, no more albacore were taken until July 11 and 12 when several were caught from 180 to 250 miles off the coast of southern Oregon. Small scattered schools were encountered between July 24 and July 28 between Cape Meares and Cape Falcon, Oregon, about 45 miles offshore, during which time the best single day's catch (89 fish) was made. Fishing results for the remainder of the cruise were poor, with only a few scattered fish being found.

Surface water temperatures from June 20 to July 1 varied from 56° F. to 58° F. in the area from Trinidad Head to Cape Blanco at distances from 235 to 600 miles offshore. A surface water temperature of 60° F. was encountered for the first time on the trip about 110 miles west of Heceta Head, Oregon, on July 2. The best fishing of the trip occurred in surface water temperatures of 59° F. to 60° F. about 45 miles offshore between Cape Meares and Cape Falcon from July 24 to July 28.

Experimental gill nets were fished twice, catching only 2 tuna. A total of 147 albacore were tagged with streamer-type tags. During most of the cruise the prevailing winds were north and northwest, frequently strong, with choppy to rough seas.



Pacific Coast States Conducting Experimental Bottom Fishing at Great Depths

The deepest experimental bottom fishing ever conducted on the Pacific Coast is now under way as a joint project of the three coastal states, according to an August 27 news release from the California Department of Fish and Game.

California, Oregon, and Washington fish and game agencies each assigned marine biologists to participate in the bottom-fish research cruise of the California Department of Fish and Game vessel, N. B. Scofield, which started August 12 and was expected to end September 12.

The tri-state cruise which began at Eureka and was scheduled to wind up at Cape Flattery or Tatoosh Island off the Washington coast, is the first made by the N. B. Scofield since installation of new deep-sea exploratory gear. New, remote-controlled winches will pay out 1,600 fathoms of cable, and allow mile-deep drags of heretofore unknown ocean bottoms.

The cruise objectives were to test fishing nets to determine the "escape sizes" for various deep-sea species.



Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

RESEARCH VESSELS RETURN FROM FISHING AND HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS: "John R. Manning": The return on September 15 of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations (POFI) vessel John R. Manning from an exploratory and experimental fishing cruise in equatorial waters has added further to the Service's knowledge of tuna resources and habits in that vast ocean region. The best fishing along the 150th meridian occurred, as usual, north of the equator, but the tuna yield was low. The vessel started on the cruise August 6.

The catching rate dropped to 5 tunas per hundred hooks as compared to over 10 tunas per hundred hooks for the last year's cruise of the Hugh M. Smith (another POFI vessel) to the same locality. Biological and hydrographic data which were collected simultaneously may, upon study, uncover reasons for the poor fishing which plagued the chartered vessel Cavaliere early in September when it attempted to catch a load of tuna in the same equatorial region.

A special experiment of 24 hours' fishing by setting and hauling long-line gear every 4 hours produced catches composed entirely of yellowfin tuna during the day and entirely of big-eyed tuna at night. Further similar experiments must be carried out to check this striking difference indicated by one full day's fishing.

"Cavaliere": After undergoing considerable repair, the Cavaliere departed Honolulu on August 13 for its second attempt to obtain a commercial load of tuna by means of long-line gear. August radio reports indicated that fishing was excellent. The catch rate in the "rich zone" was 9 to 12 tuna per hundred hooks with 70 baskets of gear set. This amounts to 2 or 2½ tons of tuna per day. However, early September reports stated that fishing fell off considerably.

"Hugh M. Smith": The vessel Hugh M. Smith returned to Honolulu on August 29, after completing a 38-day hydrographic cruise (No. 16) for the purpose of making special observations on surface and subsurface currents in the region of the equa-

tor and on the vertical distribution of zooplankton in respect to the thermocline. At the equator the water was moving strongly to the northwest at the surface and strong to the east at depths of about 200 to 300 feet. While a northerly component at the surface was expected on the basis of earlier indirect evidence, it was not expected to be as strongly toward the north as observed on this occasion. Drifts at several levels in the countercurrent confirmed the earlier indirect evidence on the lack of transverse circulation.

The Hugh M. Smith on September 15 returned to Honolulu from a 10-day hydrographic cruise (No. 17) in island waters. The trip was occasioned by recent poor skipjack catches by the local sampan fleet. Physical, chemical, and biological data obtained on this cruise will be compared to similar data collected during the exceptionally good skipjack season of last summer in the hope of revealing a casual change in the environment. Only 8 schools of tuna were sighted in the 10 days of observation; 7 of these were identified as skipjack tuna. Trollinglines only yielded 4 dolphin.



Proposals Invited for Lease of a Fish Cannery in Tutuila, American Samoa

The Government of American Samoa will entertain proposals for the lease of a fish cannery which it owns, together with the equipment and facilities, located at Tutuila, American Samoa. Bidders must be citizens or nationals of the United States, or if the bidder is a corporation or company, at least 75 percent of the stock of or interest therein must be held by citizens or nationals of the United States.

American Samoa is a territory of the United States and under existing laws its products may enter the United States duty free. It is located 2,276 miles south of Hawaii and, according to the results of recent studies by the Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Investigations of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is within less than a thousand miles from one of the richest sources of tuna in the Pacific.

The Tutuila cannery is a well-planned, modern installation consisting of 4 buildings with 2 roofed-over areas between the buildings. Each building is about 200 feet long and 50 feet wide. The buildings are designed to promote an orderly and efficient flow of materials from the fresh or frozen tuna receiving room to the canned tuna storage space. They contain the newer devices and material for hand packing tuna. The plant is also equipped with a steam-jacketed rotary drier in which waste products of a solid nature, such as heads, bones, viscera, and skin, may be processed into fish meal. Combustible gases from this drier are burned in the boiler fire boxes to minimize the odors discharged into the outside air. The plant is capable of handling 21 tons of tuna and of producing 1,000 cases of canned tuna each eight-hour day. The cold-storage area, with a Freon refrigeration system, is capable of freezing and/or storing approximately 240 tons of tuna. The cannery also contains several items of equipment under lease from the American Can Company at an aggregate annual rental of \$892.40. A lease of the cannery will not include this equipment. The successful bidder will probably have to make his own arrangements with the American Can Company if he wishes to use this equipment.

Dock facilities at the plant are adequate for use of the fishing vessels in unloading their catch and in outfitting for the next trip. Highway facilities from points around the bay to these docks are adequate for transport of supplies and materials by truck. The standard utilities of electric power, potable water, and telephone services are available. Although the water supply may not now be adequate for year-round operation of the cannery, the Government of American Samoa is presently taking steps to increase the local water-storage capacity.

The supply of local workers for the cannery crew is said to be satisfactory on the basis of the short trial runs made to date.

Transportation facilities are available for ocean shipments to and from the mainland of the United States and Tutuila via Matson Lines freighters and via Union Steamship Lines. Scheduled trips to Samoa are made monthly. Vessels stop at Tutuila en route to the mainland about seven times a year, i.e., whenever a minimum of 350 tons of cargo is available for shipment to the mainland.

No airplane service is in operation in American Samoa at the present time. The New Zealand National Airlines now make flights about once weekly between British Samoa and Fiji where airlines stop en route to and from Hawaii and New Zealand or Australia. There is a good possibility that an air link between American Samoa, Western Samoa, and Canton Island (which is a regular stop for airlines traveling between Hawaii and Fiji) will soon be established.

The chief concern of the Government of American Samoa is that the facilities of the fish cannery be operated successfully in order to improve the civilian economy of American Samoa by developing technical skills among the Samoans, and providing local income through wages and through ancillary enterprises. Accordingly, in evaluating the proposals submitted, primary consideration will be given to that part of the proposal which outlines a plan and contains detailed information upon which the Government can determine that the prospective lessee has the necessary financial resources, experience, and the qualifications that would ensure a continuance and successful operation of the cannery. Proposals submitted should contain an offer of the annual rental fee which the bidder would be willing to pay.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check in the sum of \$1,000 drawn to the order of the Treasurer of American Samoa. These checks will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. The check of the successful bidder will be forfeited if he refuses or fails to execute the lease of the cannery but will be returned if he accepts an award and executes the lease. The Government of American Samoa reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

The proposed lease will be for a period of three years and the lessee shall have an option to renew for an additional three-year term on the same terms and conditions as the original lease. The lessee will be required to provide all maintenance, repairs, and replacements, to carry insurance covering loss by fire and other loss included under extended coverage policies (but not including loss by act of God, hurricane, flood, war, or other cause beyond the lessee's control as may be specified in the lease). The lessee will be required to pay all valid taxes, assessments, license fees, or other levies imposed by the Government of American Samoa or by the Government of the United States.

Proposals must be submitted to the Governor of American Samoa at Tutuila, American Samoa, with a copy to the Director, Office of Territories, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., not later than January 15, 1953, and should state clearly and in detail:

1. Identity of the bidder, including citizenship and previous experience and that of any associates in the proposed venture.
2. Plans for operation of the cannery, including number of Samoans to be employed and number and nationality of non-Samoans to be employed.
3. Plans for obtaining sufficient fish to keep the cannery in operation.
4. Plans for transporting and marketing the product of the cannery.
5. Financial resources and ability to maintain a continuing and successful cannery operation.

Further inquiry regarding American Samoa and the leasing of the fish cannery in Tutuila should be directed to the Director, Office of Territories, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C. The award of the lease to the successful bidder will be made by the Governor of American Samoa, after consultation with the Director, Office of Territories, Department of the Interior, no later than 60 days after the closing date for receipt of proposals.



Shrimp Explorations Continued off the Caribbean Coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua

Exploration of new shrimp grounds off the Caribbean coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua was continued by the M/V Antillas, an experimental shrimp trawler. Owned and operated by the Gibbs Corporations, this trawler was used for the exploration under a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The vessel left late in June and returned late in July from a second exploratory trip in search of commercial quantities of shrimp in international waters off Central America.

Grooved shrimp of mixed sizes from about 25 to 60 count per pound (heads off) were found to be widely distributed from Cabo Honduras, Honduras, to Wana Lagoon, Nicaragua, at distances of from 5 to 20 miles offshore. Some indications of white shrimp were found off Wana Lagoon as far as 8 miles offshore. These signs improved as the 3-mile limit was approached, but it appeared that there would be little chance to make commercial-scale catches of white shrimp at distances in excess of 4 miles offshore at this season.

Upon arrival at Belize, British Honduras, the Colonial Fishery Officer advised that the Colony was anxious to develop new industries and that concessions might well be made to outside interests provided some local employment was involved. The coastal mainland of British Honduras is relatively low and numerous lagoons and rivers discharge a substantial flow of fresh water to the sea. The color of the water to the landward of the barrier reef changes from light blue, through turbid blue, to turbid green, and is quite muddy near the flats of the rivers and lagoons. An extensive flat, about 80 miles in length, lies to the northward of Belize and several large rivers empty into the area. This flat is thought to be predominantly mud bottom, but many sections are too shallow for navigation of medium-sized shrimp trawlers. A streak of mud bottom varying from about 2 to more than 10 miles in width extends for a distance of about 60 miles south of Belize. Below this mud streak coral heads are quite common and the area

is generally unsuited for shrimp trawling. Another area of relatively smooth bottom lies below the coral head area and somewhat south of the Snake Island group.

Upon departure from the Gulf of Honduras, the Antillas proceeded along the Coast of Honduras and the automatic depth recorder was kept in constant operation. The major portion of the course was over depths between 5 and 100 fathoms and the sounding pattern was very irregular, indicating unsuitable bottom for trawling, until Cabo Honduras was reached. From there to Wana Lagoon, south of Cape Gracias A Dios, as was the case during the trip in May, relatively smooth bottom was found between depths of 5 and 20 fathoms over a distance of about 200 miles. The coast of Honduras, Cabo Honduras to the vicinity of Cabo Camaron, is relatively mountainous with a few lagoons and rivers discharging into the sea. Southeastward from Cabo Camaron along the coast of Honduras and south along the coast of Nicaragua, the land is low and large rivers and lagoons are common. These geographical conditions, together with the presence of mud bottom and turbid water, should be conducive to populations of shrimp.

A total of 39 drags with a standard try net and 2 with a large shrimp trawl were made at distances from 4 to about 60 miles offshore, but chiefly between distances of 5 and 15 miles offshore. Shrimp were taken in small quantities in 25 of the drags, but none of the locations that were prospected offered sufficient returns in the try net to warrant setting a large trawl. Grooved shrimp, pink in color, were encountered between depths of 6 and 25 fathoms with the best catches being made at depths between 14 and 19 fathoms. During May no white shrimp were found at depths in excess of 4 fathoms, but during the latter part of July they were found in small quantities in depths between 6 and 8 fathoms. It is possible that white shrimp would have been found in greater quantity had drags been made within 4 miles of shore. Two try-net tows were made about 70 miles north-northeast of False Cape, Honduras, in depths of 28 and 30 fathoms on mud bottom in the hope of finding an offshore schooling ground for grooved shrimp, but no signs of shrimp were encountered. The try-net drags were made throughout a 24-hour day, but there seemed to be little difference in the catches during darkness or daylight.

The fishing results were much the same in July as they were in May in that grooved shrimp were found over a large area, but they appeared to be thinly scattered or else the schooling areas were missed during the exploratory work. There was some evidence that the white shrimp were moving farther offshore. However, the results of the two trips tend to indicate that the schooling of grooved shrimp, if such occurs, is a seasonal condition. Circumstances prevented any search to the southward of Wana Lagoon during the trip in July and it is regretted that the extensive area shown to have mud bottom to the south of Bluefield, Nicaragua, could not have been investigated. While the bottom as shown on the existing charts between Wana Lagoon and Bluefield is largely coral and sand, it is quite possible that mud patches can be found in the area, for several substantial rivers and lagoons discharge there. It is planned to explore these more southerly areas, in addition to a resurvey of the areas already covered, during September, October, or November.

A variable pitch propellor of British design was installed in the Antillas and has been under test for more than six months. During this time it has performed very well and has been quite valuable for exploratory work wherein a wide range of power has been required. During the past voyage the lubrication seals on the thrust bearing failed and caused a loss of the lubricant. Seals of different materials are now being tested. The reversible pitch propellor could be used to advantage in shrimp trawling and should be particularly valuable on oceanograph-

ic vessels where wide variations in power are required for certain phases of the work, particularly when towing plankton-collecting devices.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JULY 1952, PP. 31-2.

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United States Fishery Products Marketing Prospects (October-December 1952 and Outlook for 1953)

Consumption: Civilian consumption of fishery products in the U. S. during the last quarter of 1952 probably will be slightly larger than a year earlier. Supplies, especially of frozen fish, are likely to be somewhat greater than last year, and retail prices may not average quite as high as in the last quarter of 1951.

Freezings and Cold-Storage Holdings: Commercial fishing and fish-freezing operations will decline seasonally as the year comes to a close. On September 1, stocks of frozen fishery products in the continental United States were substantially above those of a year earlier. Cold-storage holdings will continue to rise until November or December and probably will set a new record high for each of the remaining months.

Canned Fish: Canned fish supplies will be seasonally large during the last quarter of the year as the 1952 packs of salmon and Maine sardines move into distribution channels in large volume. This year's pack of canned salmon is approximately the same as last year's, and that of Maine sardines is larger than the unusually small output in 1951. The production of canned tuna may not exceed the corresponding 1951 total, but supplies both at the packer level and in distribution channels are substantial. Processors have recently reduced the price of the lower grades of canned light-meat tuna in an attempt to encourage increased sales of this product.

Outlook for 1953: Supplies of fishery products in 1953 are expected to be plentiful. Probably as much fresh and frozen fishery products will be available as this year and, with a decline in military procurement from the 1952 packs in prospect, the civilian market most likely will have about as much canned fish. Through mid-1953, when the current marketing period ends, the supply of canned salmon and Maine sardines will be larger and that of canned tuna about equal to a year earlier. The per-capita civilian consumption of all fishery products (fresh and processed combined) in 1953 is expected to be a little higher than this year, reflecting in part the continued expansion of the domestic market for frozen fish and shellfish. With meat and poultry products likely to be in slightly larger supply and prices slightly lower than in 1952, retail prices of fishery products for 1953 as a whole may be somewhat lower than in 1952.

The pattern of foreign trade of the United States in fishery products in 1953 is expected to follow that of this year. Imports, especially of frozen fillets, probably will be above the record level reached in 1952 and will continue to furnish an important part of our total supply of frozen fishery products. Exports from the United States are likely to continue close to this year's relatively low level. The export market for our fishery products probably will continue to be limited by restrictions which were established by some countries in order to con-

serve their relatively small dollar resources. In addition, our exportable supply of pilchards (California sardines)--a popular commodity abroad--may not be as large as in 1952.

This analysis appeared in a report prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and published in the former agency's October-December 1952 issue of the National Food Situation.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, AUGUST 1952: From July to August there was a downward trend in the wholesale prices of fishery products. The wholesale over-all index for edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) for August was 99.8

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Revised Indexes for Edible Fish and Shellfish, August 1952, with Comparative Data

Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification	Point of Pricing	Unit	Average Prices (c)		Indexes (1947-49 = 100)			
			Aug. 1952	July 1952	Aug. 1952	July 1952	June 1952	Aug. 1951
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)								
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:								
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:								
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.09	.11	99.8	102.9	102.8	101.4
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.31	.35	102.2	107.1	105.1	105.6
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	"	"	.49	.49	101.8	111.6	107.9	109.6
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.43	.35	95.5	113.4	102.5	104.6
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.49	.47	96.0	106.3	102.2	99.1
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.59	.58	108.5	110.2	120.9	118.6
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	New York City	"	.53	.71	106.6	86.7	96.7	116.5
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):								
Filets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.26	.27	103.0	101.1	100.7	100.2
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	gal.	.56	.60	88.5	90.2	93.6	95.3
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	5.00	4.50	88.5	94.9	93.3	83.8
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):								
Filets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. package	Boston	lb.	.36	.36	102.2	102.6	104.0	101.8
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.23	.24	124.4	124.4	129.7	147.2
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.23	.23	83.7	87.4	89.3	87.4
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. package	Chicago	"	.65	.64	108.3	108.3	108.3	110.2
Canned Fishery Products:								
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	19.95	19.95	99.5	98.7	99.5	87.9
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 1 (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.50	14.50	96.3	96.8	99.4	95.3
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	"	"	9.38	9.38	104.4	104.4	109.6	109.6
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 1 (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	5.95	6.45	90.5	90.5	89.6	79.6
<small>1/ REPRESENT AVERAGE PRICES FOR ONE DAY (MONDAY OR TUESDAY, IF AVAILABLE) DURING WEEK BEGINNING AUG. 10. PRICES ARE NOT THE ACTUAL ONES USED TO COMPUTE THE INDEXES SINCE THE PRICES USED FOR THAT PURPOSE ARE CARRIED OUT TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES.</small>								

percent of the 1947-49 average (see table)--3.0 percent below the previous month and 1.6 percent lower than in August 1951, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

Landings throughout the country were liberal in August and demand fell off due to hot weather. Basically due to lower prices for fresh haddock, halibut, and salmon, the drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup index this August was 8.8 percent lower than the previous month and 7.1 percent below the same month last year. From July to August, prices dropped 15.8 percent for fresh offshore drawn haddock, 11.4 percent for fresh or frozen dressed halibut, and 1.5 percent for fresh or frozen dressed king salmon. All of these items were quoted considerably below the same period last year. In August most fresh-water fish prices rose, except for yellow pike prices at New York City which dropped substantially.

Fresh processed fish and shellfish prices from July to August rose 1.9 percent and were 2.8 percent above August 1951. Fresh haddock fillet prices in August rose 1.9 percent above July, but were 7.1 percent lower than in the same month in 1951. Because of greater production along the South Atlantic Coast, fresh headless shrimp prices dropped 6.7 percent from July to August, but were still 5.6 percent higher than in August a year ago.

Frozen processed fish and shellfish prices this August dropped 0.4 percent below July, but were 0.4 percent above August 1951. From July to August lower prices were quoted for most varieties of frozen fillets, but frozen shrimp was quoted 0.8 percent higher. Compared with August 1951, prices were lower for frozen flounder fillets by 15.5 percent, for haddock fillets by 4.2 percent, and for ocean perch fillets by 13.2 percent, but frozen shrimp prices were 13.2 percent higher.

Canned fishery products prices in August continued to drop due to a decline (7.7 percent) in Maine sardine prices. The month's index for this subgroup was 0.5 percent lower than in July, but 1.0 percent above August 1951. Compared with August last year, prices for canned salmon were 4.7 percent lower and for Maine sardines 20.3 percent lower, while prices were higher for canned tuna (13.7 percent) and for canned California sardines (38.8 percent).

RETAIL PRICES, AUGUST 1952: Retail prices of all foods purchased by moderate-income families continued to climb (0.3 percent) from July 15 to August 15 and were considerably higher (3.7 percent) than during the same period a year earlier. On the other hand, all finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) prices during this same period continued to drop (0.7 percent), and compared with the same period in 1951 were 4.7 percent lower (see table). There has been a steady decline in all finfish prices since March this year.

Item	Base	I N D E X E S		
		Aug. 15, 1952	July 15, 1952	Aug. 15, 1951
All foods	1935-39 = 100	235.5	234.5	227.0
All finfish (fresh, frozen and canned) ..	do.	339.8	342.1	356.4
Fresh and frozen finfish	1938-39 = 100	290.7	291.8	292.5
Canned salmon: pink .	do.	448.8	454.2	508.2

Fresh and frozen fishfish prices from July 15 to August 15 dropped 0.4 percent and were 0.6 percent lower than in mid-August 1951. Canned pink salmon prices, which have been steadily dropping since June 1951, went even lower and in mid-August this year were 1.2 percent below the previous month and 11.7 percent below mid-August 1951.

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices and Price Ranges of Individual Finfish Products, August 15, 1952

Product	Unit	UNITED STATES		
		Range of Prices Aug. 15, 1952	Average Prices	
			Aug. 15, 1952	July 15, 1952
Frozen Finfish Fillets:				
Ocean perch ¹	lb.	30-69	45.7	45.9
Haddock ²	lb.	33-75	50.3	50.1
Canned Finfish:				
Salmon, pink	16-oz. can	39-79	55.5	56.2

¹ PRICED IN 46 CITIES OUT OF 56.

² PRICED IN 47 CITIES OUT OF 55.

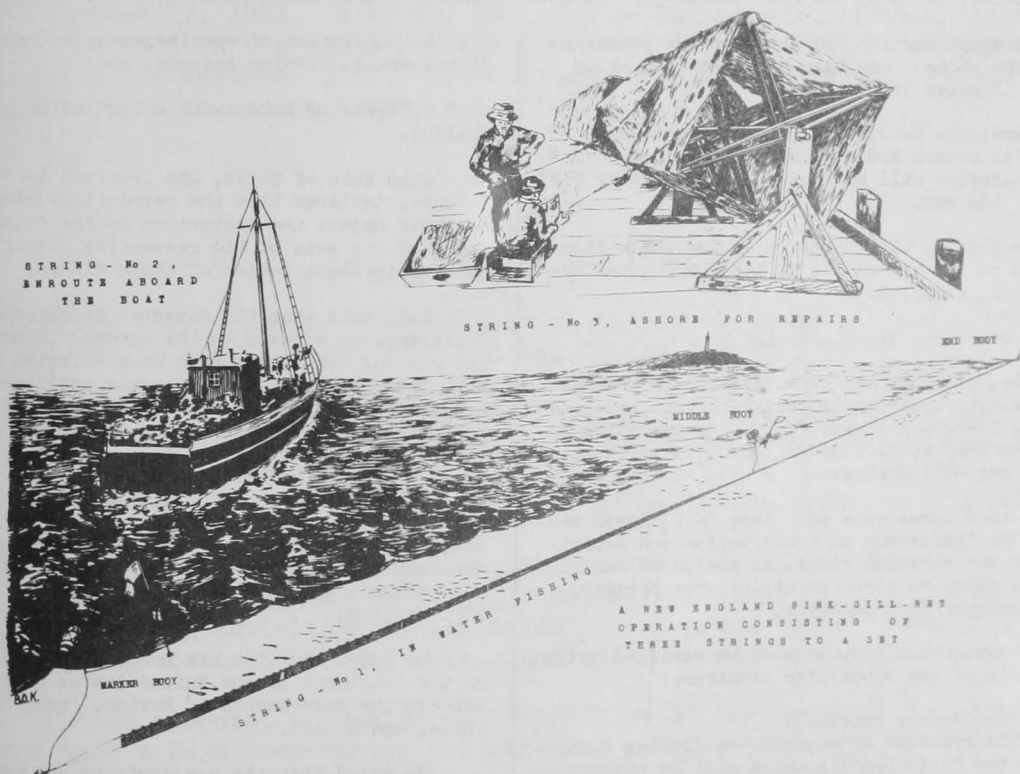
The average retail price for frozen ocean perch fillets in mid-August this year was 45.7 cents and for frozen haddock fillets, 50.3 cents per pound. A year earlier the average retail price for frozen ocean perch fillets was 46.1 cents and for frozen haddock fillets, 50.5 cents per pound. Canned pink salmon in mid-August this year retailed at an average of 55.5 cents per 16-oz. can, compared with 62.9 cents per can in mid-August 1951.



NEW ENGLAND SINK GILL NET

The gill net is a type of gear for catching fish which can be traced back to prehistoric times and yet still maintain a place of importance in world fisheries today.

The sink gill net is used in New England to catch groundfish (cod, haddock, and pollock). These fish are caught near the floor of the ocean on the New England fishing banks at a depth of 20-40 fathoms and up to 10-35 miles offshore.



ROTATION OF NETS IS SHOWN.

Gill-net operations are carried out during periods of fair weather. The season starts in early April and continues until late June. It is again resumed in September and generally lasts through December.

Gill-netting on the northeastern seacoast of New England had its inception back in the late 1870's. In the years 1908 and 1910 gill-netting formally got under way. At one time Gloucester operated over 54 gill-netters. Today only six remain in operation.

--Fishery Leaflet 379