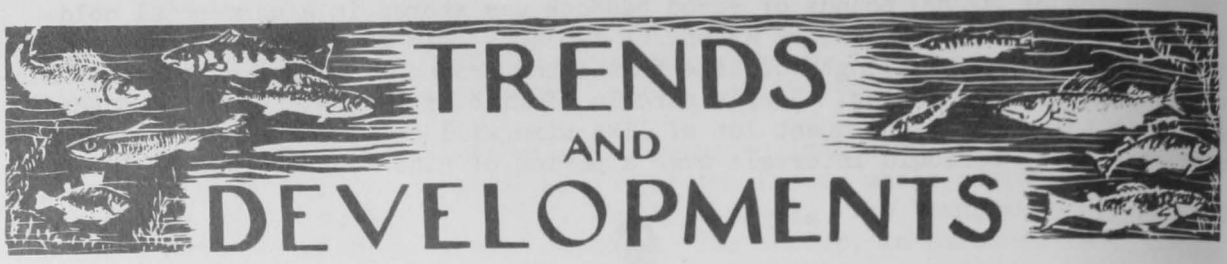

California Shrimp Resources Being Exploited

Two California farmer-businessmen from the San Joaquin Valley, who recently took up commercial fishing, are reporting $300-a-day catches of shrimp from grounds off Morro Bay, a July 2 news release from the California Department of Fish and Game states. Discovered by that Department in 1941, and seriously studied by its marine biologists in 1950 and 1951, the offshore shrimp beds were opened for commercial trawling April 1. Three-year permits were issued under carefully formulated gear and bag regulations.

Although a total of 46 permits have been issued by the Department, the two farmer-businessmen aboard the Grace H. (accompanied occasionally by another Morro Bay boat) are the only men on the California Coast who have installed the required beam-trawl gear to exploit the new shrimp grounds.

The five known shrimp beds are scattered in the Pacific at 50-to 100-fathom depths, from Crescent City to Morro Bay.

The problem of marketing the small shrimp has stopped other permittees from all-out efforts. California sea-food processors have been reluctant to set up special "shrimp lines" of workers to clean and pack the catch. They want advance assurance of steady landings by the fishermen and a steady demand from the retail market.

However, the two men arrived at an agreement with an operator of a Morro Bay abalone-packing plant and a refrigeration company at San Luis Obispo. Both operators agreed to process the shrimp catches, and sent their salesmen out to introduce the new California sea food to markets and restaurants throughout the West.

Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JUNE 1952: Fresh and frozen fishery products purchased in June this year by the Army Quartermaster Corps amounted to 3,989,047 pounds (valued at $1,743,593) for the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (see table). Higher than the previous month's purchases by 58.4 percent in quantity and 47.6 percent in value, these purchases were also considerably above June 1951--29.9 percent in quantity and 34.5 percent in value.

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

QUANTITY				VALUE			
June		January-June		June		January-June	
1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	$	$	$	$
3,989,047	3,070,923	16,224,580	14,598,689	1,743,593	1,295,946	7,471,047	6,033,318

For the first six months this year purchases were greater by 11.1 percent in quantity and 23.8 percent in value as compared with the same period of 1951. Fresh and frozen fishery products were purchased by the Quartermaster Corps during the first six months this year at an average price per pound of 46.0 cents--somewhat higher than the average of 41.3 cents paid in January-June 1951. This indicates to a certain extent that higher-priced products were purchased this year.

Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

SHRIMP-TRAWLING CONDITIONS EXPLORED WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER (Trip No. 13): Earlier exploratory coverage by the Service's vessel Oregon west of the Mississippi River left large gaps, and the purpose of Trip No. 13 was to get information on trawling conditions in previously unexplored sections as well as to compile additional data on the seasonal differences in productivity. Another objective was to work over some areas of particularly soft bottom with mud ropes and rocking-chair doors. The vessel operated east of the mouth of the Mississippi River March 27-28 and March 31-April 2, and west of the Mississippi River to Brownsville, Texas, April 7-23.

General Fishing Conditions in the Area Covered: Reports from the fishing fleet during the period covered by this cruise indicated that shrimp fishing was relatively poor with only scattered brown-grooved shrimp showing, and white shrimp production only fair. Reduced shrimp landings in the northwest Gulf during the months of March and April may in part be attributed to adverse weather conditions. The shrimp boats encountered by the Oregon during the cruise reported scattered shrimp and slow fishing.

Along with generally rough weather during March and April, the fishing log of the Oregon shows that bottom water temperatures were remarkably uniform in a wide range of depths from 10 to 60 fathoms, with surface water temperatures one or two degrees colder or warmer and with little consistency in distribution. Past experience of the Oregon has shown that concentrations of shrimp are easier to locate and generally better shrimp fishing prevails when the temperature bands are narrower. That is, when the temperature of the bottom water differs appreciably at different depths.

White shrimp were found out to 32 fathoms in drags off the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River mixed with about equal numbers of brown-grooved shrimp. These drags produced about 20 to 30 pounds per hour, but the white shrimp were more numerous inshore in 20 fathoms.

Brown-Grooved Shrimp: Catches of brown-grooved shrimp were made south of Trinity shoal in 30 to 40 fathoms, south of Galveston in 20 to 40 fathoms, and northeast of Brownsville in 20 to 40 fathoms. The best catches were not good (about 90 pounds an hour) and were made in the 30-fathom depth range in all areas. Catches were smaller in both the 20- and 40-fathom ranges. There was no clear-cut relation between count and depth as is usual at times when temperature bands are narrow. For example, northeast of Galveston samples of brown-grooved shrimp from 20, 30, and 40 fathoms were all 7 count (heads-on).

Deep-Water Red Shrimp: Drags were made off the edge of the continental shelf between 93° west longitude and 26°40' north latitude off the Louisiana and Texas coasts in depths of 200 to 450 fathoms. Only a few pounds of red shrimp were taken, although some were present in all of the successful drags from 200 to 300 fathoms.

These shrimp appear to be less common in this area at this season than in the vicinity of the Mississippi River mouth. A series of four drags attempted in 200 fathoms near 27°25' north and 95°50' west were unsuccessful because of failure of the trawls to reach bottom. The possibility that this was the result of strong and unusual currents was suggested by the behavior of the rig.

Gear Observations: A "mud rope" used on a 100-foot flat trawl gave very good results on soft bottom. The "mud rope," used as a ground line of the trawl, was constructed by binding old webbing on 5/8-inch wire rope to bring the diameter to about 6 inches. Our rig worked better with a somewhat reduced length of trawling cable as compared with the standard flat-trawl rig.

* * * * *

"OREGON" EXPLORES FOR TUNA IN GULF (Trip No. 14): Exploration for tuna in the vicinity of Dry Tortugas and in the approaches to the Gulf of Mexico was the main purpose of the Oregon's Trip No. 14. Secondary objectives were to try mid-water trawls in cooperation with the M/V Antillas in the area of Key West-Tortugas shrimp fishery and to check conditions for hand-line fishing and dragging off the eastern edge of the Campeche shelf. The Oregon, the Branch of Commercial Fisheries' Gulf exploratory fishery vessel, left Pascagoula on May 19 and worked in the vicinity of Dry Tortugas off Florida until June 2, entered port at Miami, and left again on June 4 returning to the Tortugas area. The Oregon went into Key West harbor on June 10 and left the following day to meet the M/V Antillas at Tortugas for tests of mid-water trawls. On completion of this phase of the work on June 14 the Oregon crossed the Straits of Florida and the Yucatan Channel to Campeche Bank at north latitude 22°20' and worked in a northerly direction. The vessel arrived at Pascagoula on June 25.

Tuna trolling lines were used throughout the cruise. Little tuna, Euthynnus alletteratus (over 10 pounds each) were taken inside the 100-fathom curve between Tampa and Key West. A single specimen weighing 3½ pounds was taken in shallow water off Pascagoula on June 25. As in all preceding trips, little tuna were not taken by trolling outside the 100-fathom curve. Two specimens of tuna, provisionally identified as Katsuwonus pelamis, weighing 10 and 14 pounds each, were taken on trolling lines southeast of Tortugas from a large school in waters over 250 fathoms deep. Several others were hooked but lost and the school sounded when the speed of the Oregon was reduced.

THE OREGON DOCKED AT PASCAGOULA, MISS., HEADQUARTERS OF THE GULF EXPLORATORY FISHERY PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY THE SERVICE'S BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.

Three sets with a purse seine made northerly from Dry Tortugas in 25, 20, and 17 fathoms on small wild schools of little tuna were unsuccessful. Additional sets were not attempted. The little tuna in the area were found in schools of less than 300 fish and appeared more or less regularly at the surface around shrimp boats

during the last drag at dawn. The Oregon trawled at night in sections of the shrimp grounds where little tuna were reported and worked little tuna at dawn with hand lines and jack poles using whole or ground shrimp-trawling scrap for chum and dead gerrid fishes (locally called "shiners") for bait. These latter fish, about 4 inches long, were common in the shrimp trawling scrap. On three successive dawn fishing periods of two to three hours, 3/4 ton, 2 tons, and 1½ tons of little tuna averaging 14 pounds each were taken on jack poles and hand lines.

Some few were taken at other times of the day or night but fishing was slow and the fish generally remained near the bottom. A total catch of about 8 tons was made.

No tuna were observed by the Oregon near the Campeche shelf or on the return trip from Campeche to Pascagoula. Blackfin tuna were reported on June 6, 1952, by a snapper fishing boat at about latitude 25° north; longitude 88° west, or about 60 miles north of the Campeche shelf. A few miles north of this location the Oregon observed large numbers of shearwaters and brown porpoises on June 22. These are frequently associated with blackfin tuna but no fish were seen at the surface.

Other Observations: A trial drag with a 40-foot shrimp trawl in 206 fathoms east of the Campeche shelf produced nothing of commercial interest. The net was damaged by coral shreds and small obstructions damaged the doors. The catch included a variety of echinoderms and some shrimp of no commercial interest.

Sperm whales were observed at dusk June 17 and June 18 in crossing from Tortugas to the Campeche Bank, and several large schools of blackfish or pilot whales were seen in the area.

A few specimens of unidentified jacks and runners were taken from schools working the eastern edge of the Campeche shelf. Hand-line fishing on the Campeche Bank in 40 to 60 fathoms produced mostly yellow-eyed snappers of two species and some unidentified carangids.

Next Cruise: The Oregon left Pascagoula, Mississippi, July 9 on Trip No. 15 for work in the northeast Gulf of Mexico. Shrimp-trawl drags will be made from shallow to deep water in an attempt to find suitable trawling bottom for shrimp between Tarpon Springs and Cape San Blas, Florida. Bottomless and roller trawls will be used experimentally in the area.

The Oregon will also carry a purse seine for use on little tuna in case these are encountered in sufficient quantity for a set.

Metal Cans--Shipments for Fishery Products, May 1952

Total shipments of metal cans for fish and sea food for May this year amounted to 7,754 short tons of steel (based on the amount of steel consumed in the manufacture of cans), which was still considerably below 12,790 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 July 23.

For the first four months of this year, metal can shipments for fishery products totaled 28,237 short tons of steel as compared with 36,709 short tons of steel during January-May 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

DIFFERENT TYPES OF TUNA GEAR TESTED BY "MARJORIE PARKER" (Fishing Cruise No. 2): Three long-line sets for tuna in the waters east of Portland near Halfway Rock, over depths up to 30 fathoms, were made by the Marjorie Parker, after it left Portland on June 17. In addition, one night set was made with two gill nets and a trammel net in the same general area with negative results. This vessel has been chartered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a 4-month exploratory fishing operation to obtain information on bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Maine and adjacent waters.

Operations were continued in the Boon Island-Isle of Shoals area on June 20 and 21, employing gill nets and trammel nets; surface trolling was conducted during daylight hours. Long line and gill nets were set off Race Point, Cape Cod, on June 22 and 23. The following day the vessel picked up at New York City 40 baskets of Japanese-type long-line gear and a line hauler procured in Japan for testing during this summer's work.

East of Fire Island, New York, 20 baskets of Japanese type gear were set. Additional sets were made off Shinnecock Inlet, Long Island, Block Island, southeast of Nantucket Lightship, southwest part of Georges Bank and Stellwagen Bank off Race Point, Cape Cod. No tuna were captured either by long-lining, gill-netting, or trolling operations, and no surface fish were sighted.

M/V MARJORIE PARKER IS A 78-FOOT SCHOONER CHARTERED BY THE SERVICE FOR CONDUCTING A BLUEFIN TUNA EXPLORATION IN NEW ENGLAND WATERS.

The final set of the trip was made on June 30 when 20 baskets of long line baited with fresh squid were set near Sewell Ridge, approximately 50 miles E. x S. of Cashe Ledge Buoy, in an area where the year's first report of school tuna was received from a Gloucester dragger on June 28. No tuna were taken. The vessel returned to port on June 30.

Sets were made without difficulty, and the line hauler handled the Japanese gear smoothly and efficiently. Surface water temperatures and bathythermograph casts were taken daily during the trip. Seven surface lines were trolled at all times when the vessel was under way.

Fishing Cruise No. 3 started on Saturday, July 5. The vessel is expected to return to Portland on or about July 19 after exploring for tuna on Jeffreys Bank, Cashe Ledge, Fippennies Ledge, and the northern edge of Georges Bank.

North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

SHRIMP GROUNDS OFF ALASKA EXPLORED BY "JOHN N. COBB": Exploring for new commercial shrimp grounds off Southeastern Alaska was the purpose of the John N. Cobb's Cruise No. 10. This exploratory fishing vessel of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries conducted a two-month exploration which extended from Glacier Bay to as far south as Davidson Inlet, and also included some localities near Sitka. A 20-foot beam trawl and several types of shrimp traps were the types of gear used. The vessel left Seattle on March 3 and returned May 3.

Of the areas investigated on this trip, the most promising indications of the availability of shrimp in commercial quantities were found in Glacier Bay. A total of 52 beam-trawl drags were made in various parts of Glacier Bay, most of which resulted in the capture of shrimp. The best drags were made in the vicinity of Sturgess and Seebree Islands, where catches of up to 330 pounds per hour of mixed pink and side-stripe shrimp were made.

Glacier Bay is an extensive area, about 56 miles long, and has not been previously explored for shrimp. The numerous icebergs encountered in the bay did not hamper operations on this trip.

Aside from Glacier Bay, the best showings of shrimp were found in Port Althorp and in Affleck Canal, but catches were not of commercial quantity. In the other areas explored, shrimp catches were negligible.

Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

"CAVALIERI" SUCCESSFUL IN LONG-LINING FOR TUNA: The Cavalieri, a commercial purse seiner chartered by the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations to long-line for tuna south of the Hawaiian Islands, during two days of fishing averaged almost 9 fish per 100 hooks. This was considerably more than the average of less than 3 fish per 100 hooks in the vicinity of Hawaii. Unfortunately the vessel was forced to return to Honolulu after fishing only two days because of engine trouble. The Chief Scientist aboard reported that had the Cavalieri been able to continue there is little doubt that a full load of fish would have been caught. It is hoped that the voyage can be completed after repairs to the vessel have been made.

Although the vessel is a commercial purse seiner, it is equipped with tuna long-line gear. It was fishing for tunas in the area where the Hugh M. Smith, another research vessel operated by the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, had worked previously.

* * * * *

EQUATORIAL WATERS STUDIED BY "HUGH M. SMITH" (Cruise 15): To investigate certain physical, chemical, and biological features of the equatorial waters in

relation to the abundance and distribution of tunas, the research vessel Hugh M. Smith left Pearl Harbor May 21. This vessel, one of three operated by the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, operated in waters of the equatorial region along 140° W. longitude, from 9° N. to 7° S. latitude, and returned to port on July 1.

Water currents and temperatures, chemical nutrients, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and forage organisms were investigated.

The cruise was planned so that a section of stations along the area of operations was repeated four times in a period of three weeks. These observations, based on 62 stations in all, will provide information on the rate and degree of change in the physical, chemical, and biological environment along this meridian during the time of study.

Observations with the ship's depth recorder showed extensive "scattering" in the "rich zone" near the Equator.

The next cruise of the Hugh M. Smith (July 18 to August 22) in the same area will be to observe in greater detail the convergence or "front" phenomenon, the velocity and direction of surface currents in the equatorial region, and the vertical distribution of marine life in respect to the thermocline. The cruise will be in collaboration with the long-line fishing cruise of the John R. Manning.

Political Party Platforms Contain Planks of Interest to Fishery Industries

The Democratic and Republican platforms for 1952 contain a number of planks which are of specific interest to the fishery and allied industries.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM: The following are excerpts from the Democratic platform which directly or indirectly concern fisheries:

"Our Foreign Policy:...HELPING OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES. Even though we can not now disarm, we will go forward as rapidly as possible in developing the imaginative and farsighted concept of President Truman embodied in the Point Four program.

"We will continue to encourage use of American skills and capital in helping the people of undeveloped lands to combat disease, raise living standards, improve land tenure and develop industry and trade. Continuing stronger and more vigorous Point Four programs--sponsored both by this country and by the United Nations--are an indispensible element in creating a peaceful world....

"EXPANDING WORLD TRADE. The Democratic Party has always stood for expanding trade among free nations. We reassert that stand today. We vigorously oppose any restrictive policies which would weaken the highly successful reciprocal trade program fathered by Cordell Hull.

"Since 1934 the United States has taken the lead in fostering the expansion and liberalization of world trade.

"Our own economy requires expanded export markets for our manufactured and agricultural products and a greater supply of essential imported raw materials.

At the same time, our friends throughout the world will have opportunity to earn their own way to higher living standards with lessened dependence on our aid....

"Our Natural Resources:...We favor sound, progressive development of the Nation's land and water resources....

"The Democratic Party is dedicated to a continuation of the natural resources development policy inaugurated and carried out under the administrations of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and to the extension of that policy to all parts of the Nation, North, South, East, Midwest, West and the Territories, to the end that the Nation and its people receive maximum benefits from these resources to which they have an inherent right.

"The Democratic Party further pledges itself to protect these resources from destructive monopoly and exploitation.

"We pledge the continued full and unified regional development of the water, mineral, and other natural resources of the Nation....

"DOMESTIC FISHERIES. We favor increased research and exploration for conserving and better utilizing fishery resources, expanded research and education to promote new fishery products and uses and new markets, promotion of world trade in fish products, a public works and water policy providing adequate protection for domestic fishery resources, and treaties with other nations for conservation and better utilization of international fisheries.

"WILDLIFE RECREATION. In our highly complex civilization, outdoor recreation has become essential to the health and happiness of our people.

"The Democratic Party has devoted its efforts to the preservation, restoration and increase of the bird, animal and fish life which abound in this Nation....

"To the 28 million of our citizens who annually purchase fishing and hunting licenses, we pledge continued efforts to improve all recreational areas....

"Social Security:...SCHOOL LUNCHES. We will enlarge the school lunch program which has done so much for millions of American school children and charitable institutions while at the same time benefiting producers.

"Strengthening Democratic Government:...ALASKA AND HAWAII. By virtue of their strategic geographical locations, Alaska and Hawaii are vital bastions in the Pacific. These two territories have contributed greatly to the welfare and economic development of our country and have become integrated into our economic and social life. We therefore urge immediate statehood for these two territories.

"OTHER TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS: We favor increased self-government for the Virgin Islands and other outlying territories and the trust territory of the Pacific...."

REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM: The planks which directly or indirectly concern fisheries in the Republican platform are:

"Natural Resources: We vigorously advocate a full and orderly program for the development and conservation of our natural resources....

"We favor restoration to the States of their rights to all lands and resources beneath navigable inland and offshore waters within their historic boundaries.

"We favor protection of our fisheries by domestic regulation and treaties, including safeguards against unfair foreign competition.

"Water Policy:...We favor continuous and comprehensive investigations of our water resources and orderly execution of programs approved by the Congress. Authorized water projects should go forward progressively with immediate priority for those with defense significance, those in critical flood and water shortage areas, and those substantially completed....

"Statehood: "We favor immediate statehood for Hawaii.

"We favor statehood for Alaska under an equitable enabling act.

"We favor eventual statehood for Puerto Rico."

Underwater Powder Charges Not Harmful to Fish

With the aid of three deep-sea divers, a group representing the California Department of Fish and Game, sportsmen, commercial fishermen, county supervisors, and the press has decided that black-powder charges used in the underwater search of oil deposits off the California coast have no harmful effects on fish life.

The conclusion was the result of a two-day series of experimental seismic blasts in the Pacific Ocean near San Luis Obispo, states a June 25 news release from the Department. Independent underwater observations were made by a State marine biologist, a commercial abalone fisherman, and an oil company employee wearing diving suits.

The observation parties were taken by boats to the test areas, where charges were set off by the Western Geophysical Company. Typical seismic shots exploded in various water depths failed to produce evidence of fish deaths above or below the water surface.

The Marine Biologist of the Department of Fish and Game reported that all divers agreed that black-powder charges detonated six feet below the water surface in depths of 50 feet or more "have no harmful effects on fish or other invertebrates in the immediate vicinity."

The unique experiment was conducted at the request of fishermen, who have contended that "floating" blasts kill fish which never surface. Standard powder charges, required under the latest Fish and Game Commission regulations, were used.

Divers descended to the ocean floor before and after the explosions. In simultaneous underwater trips averaging 20 minutes for each diver, no blast effects were noted on rockfish, priestfish, flatfish, sea cucumbers, sea anemones, tube worms, corals, sea urchins, clams, or starfish.

Further explorations on the possible harmful effects of seismic blasts will be conducted in San Luis Obispo Bay until mid-July.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, JUNE 1952: A seasonal spurt in production caused June prices for edible fishery products to drop substantially below May levels. The wholesale over-all index for edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) for June was 102.8 percent of the 1947-49 average (see table)--2.8 percent below the previous month and 3.6 percent lower than in June 1951, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

Liberal fish landings in New England during June brought prices for fresh offshore drawn haddock 5.6 percent below those reported in May this year and 7.7 percent below June 1951. An increase in the landings of halibut and salmon in the Northwest caused June prices for these species to also drop (4.3 and 4.0 percent, respectively) below May, but they still wholesaled substantially (6.9 and 3.9 percent, respectively) above the same month last year. Drawn whitefish receipts at Chicago and New York were fairly heavy in June and prices were considerably lower than the previous month and a year earlier. Lake trout and yellow pike production in the Great Lakes was light and June prices for these were somewhat higher than in May this year and in June last year. The drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup index this June was 6.0 percent below the previous month and 0.6 percent lower than in June 1951.

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

Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification	Point of Pricing	Unit	Avg. Prices ($)		Indexes (1947-49 = 100)			
			June 1952 1/	May 1952 2/	June 1952	May 1952	Apr. 1952	June 1951
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)					102.8	105.8	105.2	106.6
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:					105.1	108.2	107.4	106.7
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:					107.9	114.8	111.9	108.5
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.10	.11	102.5	108.6	86.0	111.0
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.33	.35	102.2	106.8	106.8	95.6
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	"	.54	.56*	120.9	125.9	128.7	116.4
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.39	.53	96.7	130.1	179.7	113.1
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.44	.57*	88.0	131.4	182.0	96.8
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.53	.65*	107.8	101.4	137.3	97.3
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	New York City	"	.46	.44	106.7	102.0	93.8	94.7
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):					100.7	99.2	101.1	103.6
Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.28	.30	93.6	100.4	97.0	94.5
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.59	.56	93.3	88.5	93.3	99.0
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	4.50	4.50	111.3	111.3	111.3	111.3
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):					104.0	102.3	103.8	106.3
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. pkg.	Boston	lb.	.37	.37	129.7	129.7	136.7	147.2
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.24	.24	89.3	89.3	91.1	90.2
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.23	.23	108.3	110.7	110.7	109.5
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg.	Chicago	"	.65	.61	99.5	94.1	94.1	97.9
Canned Fishery Products:					99.4	102.2	101.9	106.5
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	21.00	21.00	109.6	109.6	109.6	126.5
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. ½ tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.35	14.35	89.6	89.6	89.0	88.2
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. ¼ drawn (3¾ oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	6.70	9.65	71.3	102.7	102.7	72.2

1/ REPRESENT AVERAGE PRICES FOR ONE DAY (MONDAY OR TUESDAY, IF AVAILABLE) DURING WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 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.
2/ REVISED. SOME OF THESE MAY 1952 AVERAGE PRICES AS SHOWN IN THE JULY 1952 ISSUE OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW WERE REVISED (* INDICATES REVISION) IN A COMPUTATION MADE AFTER THAT ISSUE WENT TO PRESS.

Processed fresh fish and shellfish prices from June to July rose 1.5 percent, but were 2.8 percent lower than in June last year. Heavier haddock landings in New England caused June's fresh haddock fillet prices to drop 6.3 percent below May and 1.0 percent below June 1951. Although fresh headless shrimp prices rose 5.4 percent from May to June this year, they were still 5.8 percent lower than in June last year.

Processed frozen fish and shellfish prices this June went up 1.7 percent over May, but were 2.2 percent lower than in June 1951. Frozen shrimp, which went up 5.7 percent from May to June, was mainly responsible for the increase in this subgroup. A drop of 2.2 percent in frozen ocean perch fillet prices was not enough to counterbalance the increase in shrimp prices. Compared with June 1951, frozen fillet prices this June were all somewhat lower while frozen shrimp prices were 1.6 percent higher.

Except for a drop of 30.6 percent in canned Maine sardine prices, all other canned fish items were quoted at May levels. With approximately 1,500,000 cases of Maine sardines packed by July 1 and prospects for a large pack very good, Maine sardine brokers reduced prices in an effort to increase demand to levels corresponding to this year's supply. Compared with June 1951, this June's prices for canned pink salmon were 13.4 percent lower and Maine sardines slightly lower, but prices for canned tuna and California sardines were higher. The June index for the canned fishery products subgroup was 2.7 percent below May and 6.7 percent below June 1951.

RETAIL PRICES, JUNE 1952: Higher prices were reported for all foods between mid-May and mid-June, but retail prices of all finfish continued to decline. The mid-June retail price index for all foods (based upon prices paid by urban families of moderate incomes) was 0.3 percent higher than a month earlier and 2.0 percent above mid-June 1951.

Fresh, frozen, and canned finfish retail prices dropped 0.4 percent from mid-May to mid-June and were 3.5 percent lower than during the same period last year. Most of the drop was due to lower prices for fresh and frozen fish.

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

Item	Base	INDEXES		
		June 15,1952	May 15,1952	June 15,195
All foods	1935-39 = 100	231.5	230.8	226.9
All finfish (fresh, frozen and canned)	do	343.9	345.3	356.3
Fresh and frozen finfish	1938-39 = 100	293.3	295.1	291.4
Canned salmon: pink	do	456.9	456.7	511.0

From May 15-June 15, fresh and frozen finfish prices continued to decline a were 0.6 percent below a month earlier, but still 0.7 percent higher than in mid-June 1951. Canned finfish prices remained almost steady, but still were 10.6 pe cent lower than on June 15, 1951.

In mid-June prices at retail for frozen ocean perch fillets averaged 46.1 cents and frozen haddock fillets averaged 50.5 cents per pound. A year earlier frozen ocean perch f lets averaged 46.4 ce and frozen haddock f lets 50.5 cents per pound. The average r tail price for canne pink salmon was 56.5 cents per 16-oz. can compared with 63.2 ce per can in mid-June 1951.

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

Product	Unit	United States	
		Average	Range of Prices
Frozen Finfish Fillets:			
Ocean perch 1/	lb.	46.1	29-69
Haddock 2/	lb.	50.5	35-75
Canned Finfish:			
Salmon, pink	16-oz.can	56.5	39-79

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