



# TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

## Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 104 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first document as fishing craft during May 1952--16 less than in May 1951. Washington led with 51 vessels, followed by Alaska with 23 vessels and Maryland with 5 vessels, reports the Treasury Department Bureau of Customs.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, May 1952					
Section	May		Five mos. ending with May		Total 1951
	1952	1951	1952	1951	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England .....	4	7	10	15	36
Middle Atlantic .....	4	5	16	20	34
Chesapeake .....	8	-	27	6	36
South Atlantic .....	4	12	33	43	118
Gulf .....	4	18	43	86	173
Pacific Coast .....	57	61	109	142	284
Great Lakes .....	-	2	4	7	25
Alaska .....	23	15	70	44	71
Hawaii .....	-	-	-	1	3
Total .....	104	120	312	364	780

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



## California Sardine Catch for 1951-52 Season

If the figures for the 1951-52 commercial fishing season ended on February this year are any indication, California's sardine barrel is nearly empty, the State's Department of Fish and Game reports. From landings of nearly half a million tons annually in 1939, 1941, and 1944, the California sardine fishery has shrunk to a total catch of 126,541 tons for the 1951-52 season. This is the lowest annual total since the 1947-48 season, when 121,330 tons were landed.

Towards the end of the season landings were made almost exclusively in Southern California ports, and were composed principally of three-year old fishes--"breeding stock" for future generations.

"The California sardine will come back eventually," says the Chief of the Department's Bureau of Marine Fisheries. "The ocean is too large to be 'fished out' and the sardines are too numerous to be wiped out as a species by any combination of factors. Intelligent management of the fishery, based on continuing research, can help nature bring the sardine back sooner. But any come-back will have to be earned by full support for the management program which is now being mapped out."

Meanwhile, California fish canners have requested the Legislature to make an additional 50-cent-per-ton assessment on all sardines landed. This raises the total tax to \$1.50 per ton, \$1 of which supports joint sardine research by the Department of Fish and Game, California Academy of Sciences, University of California, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Stanford University. The remaining 50 cents supports Department of Fish and Game activities.



## California Tags Tuna With Experimental-Type Tags

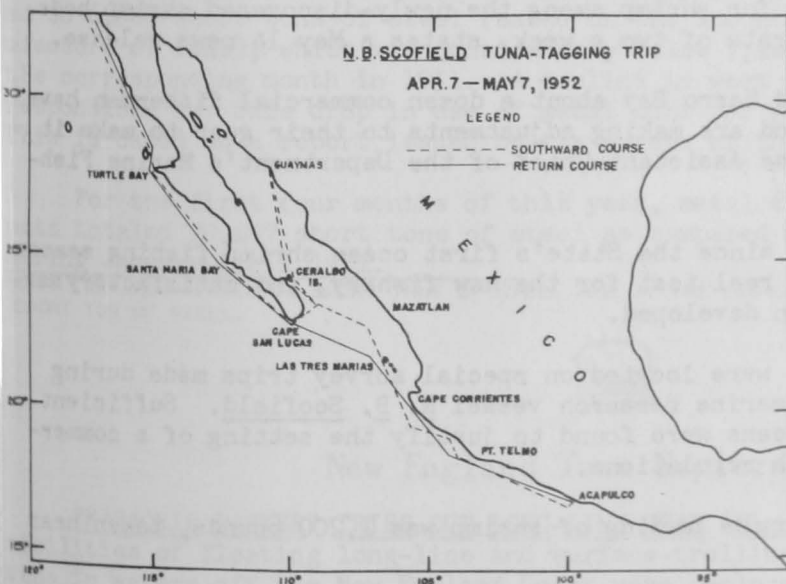
In order to tag yellowfin and skipjack tuna with experimental-type tags, the M/V N. B. Scofield, a research vessel of the California Bureau of Marine Fisheries, sailed from Los Angeles Harbor on April 7 and returned on May 7, 1952. The purpose of this trip (Cruise 3) was:

- (1) to use various types of tags in further testing application methods and effect upon tuna and skipjack;
- (2) to collect specimens of other species, incidental to live-bait fishing operations, by trolling, bait nets and night lights;
- (3) to collect juvenile tunas for age-determination studies;
- (4) to incidentally collect bathythermograph observations.

The vessel, which covered about 4,000 miles, operated off the West Coast of Baja California, in the Gulf of California as far north as Guaymas, and off the west coast of Mexico and south to Acapulco.

Bait was sought in Turtle Bay, Santa Maria Bay, and Magdalena Bay. In Magdalena Bay 175 scoops of 6-9-inch sardines were taken. A bait net 150 feet long and 8 fathoms deep with  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bag mesh was used. The vessel then proceeded to Cape

San Lucas where all but a few scoops of the bait died because the bait-tank pump did not operate correctly. After seeking bait at Ceralbo Island with no success, the vessel proceeded to Guaymas Bay where 300 scoops of bait were taken under a surface light extended off the stern of the vessel. This bait consisted primarily of thread herring with some anchovettas mixed in. After leaving Guaymas, the vessel proceeded south via: Ceralbo Island, position latitude  $23^{\circ}05'N$ . longitude  $107^{\circ}36'W$ ., 450-fathom bank off Mazatlan; Las Tres Marias Islands; and then down the coast inshore



and offshore as far south as Acapulco. After calling at Acapulco, the vessel worked inshore and offshore for two days up to Manzanillo and then northward. All the yellowfin tuna tagged were caught between Manzanillo and Acapulco. A total of 240 yellowfin tuna, 3 black skipjack tuna, 1 bonito, and 2 frigate mackerel were tagged. No fish were encountered in the Gulf of California area.

The bait obtained at Guaymas held up very well and about 30 scoops were dumped at Santa Catalina Island  $2\frac{1}{2}$  weeks after their capture.

The following are the two types of tags used:

Type C. A hollow vinylite tube yellow or blue in color, 20 to 25 cm. (8-10 inches) long, with a piece of stainless steel wire running through. A small piece of paper, giving pertinent information was inserted into the center of the tube. The tags were placed through the back of the fish below and slightly behind the second dorsal fin. The tags were applied by placing them in a hollow sharpened tube, passing the tube through the flesh of the fish, sliding out tube, twisting the two ends of wire together over the fish's back.

Type D. A 2.5 cm. (1 inch) plastic tube with legend and nylon line enclosed. A knot was placed in the end of the nylon line to keep the tube in place, the entire end was dipped in liquid plastic and allowed to dry and harden. A loop was formed in the other end of the line. The tag was applied by a hollow sharpened metal tube containing the tag being passed through the flesh of the fish. When the metal tube was removed, the plastic streamer on one side was passed through the loop on the other side and allowed to dangle over the fish's back.

About 150 juvenile frigate mackerel (Auxis thazard) were taken under the night light at latitude  $17^{\circ}07'N$ . longitude  $102^{\circ}18'W$ . on April 24, 1952. No juvenile yellowfin or skipjack tuna were taken during this cruise.



## California Fishermen Obtain Licenses For Shrimp Fishing

More than 35 California fishermen have been licensed by that State's Department of Fish and Game to fish for shrimp among the newly-discovered shrimp beds and more are applying at the rate of two a week, states a May 14 news release.

Between Crescent City and Morro Bay about a dozen commercial fishermen have built special shrimp trawls and are making adjustments to their gear to make it fish properly, according to the Assistant Chief of the Department's Marine Fisheries Branch.

Rough weather conditions since the State's first ocean shrimp fishing season opened April 1 have delayed a real test for the new fishery, and satisfactory marketing plans have not yet been developed.

The offshore shrimp beds were located on special survey trips made during 1950 and 1951 by the State's marine research vessel N. B. Scofield. Sufficient concentrations of the crustaceans were found to justify the setting of a commercial season and gear and catch regulations.

By May 1, the largest single landing of shrimp was 1,200 pounds, taken near Morro Bay.

However, reports indicate that the Northern California shrimp fishery out of Eureka was abandoned towards the latter part of May when the packers learned that the shrimp brought in were too small to market at a profit to both the fishermen and processors.

NOTE: ALSO SEE: COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, APRIL 1952, P. 24.



## Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, MAY 1952: A total of 2,518,736 pounds (valued at \$1,180,951) of fresh and frozen fishery products were purchased by the Army Quartermaster Corps during May 1952 for the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (see table). This was a drop of 11.6 percent in quantity and 10.3 percent in value as compared with the previous month's purchases, but lower by 12.6 percent in quantity and higher by 5.4 percent in value as compared with May 1951.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army  
(May and the First Five Months, 1952 and 1951)

Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
May		January-May		May		January-May	
1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,518,736	2,880,530	12,235,533	11,527,766	1,180,951	1,120,427	5,727,454	4,737,372

Purchases for the first five months of 1952 were greater by 6.1 percent in quantity and 20.9 percent in value as compared with the corresponding period of 1951. The average price per pound of 46.8 cents paid for fresh and frozen fishery products during the first five months this year was considerably higher than the 41.1 cents paid in January-May 1951, indicating to a certain extent that higher-priced products are being purchased this year.



## Metal Cans--Shipments for Fishery Products, April 1952

Total shipments of metal cans for fishery products for April this year amounted to 6,863 short tons of steel (based on the amount of steel consumed in the manufacture of cans), which was considerably below 7,168 short tons of steel during the corresponding month in 1951. A decline in west coast tuna canning was largely responsible for this drop in use of metal cans for packing fishery products. This is based on a report issued by the Bureau of the Census on June 24.

For the first four months of this year, metal can shipments for fishery products totaled 20,497 short tons of steel as compared with 23,919 short tons of steel during January-April 1951.

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

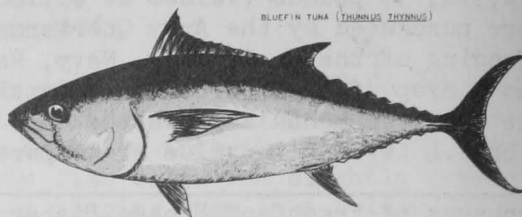


## New England Tuna Explorations

"MARJORIE PARKER" TRIES OUT LONG-LINE GEAR (Fishing Cruise No. 1): The possibilities of floating long-line and surface-trolling gear for capturing bluefin tuna in waters off the New England Coast were explored by the schooner Marjorie Parker on its first trip of this year's New England tuna explorations. The vessel left Portland, Maine, June 1 and returned on June 13. During the 13-day trip, nine long-line sets were made. Fishing operations were conducted at selected spots from a southernmost point approximately 40 miles off Cape May, New Jersey, to the area off Boon Island, Maine.



No bluefin tuna were caught during the trip, although small quantities of shark and groundfish were taken. Surface-trolling gear was also tested without success. Long-line sets were made offshore from the following areas: Cape May, N. J.; Barnegat, N. J.; Fire Island, N. Y.; Montauk Point, N. Y.; Block Island, R. I.; South Channel near Tobins Bank; Race Point, Mass.; Ipswich Bay, Mass.; and Boon Island, Maine.



No tuna, either in schools or single fish, were observed during the trip. Reports from fishing craft in the areas visited indicated that no tuna had been captured by commercial or sportsfishing craft to date. Bluefin were beginning to appear in Casco Bay, Maine, and about ten large fish had been harpooned by fishermen in that area.

This was the initial cruise of the Marjorie Parker, chartered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a 4-month exploratory fishing operation (continuation of the 1951 project when 180,000 pounds of bluefin were caught by purse seine) designed to obtain information on the location, extent, range, and availability of bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Maine and adjacent waters. Long lines (Japanese type), gill nets, trolling gear, and possibly some bait fishing will be tested for efficiency in catching bluefin tuna in commercial quantities. Early cruises will pay particular attention to locations where bluefin normally first appear in their seasonal northward migration into Gulf of Maine waters.

The vessel left on Fishing Cruise No. 2 on June 17 and was expected to return to Portland, Maine, about June 30. Areas of operations on the cruise were to be Casco Bay, Boon Island, Maine; Jeffreys Ledge; Stellwagen Bank; Race Point; and south of Cape Cod. Long lines, surface-trolling gear, floating gill nets, and trammel nets were scheduled to be tried.



## North Atlantic Fishery Investigations

LARGER-MESH NETS TESTED: After completing the second of two cruises on which a series of experiments were conducted to test the effectiveness of large-mesh nets in the release of undersized haddock, biologists from the Service's North Atlantic Fishery Investigations Laboratory at Woods Hole returned to Boston aboard the commercial trawler Michigan.

The vessel fished with regular crew on Georges Bank in the usual commercial manner with standard gear, except that the meshes were larger than those normally used. On some tows the cod end of the net was rigged with a fine mesh cover to capture the small fish that escaped through the cod end.

The experiments were highly successful and definitely proved that nets with large meshes release large quantities of undersized fish. In some hauls over 2,000 pounds escaped through the meshes of the cod end and were caught in the special cover.

A careful study was made of the sizes of fish retained and the sizes released. Over 60,000 fish were measured in these experiments. The size of the fish released depends upon the size of mesh used.

This information will be used to strengthen the Service's recommendations to the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries for regulating the size of mesh to be used in haddock fishing on Georges Bank.

Further experiments will be conducted on board the Service's research vessel Albatross III this summer.

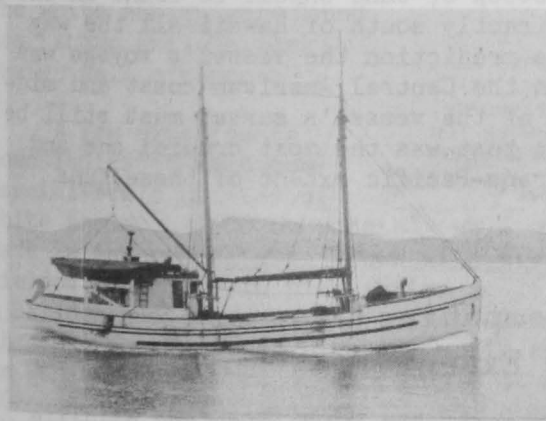


## Pacific Halibut Areas 3A and 1A Closed

International Fisheries Commission on June 23 announced that Pacific halibut Area 3A will be closed to halibut fishing at 12:01 a.m. (PST) July 13. Area 1A also will close at the same time. The Commission estimates that by the announced date of closure the quota of 28,000,000 pounds for Area 3A will have been attained. Pacific halibut fishing in the major areas opened May 14 instead of May 1 as in previous years. In previous years Area 4 closed with Area 3, but this year a special 17-day season has been established for Area 4. Area 3A includes all convention waters off Alaska between a line running south one-quarter east (magnetic) from Cape Spencer Light and a line running approximately south three-quarters east from the Alaska Peninsula, near Bold Cape, through the highest points on Deer and Caton Islands.

Ordinarily, the closure of Area 3 would mean the end of all halibut fishing in the Pacific, except for halibut caught incidentally. However, 1952 regulations established subdivisions of other areas to increase the production of halibut on some recently underfished banks. Two sections (Areas 2B and 2C) of Area 2 were

given the status of separate areas this season as in the 1951 season. Area 2B includes the waters in southern Hecate Strait, off British Columbia. Area 2C includes the waters between Cape Addington and Dixon Entrance, off Southeastern Alaska. A section (Area 3B) of Area 3 this season was also given the status of a separate area. Area 3B extends between the Bold Cape-Caton Island line and a line running true west from Cape Sarichef on Unimak Island.



TYPICAL PACIFIC HALIBUT SCHOONER.

Areas 2B and 2C are opened for 10 days of fishing commencing on July 26, and Areas 3B and 4 are opened for 17 days fishing commencing August 2.

Areas 3A and 1A this season were open to halibut fishing for 60 days (May 14 through July 12). This is the first season in many years that the total number of fishing days for these areas increased, since progressively for the past few years the quota has been attained in a shorter period. In 1951 the season for these areas was 56 days long, compared with 66 days in 1950, 73 days in 1949, 72 days in 1948, and 109 days in 1947.

Areas 2A and 1B closed at 12:01 a.m. (PST) June 9, 1952, this season, and halibut fishing was pursued for 26 days as compared with 28 days in 1951, 32 days in 1950, 34 days in 1949, 32 days in 1948, and 39 days in 1947.

## Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

NEW EASTERN PACIFIC TUNA GROUNDS DISCOVERED: The rich tuna-fishing grounds discovered south of Hawaii last year extend eastward at least 2,000 miles toward Central America, according to findings of the M/V Charles H. Gilbert. This steel research and experimental fishing vessel, especially designed for mid-Pacific tuna investigations, was completed for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Tacoma last April. It is an addition to the two vessels now used by the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations. The vessel returned to Honolulu on June 21 after a 5,000-mile maiden voyage from San Diego.

On May 20 the Charles H. Gilbert sailed from San Diego south along 120° west longitude. Starting 670 miles north of the equator, it stopped every 90 miles to fish long lines until it was 80 miles south of the equator. On 130° west longitude the same procedure was followed except that the vessel was fishing northward. At each of the fishing stations some 8 miles of long line with hooks every 180 feet were set at daybreak and hauled aboard in the evening.

High catches were made north of the equator, the rich grounds forming a band about 400 miles wide just north of the equator and running parallel to it. Catches were over 4 tuna per hundred hooks per day, composed mostly of yellowfin tuna in the southern 2/3 of the zone and mostly big-eyed tuna (Allison tuna) in the northern third. The fish averaged nearly 150 pounds apiece. This is better fishing than commercial long-lining around Hawaii, where less than 2 per hundred hooks is the average.

Yellowfin and big-eyed tuna have probably never before been taken as far from land as the Charles H. Gilbert found them on this trip. But it was no accidental find. From a study of the oceanographic conditions, the staff of Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations predicted that this stock of tuna should be found in the equatorial area from the mid-Pacific area directly south of Hawaii all the way to the Central American coast. To test this prediction the vessel's voyage was planned to survey the ground halfway between the Central American coast and mid-Pacific. While the area both east and west of the vessel's survey must still be fished to fully prove the theory, this first test was the most crucial one and removes most of the uncertainty as to the trans-Pacific extent of these tuna grounds.



## Service Biologist Accompanies Japanese Salmon-Fishing Expedition

At the invitation of the Japanese Government, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has despatched Francis M. Fukuhara, a Service biologist, to accompany a Japanese salmon-fishing expedition operating in the Bering Sea, according to an announcement made June 17 by the Secretary of the Interior. Fukuhara on May 30 joined the 3,700-metric-ton mothership Tenyo Maru No. 3 via a United States Coast Guard vessel.

In issuing the invitation, the Japanese Government acted in the spirit of the recently negotiated North Pacific Fisheries Convention to which the United States, Canada, and Japan are signatories.

The biologist will remain with the Japanese fleet until about July 20, working with the Japanese in the collection of scientific data on the composition and distribution of the salmon populations of the North Pacific Ocean. This study will



be of great importance in the conservation of American salmon resources, and is a first step toward investigations contemplated by the Fisheries Convention.

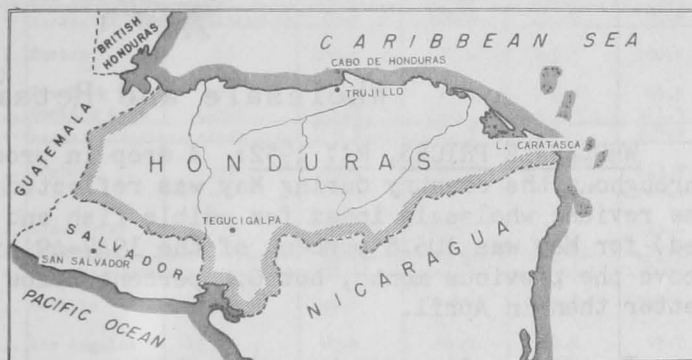
In addition to the Tenyo Maru No. 3, the Japanese fishing fleet consists of the motherships Tenryu Maru of 557 tons and Shinko Maru No. 1 of 521 tons, some 50 catcher boats, and two research vessels. The fleet has been fishing since about May 10 and, it is reported, is confining its operations to the area between latitudes 50° N. and 55° N. and longitudes 170° E. and 177° W.



## Shrimp Explorations Off the Caribbean Coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua

A preliminary exploration for new shrimp grounds was made off the Caribbean coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua during the latter part of May this year by the M/V Antillas, an experimental shrimp trawler. Owned and operated by the Gibbs Corporation, this trawler was used for the exploration under a cooperative agree-

ment with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sixty-four tows (57 with try nets and 7 with balloon trawls) were made offshore from a stretch of coast line about 220 miles long between Cabo Honduras, Honduras, and Punta Gorda, Nicaragua. White or pink shrimp were taken in nearly every tow. The white shrimp were found near shore and the pink shrimp well offshore.



AREA EXPLORED BY ANTILLAS WAS OFFSHORE ALONG A STRETCH OF COAST LINE ABOUT 220 MILES LONG BETWEEN CABO DE HONDURAS (HONDURAS) AND PUNTA GORDA (NICARAGUA). PUNTA GORDA IS NOT SHOWN ON THE MAP SINCE IT IS LOCATED TOWARDS THE LOWER PORTION OF THE NICARAGUAN COAST NOT COVERED BY THE MAP.

A few experimental tows indicated that commercial-scale catches of white shrimp of 500 to possibly well over 1,000 pounds per day could have been made in inshore waters. Tows with try nets well offshore and over a large area yielded from 2 to 10 pink shrimp in 15 minutes. Tows of one hour's duration with a balloon net, measuring 76 feet along the foot rope, caught about 25 pounds (heads-off weight) of pink shrimp in areas where the try net caught only 2 shrimp. In general, the size of about half of the catch of white or pink shrimp was 12 to 30 count per pound, heads off, and about half was 30 to 50 count.

The potential fishing area of mud bottom which was explored extends along at least 200 miles of coast line and for distances of 10 to 40 miles offshore in various localities. It was obviously impossible to subject any of this area to intensive fishing for the prime purpose of the expedition was to cover as much area as possible to obtain some preliminary information on the extent of the fishing grounds and the distribution of shrimp. Along the coast of Honduras, from Cabo Honduras to Punta Patuca, the bottom out to depths of 30 fathoms was predominantly mud (according to soundings) and very smooth (as shown by the automatic depth recorder) out to 20 fathoms. Outside of 20 fathoms, obstructions in the form of lumps up to 20 feet in height were occasionally registered on the depth recorder. A try net passed over several of these, but others are probably hazardous for trawling for a severe "snag" was encountered on one occasion. With the exception of a sand streak between 10 to 13 fathoms, mud bottom was found between Punta



Patuca and Cabo Falso from near shore to reefs about 40 miles offshore. From Cabo Falso to 2 miles south of Cabo Gracias A' Dios, mud bottom was predominant from near shore to the reefs.

The varieties of fish and bottom life taken were quite similar to those found off the east coast of Florida and on the Dry Tortugas area. This, together with the large area of mud bottom, an extensive system of rivers and lagoons, and the presence of some shrimp at this season, strongly indicates that the area is favorable for shrimp and that more extensive exploratory work is warranted. It may develop that the area has commercial possibilities only at certain seasons rather than throughout the year, but this question can only be answered by more extensive work.

--By C. B. Carlson, Fishery Engineer,  
Exploratory Fishing and Gear Development Section  
Branch of Commercial Fisheries, U. S. Fish and  
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## Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, MAY 1952: A drop in production in the major fisheries throughout the country during May was reflected in an over-all increase in price. The revised wholesale index for edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) for May was 105.8 percent of the 1947-49 average (see table 1)--0.6 percent above the previous month, but 0.8 percent below May 1951. Demand was generally better than in April.

The drawn, dressed, or whole finfish sub-group index for May was 2.6 percent above April and 8.5 percent above May 1951. During May a substantial increase in fresh large drawn haddock prices was offset by a considerable drop in the prices of fresh-water fish (high prices in April were due to Hebraic holidays). Fresh haddock prices this May were 26.3 percent above April and 4.6 percent above a year earlier. Salmon prices were 2.2 percent lower than the previous month but 7.1 percent over the same month in 1951. Frozen halibut prices remained steady at April levels, but were 15.0 percent above a year earlier.

Prices for fresh processed fishery products in May declined 1.9 percent as compared to April and were 2.4 percent below May 1951. Prices for fresh haddock fillets during the month rose 3.5 percent above April, but were 0.4 percent below May a year earlier. Fresh headless shrimp prices continued to drop (due to heavy production in the South Atlantic States) and in May were 5.1 percent below April and 5.3 percent below May 1951.

Because of ample cold-storage stocks, processed frozen fish and shellfish prices in May dropped 1.4 percent below April and were 1.5 percent lower than in May last year. The drop was the result of substantial declines from April to May in frozen flounder fillet (5.1 percent) and frozen haddock fillet (2.0 percent) prices. Ocean perch fillets and frozen shrimp remained steady at April levels. Compared with May 1951, flounder fillets were quoted 9.7 percent lower, haddock fillets 1.2 percent lower, and ocean perch 2.4 percent lower; while shrimp prices were 3.6 percent higher.

May prices for canned fishery products were only slightly above April. The increase was entirely due to a slight rise in California tuna prices. The most

index for this subgroup was 0.3 percent higher than in April, but 7.4 percent below May 1951. While this May's quotations for pink salmon and tuna were substantially below the same month last year (16.0 percent and 4.4 percent, respectively), prices for California sardines and Maine sardines were higher by 38.8 percent and 43.0 percent, respectively.

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

Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification	Point of Pricing	Avg. Prices (\$) <sup>1</sup>	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)			
			May 1952	Apr. 1952	Mar. 1952	May 1951
<b>ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)</b> .....			105.8	105.2	109.5	106.7
<b>Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:</b> .....			108.2	107.4	114.4	104.2
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish: .....			114.8	111.9	117.2	105.8
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh .....	Boston	.11	108.6	86.0	108.3	103.8
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen .....	New York City	.35	106.8	106.8	108.4	92.9
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen .....	" " "	.54	125.9	128.7	118.6	117.5
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh .....	Chicago	.53	130.1	179.7	161.1	106.9
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh .....	New York City	.63	131.4	182.0	156.7	119.5
Lake Trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh .....	Chicago	.50	101.4	137.3	133.2	85.6
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh .....	New York City	.44	102.0	93.8	155.9	93.5
<b>Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):</b> .....			99.2	101.1	111.5	101.6
Fillet, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins .....	Boston	.30	100.4	97.0	115.7	100.8
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen .....	New York City	.56	88.5	93.3	110.7	93.5
Oysters, shucked, standards .....	Norfolk area	4.50	111.3	111.3	111.3	111.3
<b>Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):</b> .....			102.3	103.8	109.6	103.9
Fillet: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. pkg. ....	Boston	.37	129.7	136.7	136.7	143.7
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack .....	"	.24	89.3	91.1	113.4	90.4
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack .....	Gloucester	.23	110.7	110.7	113.2	113.4
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg. ....	Chicago	.61	94.1	94.1	96.4	90.8
<b>Canned Fishery Products:</b> .....			102.2	101.9	102.2	110.4
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case .....	Seattle	21.00	109.6	109.6	109.6	130.4
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 1/2 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case .....	Los Angeles	14.35	89.6	89.0	89.0	93.7
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case :	" "	9.38	109.4	109.4	109.4	78.8
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 1/2 drawn (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case .....	New York City	9.65	102.7	102.7	105.9	71.8

<sup>1</sup> REPRESENT AVERAGE PRICES FOR ONE DAY (MONDAY OR TUESDAY, IF AVAILABLE) DURING WEEK BEGINNING MAY 12. 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.

**RETAIL PRICES, MAY 1952:** Although retail prices of foods bought by moderate-income urban families continued to rise, prices of all finfish products continued to decline. The food index on May 15, 1952, was 230.8 (1935-39 = 100), 1.5 percent higher than a year earlier and 0.3 percent above the previous month (see table 2). On the other hand, all finfish, in mid-May retailed 2.2 percent below the same period last year and 0.3 percent lower than on April 15, 1952. Lower prices were mainly attributable to a decline in canned fish prices.

Table 2 - Adjusted Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Finfish, May 15, 1952, with Comparative Data

Item	Base	I N D E X E S		
		May 15, 1952	Apr. 15, 1952	May 15, 1951
All foods .....	1935-39 = 100	230.8	230.0	227.4
All finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned)	do	345.3	346.3	353.1
Fresh and frozen finfish .....	1938-39 = 100	295.1	295.5	287.1
Canned salmon: pink	do	456.7	459.3	511.7

Retail prices for fresh and frozen finfish from April 15 to May 15 dropped only 0.1 percent, but they were still 2.8 percent above mid-May 1951. Canned pink salmon prices, which started to decline in March this year, dropped even lower and in mid-May were 0.6 percent lower than the previous month and 10.7 percent below the same month in 1951.

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices and Price Ranges of Individual Finfish Products, April 15, 1952, with Comparative Data

Product	Unit	UNITED STATES		
		Range of Prices May 15, 1952	Average May 15, 1952	Average Apr. 15, 1952
Frozen Finfish Fillets:		¢	¢	¢
Ocean perch <sup>1</sup> .....	lb.	29-59	46.1	46.4
Haddock <sup>2</sup> .....	lb.	29-69	50.6	50.7
Canned Finfish:				
Salmon, pink .....	16-oz. can	39-79	56.5	56.8

<sup>1</sup>/PRICED IN 46 CITIES OUT OF 56.

<sup>2</sup>/PRICED IN 47 CITIES OUT OF 56.

On May 15 frozen ocean perch fillets retailed at an average of 46.1 cents and frozen haddock fillets at an average of 50.6 cents per pound. During the same month the previous year frozen ocean perch fillet retail prices averaged 46.2 cents and frozen haddock fillet prices 50.2 cents per pound (see table 3). Canned pink salmon retailed on May 15 at an average of 56.5 cents per 16-oz. can, compared with 63.3 cents per can in mid-May last year.



#### FISH ON TELEVISION

Fish and shellfish television advertising has gained greatly in popularity in the past year. Some dealers who first used spot ads have become sponsors of weekly 15-minute or half-hour programs. A few producers have even gone national by becoming co-sponsors of network television programs.

The tuna industry has become a leader in television use, with major emphasis being placed on spot ads on practically every TV station in the country. In addition, tuna canners have secured TV showings of motion pictures of their industry. Shrimp packers also made greater use of TV in the past year, with a national jackpot-quiz show being among the programs carrying shrimp advertising. Sardines and cod are other species which have been promoted on TV.

Government agencies conducting consumer education programs have not neglected television. The Fish and Wildlife Service has had fishery educational motion pictures on over 95 percent of the nation's television stations. Its fishery marketing special-

ists and home economists have also appeared in person on a number of programs to teach consumers how and why fish should be used.

The Production and Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has given fish and shellfish considerable time on its TV programs. These programs, both network and local, are designed to call the public's attention to those foods shown on Agriculture's Plentiful Food List. Their half-hour network show, which has been carried by 18 stations from Boston to Atlanta, and as far West as Omaha, has given fish or shellfish a place on the program nearly every week.

Television publicity serves to call the public's attention to the economy and nutritive value of fishery products at a time when the public is becoming increasingly food conscious. The entire fishing industry shares in the benefits which are gained from such advertising.

NOTE: SEE COVER PHOTO.