

# TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## Recovery and Palatability of Different Species of Shrimp After Cooking

The principal species of shrimp marketed in the United States up until 1948 were white shrimp--Peneaus setiferus, caught from North Carolina to Texas and Peneaus stylerostis and P. vannamei from the west coast of Mexico. In that year, brown-grooved shrimp, Peneaus aztecus, appeared in large numbers in Texas and Louisiana but had been taken only in very small quantities in previous years along with the white shrimp. The brown-grooved shrimp was sold mixed with the white shrimp. Brown-grooved shrimp are also known as "Brazilian shrimp," "brownies," and "golden shrimp."

During January 1950, in the Key West, Florida, area, commercial fishing for the pink or coral shrimp, Peneaus duorarum, started. This is one of the grooved shrimp that had been taken previously in small quantities in North Carolina where it was known as "brown-spotted shrimp." Both the brown-grooved and the pink-grooved shrimp were marketed with difficulty at first on account of the color of the outside shell. Now they are widely sold, although the trade continues to pay a premium for the white shrimp.

Early in 1951 there appeared on the markets in the Middle Atlantic some very small shrimp caught off the shores of Greenland. These were red in color and are the same species (Pandalus borealis) as those taken off the Maine coast and in Alaskan waters.

To obtain some information on the yield, preliminary tests were made during the early part of 1951 by home economists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in its Test Kitchens at College Park, Maryland.

Recovery and palatability tests were made on the four varieties. All of the shrimp used in the tests were frozen headless. All test lots were first thawed, weighed, and counted. They were then placed in boiling salted water, covered, and simmered for five minutes. Immediately after cooking they were drained, allowed to cool, weighed, peeled, and weighed again. The sand veins were then removed and the shrimp were weighed a third time. The results are shown in the table.

The percentage of recovery for the boiled, peeled, and drained shrimp was the highest for the brown-grooved shrimp, and the lowest for the red Greenland shrimp. The latter species, being very small, would not ordinarily be deveined, but even before deveining the percentage of recovery after peeling and cooking was the lowest of the four varieties tested. The percentage of recovery for both the white and pink-grooved shrimp was the same when cooked, peeled, and deveined. However, when only cooked and peeled, the pink-grooved shrimp showed in these tests a higher percentage of recovery than the white shrimp. The sizes (count per pound) for three of the five lots of white shrimp were larger than for the other species of shrimp. However, these three lots had a slightly lower average percentage of recovery. It is not known if size has any relation to the percentage of recovery.

PERCENTAGE OF RECOVERY AND PALATABILITY OF DIFFERENT SPECIES  
OF HEADLESS SHRIMP AFTER COOKING

Species	Lot	Raw		Boiled in Shell		Boiled and Peeled		Boiled, Peeled, and Deveined	
		Weight	Count	Weight	Percentage Recovery of Raw Weight	Weight	Percentage Recovery of Raw Weight	Weight	Percentage Recovery of Raw Weight
	No.	Grams	No.	Grams	Percent	Grams	Percent	Grams	Percent
White or Common	1	454	16	357	78.6	256	56.4	235	51.8
	2	454	17	334	73.6	243	53.5	225	49.6
	3	454	19	346	76.2	250	55.1	230	50.7
	4	454	23	360	79.3	263	57.9	239	52.6
	5	454	25	360	79.3	250	55.1	231	50.9
Average		454	20	351	77.4	254	55.6	232	51.1
Brown-Grooved	1	454	25	374	82.4	274	60.4	242	53.3
	2	454	26	388	85.5	287	63.2	249	54.8
	3	454	28	347	76.4	264	58.1	239	52.6
Average		454	26	370	81.4	275	60.6	243	53.6
Pink-Grooved	1	454	23	360	79.3	257	56.6	231	50.9
	2	454	23	404	89.0	276	60.8	240	52.9
	3	454	24	390	85.9	264	58.1	224	49.3
Average		454	23	385	84.7	266	58.5	232	51.0
Green-land Red	1	454	89	358	78.9	200	44.1	177	39.0
	2	454	92	378	83.3	209	46.0	171	37.7
Average		454	90	368	81.1	204	45.0	174	38.3

NOTE: 454 GRAMS EQUAL ONE POUND. "COUNT" MEANS THE NUMBER OF HEADLESS SHRIMP PER POUND.

Palatability tests on these four species of shrimp rated them all as acceptable.



### Connecticut River Shad Fishery, 1952

The total catch of shad in the Connecticut River during the 1952 season amounted to 466,374 pounds (136,402 fish), valued at approximately \$60,000 to the fishermen, according to the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist stationed in that area. This is an increase of 38 percent in poundage over the 1951 total catch of 337,000 pounds (100,442 fish). In number of fish, the 1952 catch consisted of 70,950 buck shad and 65,452 roe shad, while the 1951 catch had 46,808 buck and 53,634 roe. Although the 1952 season showed substantial increases in the number of fish and total poundage landed, the value was at about the same level as in 1951 due to lower prices and a weaker market.



### Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, SEPTEMBER 1952:  
The Army Quartermaster Corps in September purchased 3,599,651 pounds (valued at \$1,569,421) of fresh and frozen fishery products for the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (see table). Lower than the previous month's purchases by 10.0 percent in quantity and 4.2 percent in value, these purchases were also considerably below September 1951--16.6 percent in quantity and 10.8 percent in value.

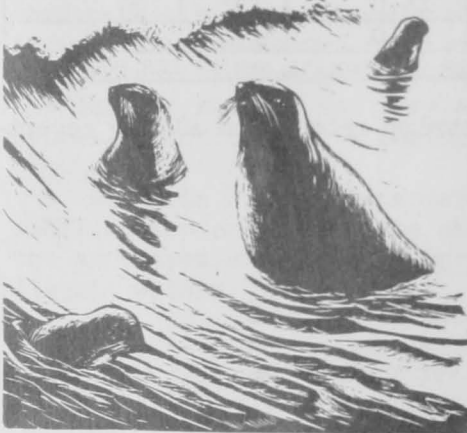
Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army (September and the First Nine Months, 1952 and 1951)							
Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
September		January-September		September		January-September	
1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
3,599,651	4,315,242	26,103,721	24,585,449	1,569,421	1,758,296	11,815,029	10,093,380

Purchases for the first nine months this year were greater by 6.2 percent in quantity and 17.1 percent in value as compared with the first nine months of 1951. Fresh and frozen fishery products were purchased by the Quartermaster Corps during the first nine months this year at an average price per pound of 45.3 cents--higher than the average of 41.1 cents paid in January-September 1951. This indicates to a certain extent that higher-priced products were purchased this year.



## Fur-Seal Skin Prices Advance Sharply at Fall Auction

United States Government-owned Alaska fur-seal skins averaged a 31.6 percent advance in price at the semiannual auction held in St. Louis on October 13, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported to the Acting Secretary of the Interior in mid-October.



The market was strong and bidding was highly competitive for this high-fashion fur. Government receipts from the 26,521 fur-seal skins offered at auction reached \$2,784,718--an increase of \$994,037 over the spring auction held on April 7.

The grand average for all fur-seal skins at the October sale was \$105 per skin--an increase of \$23.73 over the April grand average of \$81.27 per skin.

Black skins (6,278 were offered) averaged \$122.04 per skin--a jump of 54.6 percent over the April sale price of \$78.30. The dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average of \$109.71 per skin--an advance of 28.7 percent. "Safari" brown (a lighter brown) skins advanced 7.73 percent to \$69.14 per skin.

In addition to the United States-owned skins, the Fouke Fur Company sold 4,474 Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins for the Government of the Union of South Africa. These skins averaged \$34.54 per skin--an advance of 40.3 percent.

NOTE: ALSO SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, APRIL 1952, P. 27.



## Gear Research and Development

UNDERWATER SOUND FISH-LOCATING EXPERIMENTS: First phases in a research project to investigate possibilities of locating schools of fish by listening for them on underwater sound-detecting devices were carried out this past summer in the Gulf

of Maine and adjacent waters. This project was carried out under a contract between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Old Dominion Research and Development Corporation of Erica, Virginia. The work was directed by the Branch of Commercial Fisheries Electronics Scientist stationed at the University of Miami Marine Laboratory. The Corporation furnished technical personnel, the vessel, and the crew, and designed and built some of the equipment used.

The work was done aboard the 88-foot auxiliary schooner Bowdoin--a vessel well-known for her many arctic exploratory voyages. The Bowdoin was chartered from its Provincetown, Massachusetts, owner and outfitted with special electronic equipment for listening to, amplifying, and recording underwater sounds in a frequency range from 10 cycles per second to 100,000 cycles per second. Some echoing and echo-sounding equipment was also carried.

Numerous cruises were made during August and September from Gloucester, Boston, and other New England ports to locate schools of commercially-valuable fish, such as tuna and mackerel. When such schools were found, the hydrophones were put over the side and the sounds picked up in the water were amplified and recorded on magnetic tape recorders installed on the vessel. It is well known that certain marine animals make characteristic identifying noises. If this is found to be true of commercial species of fish, it may offer an efficient means of locating them.

A number of recordings were made near schools of fish, primarily bluefin tuna and mackerel. Unfortunately only a few schools of tuna were sighted due to the fact that apparently this species did not show up in New England waters this year in as large numbers as have been reported during most previous years. Recordings were made at night in Massachusetts Bay on schools of mackerel which were found by the phosphorescent glow which they produced in the water.

The recordings will be analyzed in the laboratory to determine if they contain sounds made by the fish. If the analysis shows that there are characteristic noises associated with a school of tuna or mackerel, additional work will be undertaken to develop special devices for use by commercial fishermen that will be particularly sensitive to these sounds. It would be a simple matter to arrange the device so that a signal light would flash in the pilot house whenever the fishing boat passes within range of a school, either at or beneath the surface, thereby reducing considerably the time spent in looking for fish.



## Gloucester Menhaden Landings, 1952

Landings of menhaden at Gloucester, Massachusetts, during the 1952 season, totaled approximately 26 million pounds, an increase of 271 percent over the 1951 total of 7 million pounds, reports the Service's representative stationed at that port. This year's production was the greatest recorded at Gloucester since the return of the menhaden fishery to the New England coast during the past few years. The increased production probably accounted for the lower ex-vessel price in 1952--\$25.00 per ton; fishermen received \$30.00 per ton in 1951.



MENHADEN





## Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

"OREGON" CATCHES TUNA WITH TROLLING GEAR IN GULF (Trip No. 15): Making shrimp trawl drags from shallow to deep water in an attempt to find suitable trawling bottom for shrimp between Tarpon Springs and Cape San Blas, Florida, was the scheduled objective of Cruise Trip No. 15. The vessel left Pascagoula on July 9, but the trip was interrupted by a rigging failure and by illness of crew members. Instead a series of short trips was made with various objectives. One trip was made to Apalachee Bay, Florida, and the others were made off the coasts of Alabama and Mississippi.

Tugs and other merchant vessels reported observing tuna in the northern part of the Gulf of Mexico the last week of July. The Service's exploratory fishing vessel Oregon found numerous small schools of tuna or scattered tuna just outside the continental shelf south of Mobile and Pensacola from August 4-11. No schools sighted during this period or in the latter part of August were considered in condition for purse-seining, and a purse-seine set made on the best showing on August 20 was unsuccessful.

Four kinds of tuna were taken on trolling gear in the offshore area by the Oregon in August. Included was a single 51-pound yellowfin tuna (presumably Neothunnus argentivittatus), two little tuna (Euthynnus alletteratus), several white skipjack (Katsuwonus pelamis), and blackfin tuna (Parathunnus atlanticus), the latter first recorded in 1951. Blackfin tuna on this trip were caught much more often than other species, and specimens up to 15 pounds were taken. Not more than 10 percent of the strikes of blackfin tuna resulted in landings because of the fragile jaws of the species. Some of the schools seen were of mixed sizes and species, but schools made up primarily of blackfin tuna and other schools primarily yellowfin tuna were seen. Based on observation alone, the blackfin was the most abundant in the area and the yellowfin tuna next most abundant.

The Oregon did not see tuna in early September but two white skipjack and one blackfin were taken on September 17, and a few tuna broke the surface when a trawl was hauled from about 400 fathoms on September 18. Throughout August the tuna were observed mostly in the late afternoon, a few were seen at dawn, and none was seen in the middle of the day. Sharks (silk shark, Eulamis floridanus), were abundant among the tuna observed, and on one afternoon sharks took a good proportion of the tuna that struck trolling lures.

At the time of their greatest observed abundance, the tuna were apparently feeding on jacks about one inch long, probably Caranx hippos and Caranx ruber. Tuna usually boiled up in the wake when the propeller wash first threw out the small fish that had taken refuge under the vessel after it had been drifting at night with lights on. The jacks came to the lights at night in large numbers, and their actions around the boat suggests that a trial use of them as live bait should be made in the short season when those of proper size are available (July and August). No small jacks were found in September.

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"OREGON" OBTAINS SHRIMP CATCH DATA FOR FALL SEASON (Trip No. 16): The principal objective of the Oregon's Trip No. 16 was to work in some areas near Brownsville, Texas, and off the continental shelf on the coast of Louisiana to obtain information on the composition of the catches by shrimp-trawldrags, water temperatures, and other conditions during the fall season. This was the first time that the Oregon operated in this area. The vessel left September 30 and returned to Pascagoula October 22.

After leaving Pascagoula, the vessel proceeded SE. to the east central portion of the Gulf of Mexico and then to Northern Shelves on Campeche Bank. It sailed through the northern sector of the Campeche shrimp-fishing area, and later stopped at Brownsville.

Drags were made in the area northeast of the Campeche fishing grounds and near the continental shelf south of Brownsville, Texas. Data on bottom temperatures and the catch rate of shrimp taken from a series of drags southeast of Brownsville in 35 to 37 fathoms were in accord with previous temperature-pattern correlations and shrimp catch rates.

No tuna were taken or seen in the central Gulf, although conditions for observation at the start of the trip were fair. Specimens of the common bonito (*Sarda sarda*) were taken for the first time by the Oregon near Arcas Cay, and shrimp boats on the Campeche grounds reported small specimens 6 to 12 inches in length quite frequently in trawl catches.

Observations in the area (about 65 miles ESE. of Tampico) led to the opinion that two strikes on 240-thread trolling lines (which broke the lines) were made by yellowfin tuna, although weather conditions for observation were not good.

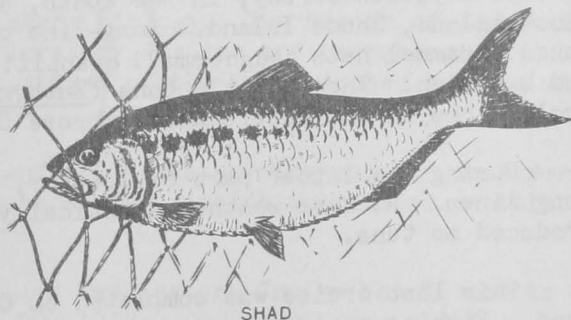
A concentration of plankton visible to the naked eye was encountered at night on October 10 at latitude 21°41' north; longitude 93°47' west (about 220 miles ESE. of Tampico, Mexico), and on the following morning four sperm whales were sighted. Numerous surface schools of fish were observed in the crossing of the lower part of the Sigsbee Deep, with generally more surface evidence of fish than in other areas visited by the Oregon on this trip.

The vessel left November 5 on Trip No. 17 and was scheduled to return to port on November 21. The principal objective of the trip is to get additional exploratory data on shrimp in the area off Cape San Blas and Cedar Key, Florida, chiefly in the vicinity of the "Middle Ground," and to obtain better seasonal distribution of exploratory drags.



## Hudson River Shad Fishery, 1952

Preliminary reports of the 1952 shad production by gill nets in the New York waters of the Hudson River show a total of 616,882 pounds landed--an increase of 46 percent over the 1951 total of 423,473 pounds, according to the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist stationed in that area. In 1952, the total catch by drift gill nets was 349,763 pounds (173,773 pounds of roe shad, 175,990 pounds of buck shad), and by stake gill nets--267,119 pounds (140,567 pounds of roe, 126,552 pounds of buck).



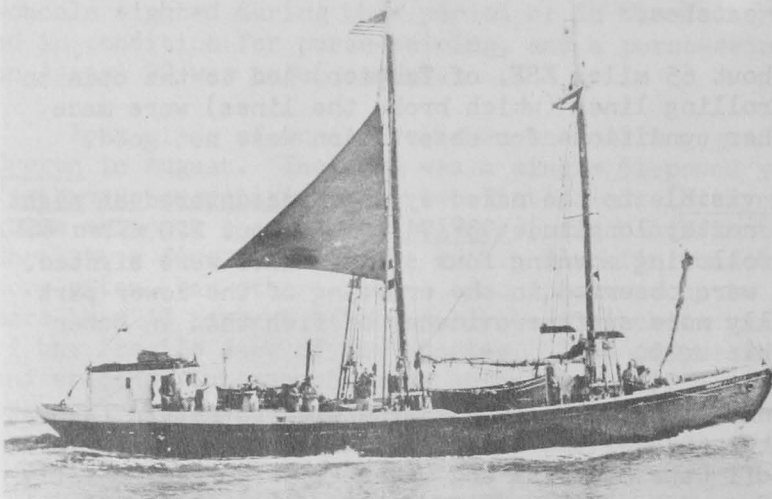
The 1952 shad catch in the New York waters of the lower bay is estimated at between 200,000 and 300,000 pounds--a substantial increase over the 1951 catch of 36,000 pounds.



## New England Tuna Explorations

FEW TUNA CAUGHT BY "MARJORIE PARKER" ON LAST TRIP (Exploratory Fishing Cruise No. 8): In order to complete this season's bluefin tuna exploratory operations in the Gulf of Maine, the schooner Marjorie Parker left Boston on September 27. Operations were confined to the waters between Georges Bank, Browns Bank, and Seal Island Grounds off the eastern tip of Nova Scotia for the first week of the trip. This vessel was chartered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for this season's bluefin tuna exploration.

A series of long-line sets was made in 12 different localities, and surface trolling was carried on during daylight hours. Strong tides were encountered in the area and caused considerable difficulty in setting and hauling the gear. Results were poor. Only four tuna were caught, while numerous blue shark were taken on every set. Surface water temperatures ranged from 50° F. to 59° F.



THE 78-FOOT SCHOONER MARJORIE PARKER, A LINE TRAWLER OWNED BY A FISHING COMPANY LOCATED IN PORTLAND, MAINE, WAS CHARTERED EARLY THIS YEAR BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR THIS SEASON'S NEW ENGLAND BLUEFIN TUNA EXPLORATION.

The vessel returned to Portland on October 3, and weighed out 100 pounds of bluefin tuna, 340 pounds of mackerel shark, and 5,230 pounds of blue shark. Blue sharks were sold to a local fish-reduction company for \$16 per ton; mackerel sharks sold for 4 cents a pound; tuna brought 12 cents a pound.

The vessel left Portland again on October 7, and exploratory fishing was carried on for the next ten days off the New Jersey and New York coasts. Strong winds on October 10 and 11 halted fishing operations, and shelter was found at Cape May, New Jersey. From October 12 to 17 a series of trammel-net and long-line sets were made, starting at Cape May, New Jersey, in the south, and continuing along the coast north to Block Island, Rhode Island. Long-line operations were unsuccessful in catching tuna. Trammel nets caught small quantities of menhaden, bonito, frigate mackerel, and bluefish. Three little tuna (Euthynnus alleteratus) were caught by surface troll lines in the waters near Ambrose Channel Lightship, New York.

During the latter part of October, fishing was continued off Cape Cod, using long lines. Adverse weather drastically curtailed fishing time and the sets made produced no tuna.

This last cruise was completed on October 30 when the vessel returned to Portland. Fishing equipment was stored and the charter of the vessel terminated.

Since the start of fishing operations on June 3, the Marjorie Parker made eight cruises and completed over 100 sets of long-line, 25 gill-net and trammel-net sets, and operated surface-trolling gear for over 1,000 hours. A detailed report on this year's project will be issued in the near future.

## North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

DEEP-WATER TRAWLING EXPLORED BY "JOHN N. COBB" (Cruise No. 13): After completing the second in a series of surveys to investigate deep-water trawling possibilities off the coasts of Oregon and Washington, the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries exploratory fishing vessel John N. Cobb returned to Seattle on October 3.

The vessel's operations were limited to the offshore waters lying between Cape Lookout and Yaquina Head, Oregon, and between Destruction Island and Cape Elizabeth, Washington. A total of 48 otter-trawl drags was made at depths from 100 to 400 fathoms during the six-week cruise. Standard commercial western otter-trawl nets of 400-mesh size were used.

Fishing results revealed that Pacific ocean perch, Dover sole, and sablefish were available in varying quantities at depths between 100 and 240 fathoms. Pacific ocean perch was the most abundant variety found on the trip. One-hour drags, yielding 1,000 pounds or more of this species, were made off both the Washington and Oregon coasts. Drags made at depths from 100 to 325 fathoms west of Grays Harbor, Washington, revealed the bottom to be rocky and unsuitable for trawling. Several days were spent investigating the trawling possibilities of the sea mount 280 miles west of Willapa Bay, Washington (discovered by the John N. Cobb in 1950), but no trawlable bottom was located.

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"JOHN N. COBB" TO INVESTIGATE COMMERCIAL HERRING FISHING POSSIBILITIES IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (Exploratory Cruise No. 14): Commercial herring fishing possibilities during the late fall and early winter in Southeastern Alaska will be investigated by the Service's exploratory fishing vessel John N. Cobb. This will be a joint investigation by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries and the Branch of Fishery Biology and the Alaskan Herring Industry. The Fish and Wildlife Service will furnish the exploratory vessel, the crew, and the scientific personnel; the Industry will furnish the herring purse seine and other necessary fishing equipment.

The chief purpose of the trip will be to ascertain whether major herring stocks in Southeastern Alaska, which might be available for commercial utilization, move inshore during the months of November and December. Herring will also be tagged in order to trace their migrations. Biological activities will be directed and carried out by the Branch of Fishery Biology. The Branch of Commercial Fisheries will be responsible for the exploratory fishing and technological phases. Plans were formulated jointly by representatives of the two Branches and the Alaskan Herring Industry.

The John N. Cobb will fish with a standard Alaska herring seine. An experienced Alaska herring fishing captain will supervise fishing operations on this trip.

The vessel left Seattle on November 4 on Exploratory Cruise No. 14 and is expected to return to that port on December 20, 1952.





## Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

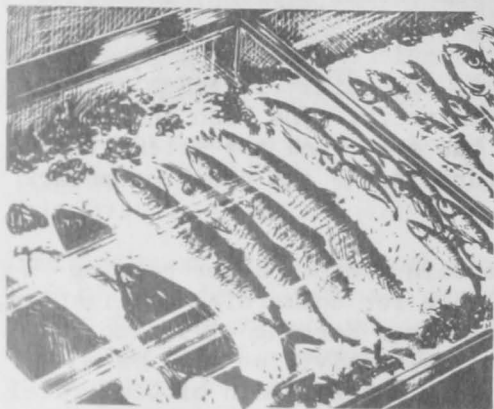
EXPERIMENTAL TUNA-FISHING OPERATION BY "CAVALIERI" SUCCESSFUL: The Cavalieri (a California tuna vessel under charter to the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) returned to Honolulu September 26 from a six-weeks' cruise to equatorial waters with a capacity load of approximately 50 tons of tuna and 3 tons of marlin and shark. The venture was the first attempt at exploitation on a commercial basis of the rich yellowfin tuna grounds which have been discovered in the equatorial region south of Hawaii by the Service's research vessels. It was also the first demonstration that the technique of long-lining, or "flag-lining" as it is known in Hawaii, can be successfully employed by fishing vessels of the West Coast purse-seiner type for catching large, deep-swimming tuna in commercial quantities.

Only moderately good fishing was found during the first part of the cruise, but very rich catches were made in the vicinity of 3° N. latitude, 152° W. longitude in the last few days of the voyage.



### Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1952: Prices for edible fishery products during September were substantially higher than the previous month and for the same month of 1951. Lighter production and a seasonal increase in demand were responsible for the increase in prices. The edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) wholesale index for September was 108.1 percent of the 1947-49 average (see table 1)--8.3 percent higher than in August and 5.0 percent above September 1951, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.



All components of the drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup, except lake trout, showed a substantial increase in price from August to September. Most fresh-water fish prices rose because of the Hebraic holidays which occurred in September. Because there was only a small amount of fresh halibut on the market and the demand was good, prices for this item at New York City jumped 69.3 percent. Fresh drawn large offshore ex-

vessel haddock prices at Boston rose 15.7 percent. Fresh king salmon prices went up 8.3 percent at New York City. Compared with September 1951, lake trout at Chicago sold substantially lower and fresh king salmon at New York City sold slightly lower, but all other items appearing under this subgroup sold at prices substantially higher. Drawn, dressed, or whole finfish prices this September were 27.0 percent above the previous month and 15.3 percent above the same month a year earlier.

Processed fresh fish and shellfish prices in September were 5.9 percent higher than in September 1951 and went up 4.6 percent from August to September this year. Higher prices for fresh haddock fillets and fresh headless shrimp accounted for the increase. Both of these products wholesaled at prices considerably higher than in September 1951. Fresh shucked oyster prices remained steady and opened the new season at the same prices that prevailed in September 1951.

The frozen processed fish and shellfish products included in the index, except flounder fillets, sold this September at prices somewhat higher than the previous month and the same month a year earlier. Flounder fillet prices remained steady at August levels, but were 15.5 percent lower than in September 1951. The September index for frozen fish and shellfish was up 5.3 percent from August and 4.4 percent higher than in September 1951.

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

Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification	Point of Pricing	Unit	Average Prices (\$)		Indexes (1947-49 = 100)			
			Sept. 1952 <sup>1/</sup>	Aug. 1952	Sept. 1952	Aug. 1952	July 1952	Sept. 1951
			<b>ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen and Canned)</b>					
<b>Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:</b>								
<b>Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:</b>								
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.11	.09	110.5	95.5	113.4	103.5
Halibut, Western 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.53	.31	162.5	96.0	108.3	99.1
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	"	.53	.49	117.5	108.5	110.2	118.8
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.90	.43	223.1	106.6	86.7	156.8
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.82	.49	166.8	99.1	94.0	152.1
Lake trout, domestic mostly No. 1 drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.42	.59	85.0	119.9	117.2	110.7
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	New York City	"	.71	.53	167.1	123.1	166.5	154.8
<b>Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):</b>								
Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.31	.26	103.8	88.5	90.2	96.6
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.60	.56	94.9	88.5	94.9	82.8
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	5.00	5.00	123.7	123.7	111.3	123.7
<b>Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):</b>								
<b>Fillets:</b>								
Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. package	Boston	lb.	.36	.36	124.4	124.4	124.4	147.2
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.25	.23	93.9	83.7	87.4	88.8
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.25	.23	121.6	108.3	108.3	115.8
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. package	Chicago	"	.65	.65	100.3	99.5	98.7	87.1
<b>Canned Fishery Products:</b>								
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16.oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	17.94	19.95	93.9	104.4	104.4	109.6
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 3 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.50	14.50	90.5	90.5	90.5	79.6
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	"	"	9.38	9.38	109.4	109.4	109.4	78.8
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 4 drawn (3 oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	6.45	5.95	68.6	63.3	68.6	92.3

<sup>1/</sup> REPRESENT AVERAGE PRICES FOR ONE DAY (MONDAY OR TUESDAY, IF AVAILABLE) DURING WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15. 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.

Canned fishery products prices this September were 5.3 percent lower than in the same month of 1951 and dropped 5.2 percent from August to September this year. During the latter period, prices for canned Maine sardines rose 8.4 percent, but this increase was more than offset by a drop of 10.1 percent in canned pink salmon prices. Tuna and California sardine (pilchard) prices remained unchanged at August levels. Compared with September 1951, this year's prices were lower by 14.3 percent for canned pink salmon and 25.7 percent for canned Maine sardines, but prices were up for canned tuna (13.7 percent) and for canned California sardines (38.8 percent).

**RETAIL PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1952:** Retail prices of all foods purchased by moderate-income urban families dropped in mid-September for the first time since last winter. On September 15 these prices were 1.0 percent lower than on August 15, but still 2.6 percent higher than in mid-September 1951. The retail food index on September 15, 1952, was 233.2 percent of the 1935-39 average (see table 2).

Prices of all finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) continued to decline as they have each month since last March. In mid-September all finfish retailed at 0.1 percent less than the previous month and 3.9 percent below the same month a year earlier. The finfish index (339.3 percent of the 1935-39 average) on September 15 was the lowest since November 15, 1950.

Item	Base	I N D E X E S		
		Sept. 15, 1952	Aug. 15, 1952	Sept. 15, 1951
All foods .....	1935-39 = 100	233.2	235.5	227.3
All finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned)	do.	339.3	339.8	353.2
Fresh and frozen finfish .....	1938-39 = 100	291.5	290.7	290.1
Canned Salmon: pink	do.	444.2	448.8	503.1

Retail prices for fresh and frozen finfish from August 15 to September 15 increased 0.3 percent and were 0.5 percent higher than on September 15, 1951. Canned pink salmon prices continued to decline and were 1.0 percent lower than in mid-August and 11.7 percent less than in mid-September 1951.

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

Product	Unit	U N I T E D S T A T E S		
		Range of Prices Sept. 15, 1952	Average Prices Sept. 15, 1952	Average Prices Aug. 15, 1952
Frozen Finfish Fillets:		£	£	£
Ocean perch <sup>1/</sup> .....	lb.	29-69	45.6	45.7
Haddock <sup>2/</sup> .....	lb.	29-69	50.4	50.3
Canned Finfish:				
Salmon, pink .....	16-oz. can	42-89	54.9	55.5

1/ PRICED IN 46 CITIES OUT OF 56.  
2/ PRICED IN 47 CITIES OUT OF 56.

Frozen ocean perch fillets retailed at an average price of 45.6 cents and frozen haddock fillets at an average of 50.4 cents per pound in mid-September this year. During the same period a year earlier, retail prices for frozen ocean perch fillets averaged 46.3 cents and frozen haddock fillets averaged 50.7 cents per pound. On September 15, canned pink salmon retailed at an average of 54.9 cents per 16-oz. can, compared with 62.2 cents per can in mid-September a year ago.



#### IRELAND ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE OYSTER INDUSTRY

A recent experiment on a coral bed in a bay on the west coast of the Republic of Ireland may lead to the revival of the oyster industry, states the September 1952 World Fish Trade. The oyster industry 40 years ago provided a living for seaside dwellers.

Between 200,000 and 300,000 French oysters were brought to Clew Bay, where they have been under observation. If they should thrive, it is likely that the beds around the Irish coast will be restocked and expanded.