

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1951 AND ANNUAL TOTALS 1947-51: First documents as fishing craft during November 1951 were received by 52 vessels of 5 net tons and over—the same as in November 1950. California and the East Coast of Florida led with 7 vessels each, followed by Maryland, Virginia, and Louisiana with 4 vessels each.

During the first eleven months of 1951, a total of 747 vessels were documented for the first time as fishing vessels, compared with 768 vessels for the same period during 1950.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft,
November and December 1951 and Annual Totals 1947-51

Section	November		December		T o t a l				
	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	4	1	1	-	36	36	35	52	55
Middle Atlantic ..	4	3	-	-	34	45	44	40	64
Chesapeake	8	7	4	4	36	81	87	59	83
South Atlantic ...	13	17	5	10	118	153	$\frac{1}{2}$ 369	$\frac{1}{2}$ 541	$\frac{1}{2}$ 486
Gulf	7	13	12	11	173	167	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Pacific Coast	9	11	8	14	284	231	327	348	415
Great Lakes	4	-	-	1	25	12	38	51	45
Alaska	3	-	3	3	71	83	96	81	123
Hawaii	-	-	-	1	3	4	5	12	28
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total	52	52	33	44	780	812	1,002	1,184	1,300

NOTE: VESSELS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE VARIOUS SECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR HOME PORT.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ DATA FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC AND GULF COMBINED PRIOR TO 1950.

During December 1951, a total of 33 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft--11 less than in December 1950. The West Coast of Florida led with 6 vessels, followed by Washington with 5 vessels, and Virginia and Louisiana with 4 vessels each.

During 1951, a total of 780 vessels were documented for the first time as fishing vessels, compared with 812 vessels during 1950, and 1,002 in 1949 (see table).

Of the total vessels documented in 1951, 459 were built in 1951, 65 in 1950, and the rest (256) in years prior to 1950.

* * * * *

JANUARY 1952: A total of 35 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during January 1952--15 less than in January 1951. The East Coast of Florida led with 8 vessels, followed by California with 5 vessels, and Maryland, Georgia, Louisiana, and Alaska with 3 vessels each.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, January 1952		
Section	January	
	1952 Number	1951 Number
New England	1	2
Middle Atlantic	2	3
Chesapeake	4	2
South Atlantic	11	8
Gulf	6	18
Pacific Coast	7	13
Great Lakes	1	1
Alaska	3	3
Hawaii	-	-
Total	35	50

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



Anglers' Fishing License Sales Break All Records

FISHING LICENSES SOLD IN THE UNITED STATES-- July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951				
STATE	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT	TOTAL	ANGLERS' FEES*
ALABAMA	152,544	10,236	162,780	181,389
ARIZONA	65,030	16,998	82,028	267,810
ARKANSAS	223,218	76,961	300,179	545,350
CALIFORNIA	970,274	11,052	981,326	2,986,352
COLORADO	227,200	59,771	286,971	898,335
CONNECTICUT	79,939	3,809	83,748	356,633
DELAWARE	6,400	1,754	8,154	19,102
FLORIDA	180,113	106,691	286,804	691,625
GEORGIA	115,985	3,504	119,489	362,407
IDAHO	163,853	43,959	207,812	711,523
ILLINOIS	732,534	29,326	761,860	785,695
INDIANA	595,009	37,563	632,572	757,714
IOWA	440,667	10,312	450,979	673,127
KANSAS	238,780	6,269	245,049	373,849
KENTUCKY	293,653	62,950	356,603	587,434
LOUISIANA	72,044	11,024	83,068	111,709
MAINE	119,409	56,019	175,428	549,378
MARYLAND	70,286	12,588	82,874	133,618
MASSACHUSETTS	230,929	7,146	238,075	527,696
MICHIGAN	820,962	268,902	1,089,864	2,077,084
MINNESOTA	674,057	280,711	954,768	2,026,060
MISSISSIPPI	111,242	53,166	164,408	431,530
MISSOURI	593,142	49,252	642,394	1,406,742
MONTANA	160,622	28,115	188,737	582,101
NEBRASKA	199,823	8,408	208,231	439,297
NEVADA	20,818	19,583	40,401	145,936
NEW HAMPSHIRE	87,798	38,997	126,795	488,182
NEW JERSEY	130,416	10,485	140,901	443,673
NEW MEXICO	62,823	36,179	99,002	381,190
NEW YORK	691,082	32,143	723,225	2,068,019
NORTH CAROLINA	245,417	38,823	284,240	687,757
NORTH DAKOTA	63,780	510	64,290	33,420
OHIO	857,635	34,835	892,470	917,438
OKLAHOMA	351,234	40,822	392,056	976,293
OREGON	233,750	19,394	253,144	1,204,513
PENNSYLVANIA	618,621	19,789	638,410	1,309,579
RHODE ISLAND	22,359	382	22,741	42,330
SOUTH CAROLINA	144,306	6,219	150,525	195,994
SOUTH DAKOTA	110,745	18,597	129,342	181,000
TENNESSEE	449,653	189,447	639,100	1,002,140
TEXAS	331,417	5,736	337,153	559,584
UTAH	92,500	4,632	97,132	359,545
VERMONT	70,230	26,509	96,739	250,053
VIRGINIA	281,148	3,186	284,334	527,540
WASHINGTON	412,721	16,247	428,970	1,908,183
WEST VIRGINIA	202,101	4,792	206,893	637,562
WISCONSIN	746,651	282,702	1,029,353	2,035,820
WYOMING	106,354	48,726	155,080	774,255
TOTALS	13,871,278	2,155,421	16,026,699	\$35,554,285

*Represents gross costs to anglers including special permits, trout stamps, etc. Combination licenses reported at full cost to angler as was done for hunters in hunting license tabulation, thus accounting for some overlapping on fees paid by sportsmen for such licenses.

More fishing licenses were sold in the United States, and more gross income was received from their sale during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1951, than in any previous fiscal year, the Secretary of the Interior was advised by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service on February 17.



Based on sales records supplied by the States for fiscal year 1951, the Service has completed compilations which show that 16,026,699 fishing licenses were sold by the 48 States to produce a gross revenue of \$35,554,285. These figures break all previous records.

In fiscal year 1950, the licenses sold numbered 15,337,758, and the gross revenue amounted to \$34,018,029.

Nonresident fishermen purchased 2,155,421 licenses in fiscal year 1951, an increase of 126,330 over the 2,029,091 of the previous year. States which attracted the greatest number of out-of-State anglers were Wisconsin, with 282,702 nonresident license sales; Minnesota, with 280,711; Michigan, with 268,902; Tennessee, with 189,447; and Florida, with 106,691. California reported the sale of 11,052 non-resident licenses, a decrease of 694 from the previous year's 11,746.

In the number of licenses issued, Michigan again headed the list, with 1,089,864. California, with 981,326, yielded second place to Wisconsin with 1,029,355. Minnesota ranked fourth with 954,768; Ohio was fifth with 892,470.

In Alaska the sale of 37,799 fishing licenses brought \$109,063. Resident licenses numbered 27,066; nonresident, 10,733. One-half of the revenue from hunting and fishing license sales in Alaska is required by law to go into "miscellaneous receipts" of the United States Treasury, and the remainder goes into the Territorial school fund.

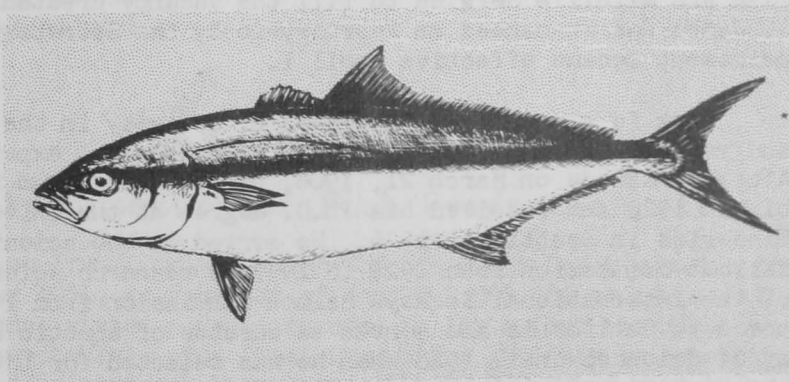
In the Territory of Hawaii, according to the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, only 392 fresh-water game fishing licenses were purchased at a cost of \$963. Fishing licenses in Hawaii, however, are required for the taking of introduced fresh-water game species only. As the bulk of their sport fishermen fish in salt water, the number of licenses sold gives a most incorrect measurement of the degree of sport fishing activity in the Territory.

NOTE: ALSO SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, APRIL 1951, P. 30.



California Fish and Game Department Yellowtail Study

A yellowtail (Seriola dorsalis) study is being conducted by the California Fish and Game Department as a part of the Federal Aid to Wildlife Program, according to a report from that agency dated February 14. The Bureau of Marine Fisheries M/V N. B. Scofield left on this year's first cruise on January 18 and returned on January 31. The purpose of the cruise was to explore as many likely yellowtail fishing areas as possible; to find out how yellowtail can best be caught and handled for tagging; and to experiment with various types of tags and to find the best methods of marking yellowtail. The vessel operated on the West Coast of Lower California from San Bartolome Bay (Turtle Bay) to Punte Banda, including Cerros Island.



YELLOWTAIL (SERIOLA DORSALIS)

Live sardines for bait were caught in one lampara set at San Bartolome Bay. Yellowtail fishing was tried at fourteen places. All yellowtail catches were made near Cerros Island.

Three methods of catching yellowtail were tried: trolling, rod and reel, and hand lines. Live sardines, salted sardines, frozen squid, live Pacific mackerel, bone jigs, artificial squid, bonito strikers, and trolling feathers were all tried as lures or bait. All but two of the 78 yellowtail were taken on rod and reel, using live sardines. One fish was taken on a troll feather, and one caught with rod and reel using a salted sardine.

Fifty-three yellowtail were marked with Petersen disk tags made of cellulose nitrate, anchored just under the anterior end of the soft dorsal fin with .032 inch, type 302, stainless steel wire. These fish were released.



Fish and Wildlife Service Personnel Changes

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO RETIRE: The retirement of Milton C. James as Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service on March 31 was announced on February 21 by the Secretary of the Interior. James, who will be 55 on March 26, has applied for optional retirement after more than 30 years of Federal service.



MILTON C. JAMES

In addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Service, he has been a member of several international fisheries commissions and has acted as Deputy Administrator of the Defense Fisheries Administration since its establishment in December 1950.



JOHN L. KASK

JOHN L. KASK APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: The appointment of Dr. John L. Kask as assistant director of the

Fish and Wildlife Service to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Milton C. James was announced on February 26 by the Secretary of the Interior. The appointment became effective April 1.

Kask is a veteran of 25 years of activity in the field of fishery management and research and has had a breadth of successful experience. Born in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada on March 21, 1906, he graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1928 and received his Ph.D. degree at the University of Washington School of Fisheries in Seattle in 1936. He served on the scientific staff of the International Halibut Commission from 1929 to 1937 as research scientist and assistant director of the International Sockeye Salmon Commission from 1938 to 1943. From there he moved to California and served as curator of aquatic biology at the California Academy of Sciences until 1948 when he was selected for the post of Chief Biologist of the Fisheries Division of the FAO of the United Nations.

His first post with the Fish and Wildlife Service was as assistant director of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations with headquarters in Honolulu. Recently he was transferred to Washington as Chief of the Office of Foreign Activities. During World War II he served as Captain and Major in the Army of the United States, and was associated for almost two years with the Natural Resources Section of SCAP during the early days of the Japanese occupation.

Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JANUARY 1952: Larger purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products by the Army Quartermaster Corps during January 1952 reflected the generally higher level of purchases evident during most of 1951. Purchases in January this year for the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps., and Air Force amounted to 2,317,411 pounds (valued at \$1,084,996)—4.1 percent higher in quantity but 6.5 percent lower in value than purchases in December 1951. Compared with January 1951, this January's purchases were considerably higher—35.9 percent in quantity and 48.1 percent in value.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army (January 1951 and 1952)			
Q U A N T I T Y		V A L U E	
January		January	
1952	1951	1952	1951
lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$
2,317,411	1,705,128	1,084,996	732,373

The average price per pound paid by the Army Quartermaster Corps for January 1952 purchases was 46.8 cents as compared with 43.0 cents during the same month a year earlier. In addition to the fact that there has been a general increase in the prices of fishery products, the increase is somewhat higher than the increase in prices. This shows that this year's purchases have consisted of some higher-priced items than was the case last year.



Metal Cans--Shipments for Fish and Sea Food, 1951

Total shipments of metal cans for fish and sea food during 1951 amounted to 105,704 short tons of steel (based on the amount of steel consumed in the manufacture of cans), which was considerably below 150,372 short tons of steel during 1950. Largely responsible for this drop in shipments of metal cans for fish and sea food were considerably lower packs of West Coast sardines and Maine sardines and a decline in tuna canning.

During December 1951, cans totaling 3,434 short tons of steel were shipped for use in canning fish and sea food as compared with 8,333 short tons in November 1951 and 18,157 short tons in December 1950.

NOTE: DATA CONVERTED TO SHORT TONS OF STEEL ARE ON THE BASIS OF 23.0 BASE BOXES OF STEEL.



Michigan's Great Lakes Commercial Fish Production, 1951

Commercial fish production from Michigan waters of the Great Lakes amounted to about 25,000,000 pounds during 1951, an increase of nearly 2,000,000 pounds over the 1950 catch of 23,153,000 pounds, states a February news bulletin from the Michigan Department of Conservation (see table). The final figure for 1951 may be somewhat higher, but it is not expected to approach the average 26,000,000-pound year. The record catch was over 32,000,000 pounds in 1927.

Led by a Lake Michigan record lake-herring haul of 4,802,000 pounds, this small food fish again accounted for the largest Great Lakes catch. The over-all lake herring catch of 8,913,000 pounds in 1951 was considerably higher than the 6,871,000 pounds for all waters in 1950. Lake Superior helped boost this total with over a

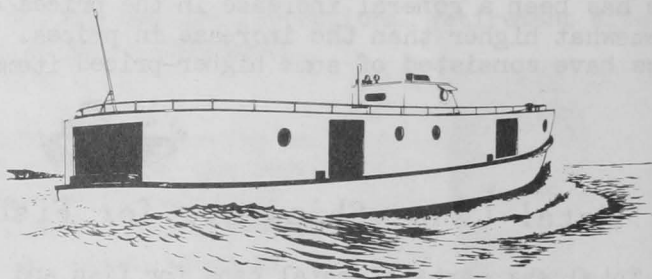
Fish Production in Michigan's Great Lakes Waters, 1950-51 (Preliminary)		
By Species	1951	1950
	lbs.	lbs.
Lake herring	8,913,000	6,871,000
Whitefish	1,358,000	2,725,000
Chub	2,944,000	2,427,000
Lake trout	2,149,000	2,425,000
Smelt	2,661,000	1,741,000
Other	6,975,000	6,964,000
Total	25,000,000	23,153,000

continued to account for practically the entire catch. Smelt production has been steadily rising from 626,000 pounds in 1948 to the 1951 amount. The year's catch may approach the 1941 record year of 3,019,000 pounds because of fewer lake trout and extra fishing pressure further stimulated by good winter prices.

Whitefish fell from second to seventh place with only 1,358,000 pounds netted as contrasted to 2,725,000 pounds in 1950.

The prized lake trout dropped another notch from fourth to fifth place with nearly 2,149,000 pounds in 1951 as compared to 2,425,000 in 1950. Except for 3,200 pounds, the entire catch was from Lake Superior where the trout-destroying sea lamprey has not yet penetrated to any great extent.

With 23 different species taken, production (actually reported so far) by lakes was: Michigan, 12,744,000 pounds; Huron, 5,457,000; Superior, 5,323,000; and Erie, 1,178,000 pounds. (These do not total to 25,000,000 pounds as the tabulation by lakes is not complete.)



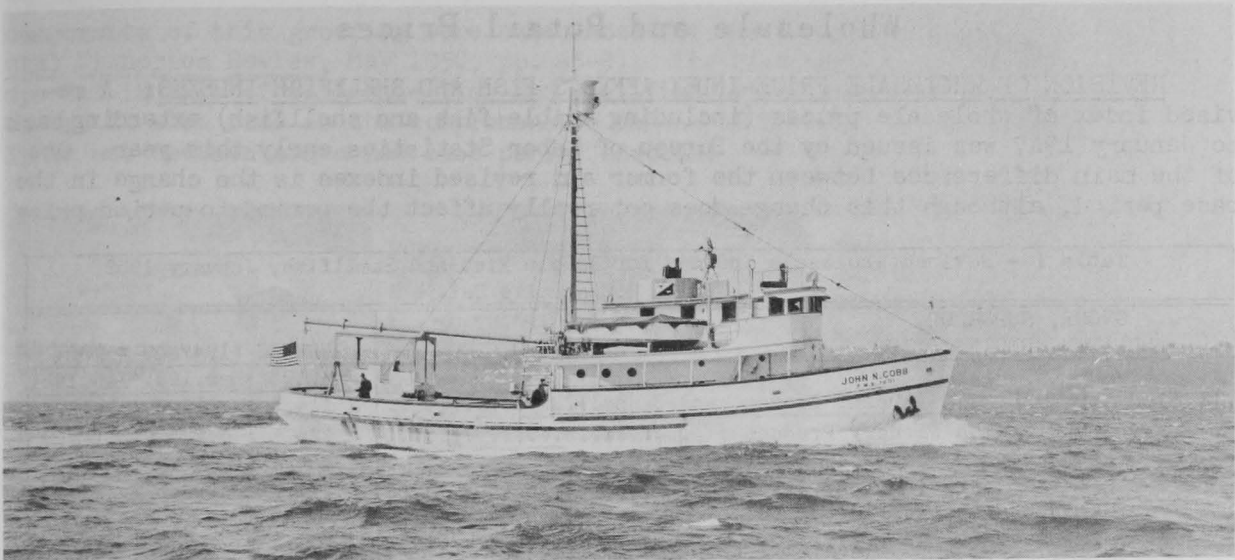
TYPICAL TYPE OF BOAT USED FOR FISHING ON THE GREAT LAKES. GILL NETS ARE THE MAIN TYPE OF GEAR USED.



North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

"JOHN N. COBB" TO EXPLORE SHRIMP RESOURCES IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA: To ascertain commercial possibilities of shellfish resources in southeastern Alaska, the John N. Cobb left Seattle on March 3 for the fourth in a series of such exploratory cruises. This exploratory fishery vessel, operated by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, during this cruise will concentrate particularly on finding areas with shrimp in commercial quantities. On a similar exploratory trip in the spring of 1951, commercial concentrations of shrimp were found by the John N. Cobb in several areas.

Fishing will be conducted in Southeastern Alaska waters, and will start in the Lisianski Inlet and Cross Sound region. From there the vessel will fish to the southward in Chatham Strait and on the west coast of Baranof Island. These areas have not previously been fished by the John N. Cobb. A limited amount of fishing will also be carried on in Tenakee Inlet, Hood Bay, and Peril Strait to compare results with those obtained by the vessel in the same localities in the fall of 1950.



THE JOHN N. COBB, A VESSEL OPERATED BY THE SERVICE'S BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES, IS CONDUCTING EXPLORATORY FISHING IN THE NORTH PACIFIC.

Types of gear to be fished will include beam trawls, shrimp traps, and crab pots. Bottom characteristics will be determined by use of a recording depth finder, and oceanographic observations, including water temperatures, salinities, and bottom samples will be made at each fishing station.



Study on Handling and Freezing Shrimp at Sea Initiated

A study on handling and freezing shrimp at sea has been initiated by the Technological Section of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries. The work will be carried out in the Gulf area using the facilities of the Branch's exploratory fishing vessel Oregon. The purpose of the study is to develop practical methods of handling and refrigeration of shrimp aboard vessel in order to provide fresh or frozen shrimp products of consistently good quality.

Among the items to be considered are:

- (1) ICING SHRIMP ABOARD VESSEL--HANDLING SHRIMP PRIOR TO ICING AND PROPER ICING PROCEDURES (PROPERLY ICED SHRIMP WILL ALSO BE USED AS A CONTROL SAMPLE FOR THE SECOND PART OF THE STUDY ON FREEZING).
- (2) FREEZING SHRIMP ABOARD VESSEL--WILL INCLUDE STUDIES ON HANDLING SHRIMP PRIOR TO FREEZING; FREEZING METHODS, SUCH AS IN BRINE, IN STILL AIR, OR IN BLOCKS; METHODS OF THAWING; AND FINALLY PACKAGING. PHASES OF THE WORK WILL CONSIDER THE FREEZING RATES AT DIFFERENT TEMPERATURES, SALT PENETRATION IN THE BRINE-FROZEN SHRIMP, AND KEEPING QUALITY OF THE VARIOUSLY FROZEN AND PACKED PRODUCTS.

It is hoped that the study will provide improved procedures for handling and icing of shrimp, using the facilities now available on shrimp vessels. Also, that it will indicate practical methods of freezing shrimp aboard vessel at sea that will provide consistently good-quality frozen products.

John A. Dassow, Chief, of the Fishery Products Laboratory, Ketchikan, Alaska, has been delegated to carry out the studies, and arrived at his headquarters at Pascagoula, Mississippi, in mid-March to begin the shrimp studies.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

REVISION OF WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX AFFECTS FISH AND SHELLFISH INDEXES: A revised index of wholesale prices (including edible fish and shellfish) extending back to January 1947 was issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics early this year. One of the main differences between the former and revised indexes is the change in the base period, although this change does not really affect the period-to-period price

Table 1 - Revised Wholesale Indexes for Edible Fish and Shellfish, January 1952, with Comparative Data				
GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION	POINT OF PRICING	INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)		
		Jan. 1952	Dec. 1951	Jan. 1951
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned).....		114.5	113.3	111.6
<u>Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:</u>		125.1	122.7	114.0
<u>Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Fin Fish:</u>		136.4	133.2	122.9
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh ..	Boston	174.7	167.8	130.0
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	102.2	101.4	121.1
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	120.9	121.0	121.0
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	156.2	112.0	119.7
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh	New York City	88.0	113.2	93.0
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	129.1	129.1	116.8
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	New York City	99.7	101.3	110.7
<u>Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):</u>		111.9	111.6	104.8
Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	154.9	149.4	115.9
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	81.4	81.3	90.3
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	136.1	136.8	118.7
<u>Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):</u>		110.5	106.2	100.1
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skin- less, 10-lb. pkg.	Boston	143.7	145.8	122.7
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello- pack	"	122.7	114.2	82.0
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	125.2	125.2	132.7
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg. ..	Chicago	84.8	78.0	82.0
<u>Canned Fishery Products:</u>		98.9	99.5	107.9
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	109.6	109.6	127.3
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. ½ tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	81.2	81.2	93.0
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	" "	102.2	100.2	77.3
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. ¼ drawn (3½ oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	102.7	110.5	66.0

comparisons shown by the index. For the revised index the calculation base period is the average of the three years 1947, 1948, and 1949.

Although the calculation base period (100 percent) for most groups and sub-groups for the wholesale price index formerly was the average for the calendar year 1926, the indexes for edible fish and shellfish were based on the average for the calendar year 1947. A revision of the wholesale fish and shellfish index was made in 1949 and the revision was first reflected in the final index for fish and shellfish for December 1949. Since that time, the index for fish and shellfish and all

components of this grouping were calculated for the base period 1947 (see Commercial Fisheries Review, May 1950, pp. 45-9). The base period (1947 = 100) for the special indexes of wholesale fish and shellfish prices was established subject to change at such time as the comprehensive Bureau of Labor Statistics Wholesale Price Index was revised and a new base period adopted.



MODERN RETAIL MARKET.

In revising the wholesale price index, the post-war base period that the Division of Statistical Standards has recommended for all revised Federal index numbers has been adopted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in its revised wholesale price index. Therefore, the fish and shellfish index as a group and its components will also be calculated for the base period 1947-49 = 100.

The revised index, beginning with January 1952, is calculated using prices as of one specified day each month instead of an average of prices as of each Tuesday during the month, which was the practice in computing the former index. Under the new method of computation, for each month the pricing date will be the Tuesday of the week including the 15th of that month. Thus, the index for January 1952 was calculated using prices for Tuesday, January 15, and the February index will be calculated using prices for Tuesday, February 12, and so on. This same procedure will be used for computing the index for edible fishery products instead of an average of prices as of each Tuesday during the month.

The weighting in the revised index is based on transactions in 1947, but as far as edible fishery products are concerned that is the same as the weighting for the former index series which was established in 1949.

WHOLESALE PRICES, JANUARY 1952: Generally higher prices for nearly all types of fishery products, except canned, were reported during January 1952 because of light supplies. Prices for all edible fishery products during January 1952 were 2.6 percent higher than in the same month in 1951 and 1.1 percent above the previous month. The edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) wholesale price index for January 1952 was 114.5 percent of the 1947-49 average (see table).

Drawn, dressed, or whole fin-fish prices in January 1952 were 11.0 percent higher than during the same month a year earlier and 2.4 percent higher than the previous month. Fresh large offshore haddock prices during the month jumped another 4.1 percent above the previous month and were 34.4 percent above January 1951. There was a considerable price increase for whitefish at Chicago, and a slight increase for frozen Western halibut at New York City.

Processed fresh fish and shellfish prices in January 1952 were 6.8 percent above the same month a year earlier and 0.3 percent higher than the previous month. The main increase was in fresh haddock fillets which sold 33.6 percent above January 1951 and 3.7 percent above December 1951. Although shucked fresh oysters dropped slightly from December 1951 to January 1952, they were still 14.7 percent higher than in January 1951.

Processed frozen fish and shellfish prices for January 1952 were 10.4 percent higher than for the same month in 1951 and 4.0 percent higher than in December 1951. From December 1951 to January 1952 frozen shrimp prices rose 8.7 percent and frozen haddock fillet prices 7.4 percent and both of these items were 3.4 and 49.6 percent higher, respectively, than in January 1951. January frozen ocean perch fillet price remained steady at the December level, but were 17.1 percent higher than in January 1951.

Canned fish prices in January 1952 dropped. The index for this subgroup during that month was 8.3 percent lower than for the same month a year earlier and 0.6 percent lower than for the previous month. There were no price changes for canned pink salmon and tuna from December 1951 to January 1952 and prices for both these items were below the same period in 1951—13.9 and 12.7 percent, respectively. Prices for canned California sardines rose during January, while Maine sardines dropped substantially.

RETAIL PRICES, JANUARY 1952: Prices paid by urban families of moderate incomes between mid-December and mid-January for all foods increased, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. During the period, the retail

Table 2 - Adjusted Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Fishery Products, January 15, 1952, with Comparative Data

Item	Base	I N D E X E S		
		Jan. 15, 1952	Dec. 15, 1951	Jan. 15, 1951
All foods.....	1935-39 = 100	232.4	232.2	221.9
All fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, & canned)..	do	351.5	351.2	345.3
Fresh and frozen fish.....	1938-39 = 100	298.3	296.7	283.0
Canned salmon: pink.....	do	471.2	475.1	493.7

price index for all foods went up 0.1 percent and it was 4.7 percent above mid-January 1951 (see table).

Retail prices for fishery products (fresh, frozen, and canned) increased the same as the "all foods" category—0.1 percent from mid-December to mid-January, but fishery products retail prices were only 1.8 percent higher than in mid-January 1951.

Fresh and frozen fishery products were mainly responsible for the increase in retail prices of all fishery products. The retail index for fresh and frozen fish climbed 0.5 percent between mid-December and mid-January to 296.7 percent of the 1938-39 average and this index was still 5.4 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Retail prices for canned pink salmon, which have been declining for the past several months, continued their downward trend. The index for canned pink salmon on January 15, 1952, was 0.8 percent below the previous month and 4.6 percent lower than in mid-January 1951.

