



International

UNITED NATIONS KOREAN RECONSTRUCTION AGENCY (UNKRA)

FISHING VESSELS SOUGHT: A total of 29 fishing vessels for the Republic of Korea were sought by UNKRA late this summer from shipbuilders and vessel owners in member countries, according to the Director of that Agency. The closing date for the bids was September 30, 1953.

The vessels sought were to be either new or used and of the following types:

Fourteen 75-ton wooden trawlers

Ten 30-ton purse seiners

Five 50-ton fish carriers

Bids were received from several of the United Nations countries which indicated wide variations in price and delivery. UNKRA later requested quotations from shipbuilding industries of interested countries, together with definite plans and specifications of their standard construction vessels to confirm in general with the size and type of boat indicated in the original specifications.

The general requirements for the wooden trawlers were: within 80 to 100 gross tons, powered with slow-turning four-cycle Diesel engines.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVES KOREAN REHABILITATION PROGRAM: The five-nation Advisory Committee to the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) on August 26 approved the Agency's \$130,000,000 program of long-range rehabilitation of Korea for the year ending June 30, 1954. The Committee is composed of Canada, India, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uruguay. The '54 program, which is essentially an extension of the \$70,000,000 program undertaken by UNKRA last fiscal year, will emphasize capital investment projects designed to provide the bone and sinew of a viable Korean economy.

In the reconstruction and rehabilitation categories the major expenditures include \$18,000,000 for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

In the fields of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, substantial sums will be spent to rehabilitate the fishing industry, and on irrigation, land reclamation, and river control.

The Advisory Committee, as in the past, plans to keep the program under review in order to insure flexibility and to enable it to consider modifications that may from time to time be found desirable, after consultations with the Government of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Command, either to improve its effectiveness or to meet changing conditions in Korea.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SAN DIEGO MEETING: A meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission held in San Diego, California, on August 14, was attended by commissioners from the

United States and Costa Rica--the two member nations--and by a representative of the Republic of Panama, which plans to join soon.

John L. Farley, new head of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, attended as an observer. Richard S. Croker was present as observer for the California Department of Fish and Game, which is cooperating in the Commission's tropical Pacific tuna research program.

U. S. Commissioners were Lee F. Payne of Los Angeles, Eugene Bennett of San Francisco, and Gordon Sloan of Astoria, Oregon. Costa Rican commissioners were Jose L. Cardona-Cooper and Virgilio Aquiluz. Consul General Dias represented Panama.

Payne, member of the California Fish and Game Commission from Los Angeles, was elected president of the Commission.

WHALING

ANTARCTIC 1953/54 CATCH QUOTA REDUCED: The annual catch limitation for baleen whales during the 1953/54 Antarctic pelagic season will be reduced from 16,000 to 15,500 blue-whale units, subject to final approval by member nations of the International Whaling Commission, according to information published in the August 17 Foreign Crops and Markets of the Department of Agriculture. This action was taken during the fifth Annual Meeting of the Commission held at London, England, June 22-26, 1953, and was regarded as necessary to protect world whale stocks.

Other amendments to the Schedule annexed to the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, and approved by the Commission, included: (1) prohibiting the taking of blue whales in the Antarctic before January 16, 1954, and (2) permitting the taking of humpback whales in the Antarctic on February 1, 2, 3, 4. The opening date of the 1953/54 pelagic whaling season is January 2, 1954.

The Commission decided to convene its sixth meeting at Tokyo, Japan, on July 19, 1954.



Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA PATROL VESSELS SCOUT FOR TUNA: British Columbia fishermen get quick word on the arrival of tuna in northern Pacific waters from the Government senior fisheries protection cruisers operating in the North Pacific area, reports the July 1953 Trade News, a Canadian Government publication. The patrol vessels--Laurier, Howay, and Kitimat--carry trolling gear to use for tuna if certain water conditions occur on their regular offshore patrols. This is one of the summer routines which Canadian Fisheries Department vessels undertake to make sure that British Columbia fishermen are quickly notified when tuna arrive in commercial quantities in northern Pacific waters.

When these vessels arrive at offshore coastal waters, the fishing fleet is advised and hundreds of radio-telephone receivers are tuned in each day to hear broadcasts from the fisheries patrol boats. Daily broadcasts on whether or not tuna have been found are given on the fishermen's wave band. Should there be a "strike," fishermen will be the first to know.

Only one or two boats have ever been built and equipped expressly for tuna fishing in British Columbia, but the halibut fleet (now for the most part idle) and the larger salmon trollers are ready at all times to put to sea in a hurry.

So far as the British Columbia fishing industry is concerned, albacore tuna are unpredictable. In the early history of the Province they were unknown to the fisheries.

This may have been due to the fact that in those early days the fishing vessels were not large and sturdy enough to venture far enough out into the Pacific waters where tuna schools occur. In the present century, design and construction of fishing vessels has steadily improved and fishermen have pushed farther and farther westward in their search for fish. In 1939 the first landings of tuna (284,000 pounds) went almost unheralded, but fishermen began to look for this good-selling variety from then on. Subsequent landings fluctuated and dwindled. The first big year came in 1945, when 1,428,000 pounds were caught off the B. C. coast and landed in B. C. ports. The catch exceeded the 2,000,000 pound mark in 1948 for the first time. The following year a record 2,230,000 pounds were landed. The tuna taken in 1948 and 1949 combined put a total of nearly a million dollars into the pockets of British Columbia fishermen, and the fishery was hailed as of ranking importance in the over-all value of the Province's fisheries.

But in the next and succeeding years the tuna fishery fell off abruptly. Since 1949 landings of tuna from catches made off the British Columbia coast have dropped to a trickle. Some of this variety is brought in by B. C. fishermen who have fished off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and even California, and there have been considerable imports of Japanese-caught tuna for processing in B. C. canneries, but quantities caught directly offshore from the B. C. coast during the past three years have been almost negligible.

The albacore tuna is a "schooling" fish. Off the coast of British Columbia they have been taken relatively close to land and as far out as 100 miles. Apparently they are the offshoots of the big tuna runs which appear more or less steadily off California. Only when water temperatures and feed conditions are favorable do they seek the more northerly latitudes. The Department of Fisheries has never lost sight of the fact that in any year these conditions might recur.

Since the first landings of tuna in British Columbia, scientists of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada have added the variety to the list of fishes which receive careful and continuing biological study. At the Pacific Biological Station at Nanaimo, a useful store of knowledge has already accumulated; to this has been added knowledge of a practical kind resulting from actual fishing experiences contributed by the administrative branch of the fisheries in the Pacific area. It is now known that the albacore feeds on pelagic fishes and other small marine life, such surface food being present only in waters of certain fairly high temperatures. Masters of fishery protection cruisers have noted that sweeps of clear blue water and the presence of certain so-called "tuna birds" are an indication that "tuna conditions" may be favorable.

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FISHERMEN'S INDEMNITY FUND GOES INTO EFFECT: The Fishermen's Indemnity Fund, set up by the Canadian Government to enable fishermen to obtain protection against loss or serious damage to their vessels for a yearly premium of one percent, went into effect on July 6 in the Maritime Provinces and on July 13 in British Columbia, Quebec, and Newfoundland.

Fishermen are urged to take advantage of this plan, reports the June 1953 Trade News, a Canadian Government publication. It represents a long-term solution to the problem of compensation when losses occur and it permits a fisherman to retain his independence when misfortune strikes. A specially-trained group of Department of Fisheries officers will carry out necessary appraisals of vessels and assume other duties associated with the plan.

The Fishermen's Indemnity Fund provides protection for fishing vessels ranging in value from C\$250 to C\$7,500 for a premium of only one percent of the value of the vessel. It gives an indemnity of 60 percent of the appraised value in the case of total loss. In case of serious damage--over 30 percent of the appraised value--there will be an indemnity of 85 percent of the amount by which the repair bills are in excess of the 30 percent minimum.

A companion plan, covering lobster traps, will become effective in the Maritime Provinces at the opening of the fall lobster fishing season in Northumberland Strait.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JULY 1953, P. 46.

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FISHING INDUSTRY LACKS SUFFICIENT COLD-STORAGE FACILITIES: Lack of cold-storage facilities is one of the greatest difficulties facing the Canadian fishing industry, the Fisheries Minister of New Brunswick told a group of southern New Brunswick fishermen at St. John on June 17.

Public cold-storage plants were being built through funds supplied by the National Harbours Board and Industrial Bank loans supplemented by Canadian Government subsidies, he said. In some cases, "outright gifts" of C\$10,000 were extended to fishermen's cooperatives which made the freezing facilities available to the public, reports the August 1953 Ice and Refrigeration.

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SASKATCHEWAN STUDIES GREATER FISHERY UTILIZATION OF ITS LAKES: The Saskatchewan Fisheries Branch is undertaking a detailed biological study of lakes in the Buffalo region of northwestern Saskatchewan, which will make possible higher utilization of these waters, the Saskatchewan Fisheries Director said recently.

A start on the study (expected to be completed in 1956) was made in the summer of 1952. Lakes under investigation are Peter Pond, Churchill, Frobisher, and Lac Ile-a-la-Crosse, reports the August 4 Saskatchewan News, a Saskatchewan Government publication.

The study will determine the safe annual limit of fish which may be harvested from the lakes, and particularly the maximum production figure for rough fish like tullibee.

Information gained from the study is needed for implementation of a management program "serving the best interests of both commercial fishermen and mink ranchers," states the Director. Because mink ranching is becoming an important industry in the area, he said, it is essential that production of species like tullibee, used as mink food, be increased.



Chile

TAX EXEMPTIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS GRANTED TO FISHERIES: In order to stimulate the Chilean fishing industry, various tax exemptions and other Government aids were granted the Chilean fisheries in Decree No. 208 of July 21, 1953, an August 6 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Santiago states.

In the first place, the Decree exempts the fishing industry for a period of ten years from the following taxes: a portion of the income tax; the excess-profits tax; certain taxes on vessels and equipment; the production tax on marine-oil manufacturers; and import duties on equipment and materials employed by the fishing industry. The Decree also establishes under the Ministry of Agriculture a Consultative Council for Fish and Game.

The most noteworthy of the privileges accorded under the Decree, from the United States point of view, is the exemption of fishing concerns from foreign exchange regulations on their exports. Thus, exporters of fish may hereafter convert foreign exchange into Chilean pesos at rates up to and including the free market curb rate. This will

amount in effect to a subsidy to the fishing industry, and should lead to greater exports of fish (particularly tuna) to the United States and other destinations.

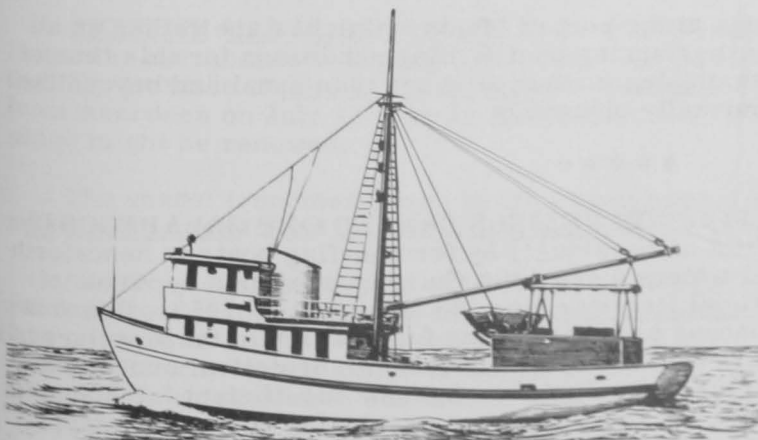


A CHILEAN TRAWLER

Other provisions of the Decree include Government aid in establishment of schools and housing for fishermen, measures to prevent pollution of waters, and more liberal regulations on the exploitation of shellfish beds.



Colombia



TYPE OF TUNA VESSEL BUILT BY SWEDISH SHIPYARD FOR COLOMBIAN FISH CANNERY.

NEW FISH CANNERY RECEIVES FIRST FISHING VESSEL FROM SWEDEN: Colombia's first fish cannery, not yet completed, recently received the first fishing vessel from Sweden, reports the August 8 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication. The vessel was constructed in Sweden according to the specifications of the Colombian firm. The Swedish crew which brought the vessel across the Atlantic will remain in Colombia for some years under contract to the firm, and will train Colombian personnel to operate this vessel and others to follow.

Colombia's first fish cannery, situated in the Pacific port of Buenaventura, is expected to be completed by the end of 1953 at a cost of 5 million pesos (US\$2 million). The cannery is operated with all-Colombian capital. It is expected that several types of fish found in the Pacific coastal waters will be canned on a commercial basis once the plant begins to operate.



Denmark

U. S. GOOD MARKET FOR DANISH FISHERY PRODUCTS: The situation with regard to Danish exports of fishery products to the United States was reviewed recently by the Danish fishery attache stationed in New York, according to a report in Dansk Fiskeritidende (July 24, 1953), a Danish trade paper. The attache stated that the large increase in exports of Danish fillets had been dealt a hard blow by the drastic drop in cod fillet prices in the U. S., but that the situation had corrected itself insofar as cod was concerned and it was believed that a price increase would occur. He stressed the need for laying great weight on quality because the importers were very particular and competition was keen.

He also mentioned that Danish exporters must consider other packing methods more suited to U. S. tastes. The export of preserved fish, especially brisling, was thought to have possibilities. There was great interest in Danish fish meal. All fish meal offered had been sold.

The merchandising of Danish brook trout also had been satisfactory. In 1951 Denmark exported brook trout to the U. S. valued at Kr. 3,300,000 (US\$477,000). In 1952 the exports increased to a value of Kr. 5,500,000 (US\$795,000). Restaurants were the most important users of Danish brook trout, but there appeared to be a definite possibility to increase sales of brook trout by packing them in cartons.



Ecuador

NEW TUNA FIRM FORMED BY U. S. CITIZEN: A new company that will handle frozen tuna has been formed in Ecuador under the manager ship of a United States citizen, states an August 11 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Quito. The company has an authorized capital of 100,000 sucres (US\$6,600). It is now operating with a provisional permit to purchase fish only, but hopes to work out a contract with the government which will permit it to operate its own boats. The new company now has a freezer boat in Manta harbor which will be used in transporting the fish to Seattle, Washington.

The firm is now purchasing tuna at the port of Manta. Catches are rather small because the Manta fishermen are experiencing poor fishing conditions for this time of the year, reportedly due to the fish staying farther offshore than usual and beyond the range at which the inshore boats normally operate.

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FISHING FOR GOATFISH BY FOREIGN VESSELS BANNED OFF GALAPAGOS ISLANDS: Fishing for goatfish (cabrilla or bacalao^{1/}) by foreign-flag boats is henceforth prohibited in Ecuadoran territorial waters around the Galapagos Islands by virtue of Decree No. 950-d published in Official Register No. 283 of August 6, 1953. Reasons for this measure as given in the Decree are that fishing for goatfish in those waters has been too intensive; that the goatfish reserves are menaced with depletion; and that this important food item of the low-income diet might thus become insufficient for domestic consumption. The Decree also refers to the need for guaranteeing continuing employment to Ecuadoran fishermen engaged in fishing for goatfish.

^{1/}THE TERM "BACALAO" GENERALLY REFERS TO SALTED COD, BUT IS COMMONLY USED FOR ALL TYPES OF FISH THAT ARE SALTED.

In addition to prohibiting fishing for goatfish by foreign-flag vessels, the Decree provides that goatfish may not be exported from Ecuador unless the Minister of Economy grants a special license for such exportation after having determined that goatfish reserves are sufficient to satisfy domestic consumption needs, an August 21 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Quito states..



German Federal Republic

EAST GERMANY PLACES LARGE FISH ORDERS: The Food Section of the East German Government's Office of Import and Export has concluded an agreement with representatives of the fishing industry at Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Cuxhaven, and Kiel in West Germany, whereby fish valued at DM11,000,000 (US\$2,616,000) will be delivered from those ports to the Soviet Zone. Of this sum, Hamburg and Bremerhaven received orders totaling DM3,500,000 (US\$832,000) each; while the orders for fish from Cuxhaven and Kiel totaled DM3,000,000 (US\$713,000) and DM1,000,000 (US\$238,000), respectively. German officials feel that the amount ordered from Hamburg will be raised to DM7,000,000 (US\$1,664,000), and possibly may reach as high as DM15,000,000 (US\$3,567,000), a July 31 U. S. consular dispatch from Hamburg states.

An official of the Fish Section of the German Federal Food Office emphasized that fish shipments from these ports to the East are necessary, since the division of Germany has adversely affected the West German fishing industry. Before World War II, 40 percent of the fish caught at these ports was consumed in the Soviet Zone; whereas, in 1952 only 9,000 metric tons (1 percent of the total catch) were delivered to that zone.

To minimize the propaganda value of this trade and to insure that only reliable firms obtain export licenses, the West German Federal Government has established sales organizations which will control the export of fish to the Soviet Zone.



Greece

IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS, 1952: Total imports of fishery products into Greece in 1952 amounted to 23,151 metric tons, reports Aleia, a Greek trade magazine. Cod (probably salted) was the leading item imported with a total of 12,462 tons; followed by herring (probably cured) 7,214 tons; and fresh fish 700 tons. Miscellaneous fishery products--salted, canned, fish roes, etc.--comprised the remaining 2,775 tons.

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SCOTTISH TRAWLER PURCHASED: The Scottish trawler Goodmar, one of the largest in the Aberdeen fishing fleet, has been purchased by a Greek firm, according to the July 18 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade magazine. The vessel sailed from Aberdeen on July 12 with an Aberdeen crew, who are under a six-months' contract, which might be renewed.

The vessel (renamed Jason by its Greek owner) has been purchased as an experiment. The captain and his crew are to teach the Greeks the Scottish method of trawling.

At Piraeus, Greece, the vessel will be overhauled and fitted with the latest type of refrigeration plant. This and other machinery was taken on board the vessel at Aberdeen along with modern trawling gear. Thereafter, the trawler will proceed to the west coast of Africa, where a type of bream is caught. After gutting and cleaning the fish, they will be quick-frozen and stored until a full catch has been obtained.

Iceland

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA INVOLVES LARGE QUANTITIES OF FISHERY PRODUCTS: A trade agreement between Iceland and the U. S. S. R. involving large quantities of fishery products was signed in Moscow on August 1, 1953, by the Chief of the Foreign Trade Section of the Icelandic Foreign Office, and representatives of the U. S. S. R. Ministry of Trade. The agreement is effective for one year beginning July 1, 1953, reports an August 4 U. S. Consular dispatch from Reykjavik.

The agreement provides for the exchange of the following commodities:

(1) 21,000 metric tons (about 46,300,000 pounds) of frozen Icelandic cod and ocean perch (presumably fillets) for 200,000 tons of Russian POL products, including 90,000 tons of gas oil, 80,000 tons of fuel oil, and 30,000 tons of motor gas. This is a straight barter.

(2) 75,000 bbls. of salted Faxa Bay herring (about 7,500 tons) with an optional 25,000 bbls. additional.

(3) 50,000 bbls. of salted North Coast herring (about 5,000 tons) with an optional 30,000 bbls. additional.

(4) 2,600 metric tons of frozen Faxa Bay herring, with an optional 3,000 tons additional, on a barter basis for rye meal, rice, potato starch, reinforcing bars, galvanized and black pipe, and cement.

The above-listed Icelandic imports represent the country's annual requirements in most cases. The total value of trade is estimated at about I. Kr. 180 million (US\$11 million).

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LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL BANK TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURE AND LESSEN DEPENDENCE ON FISHERIES: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on September 4 made two loans for Iceland in European currencies, according to a September 4 release from that organization. One (in various currencies equivalent to US\$1,350,000) will assist in carrying forward a program of agricultural development. The other of £90,000 (US\$252,000) is to finance the construction of a building to house radio transmitter equipment serving North Atlantic air traffic.

The agricultural loan, like the one made in 1951, is to further a program begun in 1951 to increase Iceland's agricultural production. The purpose of the program is to restore agriculture to its former place of importance and lessen Iceland's dependence on the fishing industry. The program aims to increase agricultural production 50 percent by 1965, and should improve Iceland's foreign exchange position considerably through import savings and export earnings.



India

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENTS: Experiments in deep-sea fishing carried out by the Government of India off the West Coast, and by the West Bengal Government in the Bay of Bengal, indicate that this type of fishing on a commercial basis is economically feasible, and can contribute substantially to the country's food resources. A 250-ton Japanese trawler brought in by the Government for exploratory work in the Arabian Sea made a record catch this season and completed operations with a net profit. Now that the financial soundness of the venture has been demonstrated, the Government hopes that Indian private enterprise will be encouraged to enter the field on its own or in collaboration with Japanese fishing interests, reports the August 22 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication.

The Deep-Sea Fishing Station at Bombay is employing two 100-ton trawlers to drag the ocean bed and two smaller "reckie" boats for surface and mid-water fishing. These vessels will gather information on fishing conditions off the West Coast--such as the types and numbers of fish available at different seasons, the depths at which they are found, and the kind of equipment required to catch them--and will train fishermen in the proper techniques. On the average, 75 percent of the catch made by the trawlers, operating mainly within the 40-fathom limit, consisted of fish of high food value, including dara, ghol, mullets, pomfret, and eels. The results of the surface and mid-water fishing have been less successful, largely because of inexperience, and the Government has arranged to bring a master fisherman from the United Kingdom to supervise operations during the coming season.

The catches made in the Bay of Bengal by two trawlers purchased from Denmark by the West Bengal Government were also encouraging. The trawlers were manned by Danish crews who will eventually be replaced by Indians. The three Japanese bull-trawlers which the West Bengal and Indian Government will soon acquire in partnership will materially expand exploration in the waters off the East Coast.

Two new cold-storage plants, similar to the large Central Government facilities already in operation in Bombay, are being built by the Madras Government at the West Coast ports of Mangalore and Calicut. Work is also progressing on ten small ice factories and cold-storage plants which are being built with foreign assistance in the states of Saurashtra, Bombay, Cochin, Madras, and Orissa.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, APRIL 1953, P. 45.



Japan

CANNED TUNA EXPORT PRICES: Increased prices of Japanese canned tuna (white meat, albacore) for export were recently announced by the Tokyo Canned Tuna Sales Company, the main outlet for exporters selling principally to the United States market. No changes were announced for light-meat tuna (skipjack and yellowfin), an August 12 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports.

The new prices as compared with the old prices are listed below:

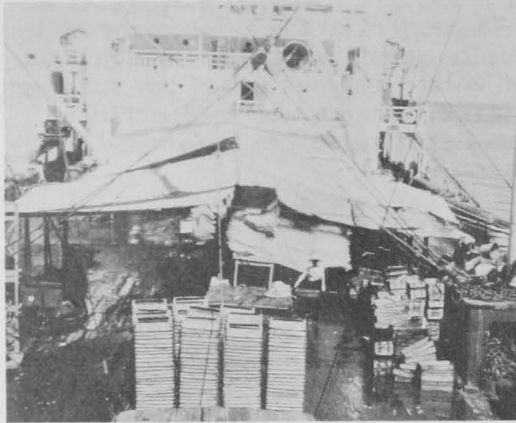
Item	Type of pack Case and can size	New prices ^{1/}		Old prices	
		In brine	In oil	In brine	In oil
..... (US\$ per case)					
White-meat tuna (albacore) solid	48 3½-oz. cans	5.85	5.95	5.70	5.80
Do.	48 7-oz. cans	9.90	10.00	9.60	9.70
Do.	24 13-oz. cans	9.00	9.10	8.70	8.80
Do.	6 4.4-lb. cans	10.50	10.60	10.20	10.30
Do. flakes	48 6½-oz. cans	7.90	8.00	7.70	7.80

^{1/}F.O.B. JAPAN, INCLUDING 2-PERCENT COMMISSION FOR BROKERS.

TUNA EXPORT LEGISLATION MAKES NO PROGRESS: The proposed bills which would favor the export of canned over frozen tuna did not make any headway in the session of the Diet which adjourned August 10. Consideration of legislation to encourage the exportation of marine products (including tuna) may be discussed at the next ordinary session of the Diet scheduled to begin in December, reports an August 12 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo.

TUNA MOTHERSHIP EXPEDITION REPORTS GOOD CATCHES: A recent report from the tuna mothership fleet operating off Solomon Islands in the Pacific indicates good catches, comparing favorably with those of last year, an August 12 U. S. Embassy

dispatch from Tokyo states. The catch for the first month of operation ending July 10 amounted to over 4.6 million pounds or 37 percent of the catch target of 1.2 bil-



LOOKING AFT TOWARDS THE WORKING AREA ABOARD A TUNA MOTHERSHIP. PANS IN THE FOREGROUND ARE FOR HOLDING FILLETS.

Catch (to July 10) of Japanese 1953 Tuna Mothership Expedition Operating off Solomon Islands		
Species	Number of fish	Lbs.
Received:		
Yellowfin tuna	34,658	2,541,371
Other tuna	10,397	530,876
Swordfish	7,927	940,828
Shark	7,607	627,536
Other fish	284	7,253
Total	60,873	4,647,864
Processed:		
Yellowfin tuna, round	25,256	1,761,816
Yellowfin tuna, fillets		495,886
Other tuna, fillets ...		409,241
Swordfish, fillets ...		541,875
Shark, fillets		445,141
Other fish, round ...		7,335
Total		3,661,294

lion pounds by mid-September (see table). The position of the mothership in mid-July was approximately 7°31' S. latitude and 160°03' E. longitude. The fleet is operating with 1 carrier (11,224 gross tons), 30 catcher boats (average 130 gross tons each), and 2 small carriers (average 1,000 gross tons each).

BERING SEA CRAB EXPEDITION COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL SEASON: The Japanese crab expedition to the Bering Sea completed its fishing in Bristol Bay on August 16, ending a successful season, according to a recent U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. Preliminary data indicate a total production of 58,240 cases (48 cans of 6½ ounces each), consisting of 47,858 cases of first-grade and 10,382 of third-grade crab meat. The target catch was originally set by the Japanese Government (April 1953) at 50,000 cases, but because of good fishing was raised to 57,000 cases on July 8. The excess of 1,240 cases is reported to represent the catch of the gear in the water at the time the canning operation aboard the mothership reached the limit of 57,000 cases.

Most of the canned crab meat is expected to be exported to the United States. Total Japanese exports of this product in 1952 amounted to 111,492 cases, consisting of 85,236 cases of king crab and 26,256 cases of other crab. Of this total, 95,961 cases (84 percent) was shipped to the United States.

NORTH PACIFIC SALMON EXPEDITION CATCH EXCEEDS TARGET: The Japanese salmon expedition (consisting of three fleets) to the North Pacific resulted in a catch of approximately 7,700,573 salmon (see table), 38 percent above the target set by the Japanese Government, reports a recent U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. The expedition left the grounds August 10-12.

Japanese North Pacific Salmon Expedition Catch by Species, 1953	
Species	Number of Fish
Red	1,580,107
Chum	2,707,363
Pink	3,064,439
Silver	340,611
King	8,053
Total	7,700,573

Salmon was canned on the fishing grounds by one of the three fleets aboard the Meisei Maru, the only mothership equipped for this operation. Against a target of 40,000 cases,

preliminary data indicate a pack of 37,427 cases (48 cans of 7 ounces each), consisting of 21,450 cases of red and 16,977 cases of pink salmon. Canning of some of the catch of the other two fleets will be done at shore facilities in Japan--about 40,000 cases (10,000 cases of red and 30,000 cases of pink) may be packed.

Much of the salmon catch is expected to be consumed in the Japanese domestic market as frozen, salted, and canned. Exporters are showing interest in increasing exports of canned salmon despite high prices being quoted in the Japanese domestic market. With the recent relaxation of restrictions on imports from Japan by Australia, expectations are for expanded exports of canned salmon to that country. Tokyo firms have reportedly concluded a contract to ship 20,000 cases (96 cans of 3½ ounces each) to Australia in 1953 at US\$29 per case for red and US\$23 for pink salmon, f. o. b. Japan. Total Japanese exports of canned salmon to all countries in 1952 totaled 38,210 cases (48 cans of 7 ounces each), mostly to Ireland and the Netherlands; Australia received 2,072 cases. Shipments to United States and territories were to Guam only (1,090 cases).



Liberia

FAO EXPERTS AID FISHERIES: Expansion of the Liberian fisheries on the Atlantic Coast might now be possible through technical assistance provided by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) experts, reports an August bulletin from that agency. FAO has one expert on fishing craft and gear, and another working on fish processing. The Liberian assistants assigned to the FAO project were given instruction at a practical fisheries course started by FAO experts. They studied navigation, use and repair of oil engines, fish processing, wire trap making, and net making and repair.

With the Liberian assistants they have trained, and using their motorized canoe, the FAO motorboat, and nets and other gear manufactured in their school, the FAO men have proved that they can trawl as far as ten miles out and bring in large catches of a wide variety of fish and shellfish. They have sold most of this at low prices--15 cents a pound--to consumers in Monrovia who could not previously afford to eat fish.

They have also demonstrated that it is feasible to process good quality smoked fish which stays in good condition long enough for transport and marketing in the interior.



Norway

FROZEN FILLETS STORED AT TRONDHEIM FOR EXPORT TO UNITED STATES: Recently a contract was signed between a Trondheim (central Norway) cold-storage firm and the large Norwegian fish producing corporation in north Norway, whereby large quantities of frozen fish fillets from north Norway will be shipped to Trondheim and await shipment to the United States. In order to meet the stepped-up requirements, the Trondheim company is building new facilities that will double its cold-storage capacity, according to an August 13 release from the Norwegian Information Service.

This new era in exporting fillets was initiated on July 14 when a 12,000-ton U. S. vessel (Mormacmail) sailed with a cargo of 130 metric tons of frozen fish fillets and 400 tons of herring meal and canned fish for the United States market. Late in July, another vessel (Lyngenfjord) sailed with a large consignment of frozen fish fillets; and on August 13 a third vessel (Thalatta) was due to sail to the United States with frozen fillets.

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BARENTS SEA COD INVESTIGATIONS: An investigation of the food conditions of cod in the Barents Sea in the Arctic Ocean northeast of Norway is being made by the Norwegian fisheries research vessel G. O. Sars, reports the Norwegian Information Service in a September 3 release. The vessel left the port of Tromso recently. The expedition is headed by a consultant of the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate and two other scientists.

Interviewed by the newspaper Tromso, the consultant observed that a good deal was known about the mature Arctic-Norwegian cod. It has been established that when the cod are 8 to 10 years old they leave the Barents Sea to spawn on the banks off North Norway, thus providing the basis for the important Lofoten cod fisheries. What the present expedition will look into are the conditions of the cod before they start spawning. As the Lofoten cod shoals fluctuate in size from year to year, Norwegian scientists are inclined to believe that these variations are related to conditions prevailing in the Barents Sea.

In an effort to throw light on this moot subject, the researchers aboard G. O. Sars plan to study the food supplies available to the Arctic-Norwegian cod, as well as other factors that could influence the annual fish migrations to the Lofoten banks. They also hope to determine how far north the cod go in the Barents Sea. To do so, they will measure the temperature and the salt content of the ocean water all the way to Franz Josef Land. It has previously been observed that cod are found only in water with a temperature of over 35° F.

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BRISLING SARDINE PACK UP: Norwegian canneries this season as of July 25 had packed 439,450 cases of brisling sardines, an increase of 45 percent when compared with the 302,390 cases packed by the same date in 1952, an August 20 release from the Norwegian Information Service reports.

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TUNA CATCH POOR: Only about 600 metric tons of tuna had been landed in Norway toward the end of July, or about one-tenth as much as at the same time in 1952, according to a report in Fiskaren (July 29), a Norwegian trade paper. The quality of the fish landed was good and sales contracts were being sought in the United States and in Italy.



Panama

FISHING REGULATIONS AMENDED: The Panamanian Minister of Agriculture on August 5 issued Decree 172 effective immediately, which: (1) prohibits commercial fishing "within waters of the continental shelf of the Republic" except by persons possessing a second-class commercial license; (2) "until the Executive Organ dictates an organic law on this subject, commercial fishing will be permitted only by" Panamanian-built vessels, but the vessels already imported for this purpose are excepted from this provision. The preamble states that the purpose of the Decree is to protect national marine life against exploitation and to develop local shipbuilding. Bait fishing by ocean-going vessels is not affected by the Decree and will be governed by special provisions, an August 6 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Panama City states.

Significantly, the Decree implements the Panamanian claim to the continental shelf. Also, for the first time a specified commercial license is required (costing US\$10 yearly) which can be bought only by Panamanian and American citizens.

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COMMERCIAL FISHING ESTABLISHES RECORD YEAR: During 1952 a total of 4,527,060 pounds of fish and shellfish, with a value of \$1,051,999, was taken from the Gulf of Panama (Pacific side) as revealed by official data supplied by the Panamanian Office of Statistics. During 1951, a total of 1,892,075 pounds was caught, valued at \$373,100, reports a recent U. S. Embassy dispatch from Panama.



Peru

SOUTH PACIFIC TERRITORIAL WATERS DECLARATION APPROVED: Official approval on the part of the Peruvian Government of the Declaration on territorial waters signed in the First Conference on Exploitation and Conservation of the Maritime Resources of the South Pacific, held at Santiago, Chile, in August 1952, was given in a Supreme Resolution dated April 11, 1953, and first published in the official gazette, El Peruano, on May 15, 1953.

By the act signed at the Conference, the governments of Chile, Ecuador, and Peru proclaim exclusive sovereignty and jurisdiction over the adjacent seas extending to a minimum distance of 200 marine miles from their respective coasts, as well as over the land and subsoil corresponding to this zone. The Governments also agreed to subscribe to agreements for the regulation and protection of the natural resources in these waters, a June 16 American Embassy dispatch from Lima points out.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, MARCH 1953, P. 42.



Spain

SHRIMP SHIPPED TO U. S.: For the first time there has been a shipment of frozen shrimp from Spain to the United States, reports the U. S. Consulate at Seville. Late in June a firm in Huelva shipped five tons of frozen shrimp to a Puerto Rico firm for reshipment to the continental United States. It is predicted that the shipment of frozen shrimp from Spain to the United States will become an important item in future trade. Negotiations are now under way to supply large quantities of shrimp from the new freezing plant in Cadiz which is due to open soon.



Thailand

TILAPIA CULTURE: Tilapia fingerlings (500,000 fish) are being distributed every month to Thai Government fisheries stations, state-owned waters, and to the ponds and irrigated rice fields of small farmers in Thailand. This is the result of a joint effort of the Thai Government and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), both of whom are concerned to give the people of Thailand a health-building diet, an August bulletin from FAO reports.



THAI INLAND FISHERMEN HAULING IN A SEINE NET.



FAO EXPERT ASSISTED BY THAI TECHNICIANS PACKING FISH FINGERLINGS IN SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED OXYGEN FISH SUPPLY CONTAINERS FOR LONG DISTANCE TRANSPORT, THUS REDUCING MORTALITY.

The people of Thailand have not been undernourished; but they have been malnourished, because their basic diet was not filled out with enough proteins. Tilapia, introduced into Thailand by the FAO, and multiplying at a phenomenal rate, is rapidly becoming the standard protein supplement to the standard carbohydrate diet of the ordinary people of Thailand.

The farmers of Thailand call the Tilapia "The mad fish of the Orient. The fish that eats like mad, grows like mad, and reproduces like mad." Tilapia are mouth breeders. They protect their eggs during the incubation period and their young in moments of danger by guarding them in their mouths.



Union of South Africa

CANNED FISH EXPORTS TO U. S. INCREASED: Approximately 300,000 cases (48 1-pound cans) of canned pilchard and jack mackerel (maasbankers) have been sold for delivery to the United States, reports an August 11 U. S. consular dispatch from Cape Town. This represents about 35 percent of the 1952 production of canned pilchards and maasbankers.

Because of the disappearance of the California sardine, these purchases of canned fish are to be used primarily by United States firms to maintain their positions in various world markets. In fact, it is believed that most of the 300,000 cases were purchased by a representative of one of the largest of the California fish canning companies.

South African fish canners are also taking an interest in the Philippine market where the absence of California sardines has created a strong demand for the South African product.

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FISHERMEN'S TRAINING SCHOOL: Beginning in 1954, young men wishing to become fishermen will receive a special training course at the South African Naval Gymnasium at Saldanha Bay. This course will be open to medically fit Europeans between the ages of 16 and 22 possessing a Standard VII certificate. Training will take a year and 30 trainees will be admitted in 1954, reports the July 1953 South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review.

This vocational training scheme represents the culmination of more than 20 years of effort by Dr. Cecil von Bonde and other leaders in the fishing industry to develop schools for fishermen.

The practical or vocational school would provide competent and well-trained fishermen for the vessels. The trainees would receive instruction in navigation, seamanship, engine maintenance, signalling, tending nets, and in several other aspects of fishing.

In a longer and more detailed schooling, young men could be trained for work ashore. The latter would take a comprehensive course which would include such subjects as fisheries science, plant operation, accounting, fisheries economics, etc. This fisheries school or university course would correspond to the instruction provided in the various agricultural colleges.

The detailed course is still to come, but beginning in 1955 the South African fishing industry can count on a trained nucleus of young fishermen. Not only will they have been well-grounded in fishing practice, but they should also show the benefits of a full year under naval discipline; for the 30 trainees are to be accepted as full-time cadets for one year in the South African Navy.

This will provide the Navy with a valuable reservoir of trained men for use in an emergency. The 30 fishing trainees are to receive free board and lodging at the Gymnasium, they will get free medical treatment, free uniforms, and, instead of having to pay for their training, they will receive Navy rates of pay for full-time service. In addition, the fishing course exempts the recruit from normal part-time military training.



United Kingdom

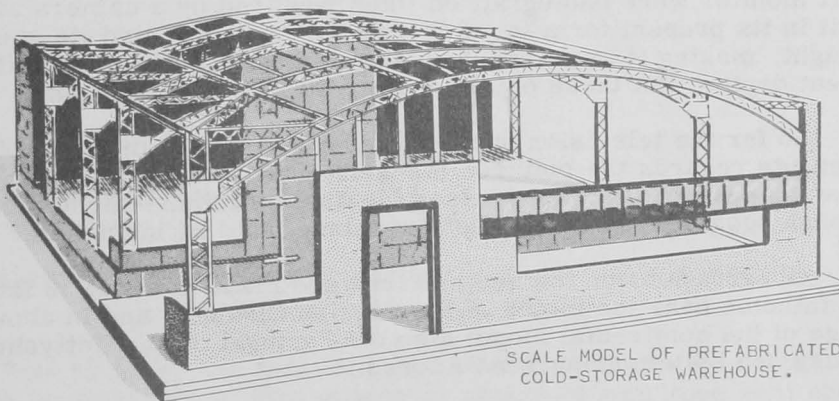
WHITE FISH AUTHORITY TO SURVEY OPERATING COSTS OF DISTANT-WATER TRAWLERS: At the suggestion of trawler owners in Hull, Grimsby, and Fleetwood, the "profit and loss" accounts of nearly 300 distant-water trawlers are to be examined as part of a nationwide survey by the White Fish Authority (WFA) into the operating costs of Britain's fish industry, states the August 15 Fish Trades Gazette, a British trade magazine. The trawler check will cover the two years ending September 30 this year, and when completed will give the WFA a complete picture of the trading operations of an important section of the fish-catching industry--a section that catches half the white fish landed in the United Kingdom.

The three-page questionnaire to be sent to trawler owners represents the first attempt by the WFA at tabulating the accounts of the distant-water section of the industry, for the trawlers concerned do not come within the Authority's subsidy scheme.

Owners will be asked for each trawler to give the value of landings during the last two years, the number of voyages made, and the number of days spent at sea. Questions on expenses will include the cost of fuel, provisions, repairs and gear, marine insurance, and the wages of officers and men.

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PREFABRICATED REFRIGERATED WAREHOUSES: A London firm is soon to market a prefabricated refrigerated warehouse, reports the July 25 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade magazine. It is claimed that this type warehouse will cut the capital cost in half as compared with the conventional cold-storage buildings, and also greatly reduce labor costs. A scale model of this warehouse was exhibited in London recently and attracted much attention from refrigeration experts, representatives of the fish industry, and others interested in cold storage.



SCALE MODEL OF PREFABRICATED COLD-STORAGE WAREHOUSE.

The construction of the warehouse is simplified by covering the roof with continuous aluminum sheeting, secured by clip-on rolls. It is claimed that this method eliminated horizontal joints and consequent leakage.

It was also claimed that the high cost of manual labor in loading and unloading-- (a serious economic problem to all large-scale cold-storage operators)-- was greatly reduced in the new prefabricated design by its clear, pillarless working space, some 18 ft. high, in which it is possible to operate an electric pallet-stacking truck handling large quantities of goods with only one operator. At the same time, the high volume-

to-area of insulation ratio reduced capital cost and the power consumption of the refrigeration plant; while because of the design of the warehouse the refrigeration plant itself necessitated less cost.

The storage plant costs £30,000 (US\$84,000) without the refrigeration plant, and is to be supplied--with its own engine room and reception bay--in standard parts, ready for quick and simple erection. The inside dimensions of the smallest unit are 65 x 62 x 18 feet, providing 73,000 cubic feet of storage space. Larger units with a clear span of up to 200 feet, by any length, will be supplied. The engine room section can be made larger to hold other processing equipment.

Another model was shown also. This is a pipe-frame cold-storage warehouse and smaller than the other type described above. In this unit no structural steel is used, the building frame being made from standard refrigeration pipes. This design is not yet commercially available, but it is proposed to make it available in the form of standard truss sections (20, 30, or 40 feet wide) to be assembled in units to form plants of varying widths and lengths. Insulation will be provided by standardized insulation blocks to form an envelope over the building. Besides saving labor, this warehouse is estimated to save 60 percent in capital cost.

Also on show was an insulated transit container, described as the cheapest and lightest made, and suitable for shipping frozen fish. The medium size ($1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet) weighs only 32 pounds. The container is very durable, and its cost ranges from £5 10s. (US\$15.40) for the 1-cubic foot size to £9 10s. (US\$26.60) for the $2\frac{1}{4}$ -cubic foot size.

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UNDERWATER TELEVISION CAMERA VIEWS SEA BOTTOM: Trials with underwater television have provided new information about the sea floor, says the British Institute of Oceanography, giving details on equipment developed by the Admiralty on the Royal Research ship Discovery II. The trials show that the technique could develop into a valuable oceanographical instrument, especially if used in conjunction with other gear, reports the July 25 issue of the Fishing News, a British trade magazine.

The camera was first installed on the Discovery II last summer. A modified TV receiver was used as the main monitor, and pictures displayed on the camera control-unit monitor were photographed when required by a camera attached to the unit. The unit in its present form is cumbersome, however, and its scope is limited by its weight, making it unsafe to use except in calm water, and difficult to lower to any great depth. But these objections are likely to be overcome.

So far the television has been most successful in views of the sea bottom, and the Institute regards the pictures taken as of permanent value. Shoals of fish have been seen on several occasions; also plankton organism--these mostly as spots of light, though occasionally the type of organism could be identified.

Observations on the sea bottom were made in about 33 fathoms off Falmouth, in 60 fathoms near the mouth of the English Channel, and in about 80 fathoms near the edge of the continental slope; also off Portugal on the Gettysburg Bank, and on the rocky sea bottom around the Azores.

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RUSSIA ORDERS TRAWLERS: Orders for the building of fishing trawlers for Russia have been received by two British firms--one in Aberdeen and the other in Lowestoft, reports the August 29 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade magazine. The proposed orders are under consideration by the Board of Trade, said an official of the Board "because it is always a feasible argument that fishing trawlers could be converted to minesweepers."

This statement followed questions sent to the President of the Board of Trade by a member of Parliament who said he was told by the Aberdeen Trades and Labour Council that the Russian Government had made approaches "to a number of British shipbuilding firms with a view to placing large orders for building trawlers and fish factoryships." He asked whether it was true that difficulties had been placed in the way of acceptance. He urged the Minister to take steps to remove such difficulties "in the interests of international trade and employment in British shipbuilding yards."

Later information indicates that 40 trawlers and fish factoryships worth about £8,000,000 (US\$22,400,000) are involved. Russia needs these vessels to develop its fishing industry. A British Admiralty committee is considering whether the vessels could be converted into minesweepers; the availability of steel; and effect of the orders on other vital shipbuilding.

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SCOTTISH PORT TO TRAIN FISH WORKERS: The Aberdeen and North-East Regional Advisory Council for Technical Education and Aberdeen's fishing industry have completed plans for training young men and women in the fishery products distribution field. The courses will start in September with a class of 20, functioning under the local authority, reports the July 25 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade magazine.

Employers will release the students from their work on two afternoons each week. One of the afternoons will be given over to theoretical work, and the other to practical. The curriculum will include such subjects as hygiene, background knowledge of the industry, fresh fish preparation and packing for distribution by rail and road, curing and other processing methods, and work of the Torry Research Station on the preservation of fish.



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