



# TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

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

Vessels of 5 net tons and over issued first documents as fishing craft during September totaled 66--15 more than in September 1952. Virginia led with 21 vessels, followed by Florida with 20 vessels, and Louisiana with 8 vessels, according to the Bureau of Customs.

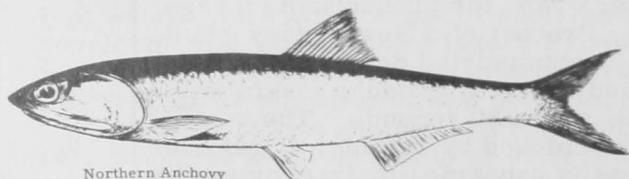
Section	September		January-September		Total 1952
	1953	1952	1953	1952	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England .....	2	2	18	25	30
Middle Atlantic .....	1	-	16	22	26
Chesapeake .....	14	8	67	51	65
South Atlantic .....	10	7	79	64	89
Gulf .....	27	25	183	113	161
Pacific .....	9	5	148	192	203
Great Lakes .....	-	2	5	9	13
Alaska .....	3	2	46	82	88
Hawaii .....	-	-	2	-	-
Total .....	66	51	564	558	675

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



## California

AGE COMPOSITION OF 1952 ANCHOVY CATCH: Preliminary estimates of the age composition of the 1952 (August through December) anchovy catch in California were obtained by cooperative work of the Service's South Pacific Fishery Investigations and the California Department of Fish and Game. In central California (Monterey and San Francisco), about 35 percent of the fish belonged to the 1949 year-class, about 30 percent to the 1950 class, and about 20 percent to the 1948 class. The remaining 15 percent of the catch came from the 1946, 1947, 1951, and 1952 classes.



Northern Anchovy  
(*Engraulis mordax*, Pacific)

In the San Pedro catch, however, about 50 percent of the fish belonged to the 1952 class, with less than 20 percent each from the 1951 and 1950 classes. The 1948 and 1949 classes contributed the remaining 10 percent.

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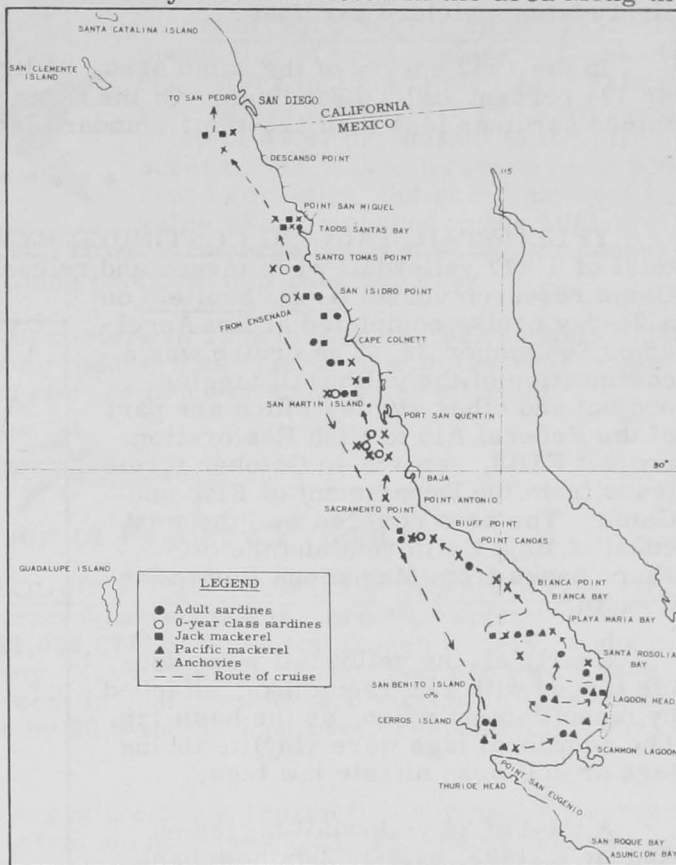
YOUNG SARDINES FROM 1953 SPAWNING ASSESSED BY "YELLOWFIN" (Cruises 53-Y-8 and 53-Y-9): The 1953-year class of California sardines (pilchard) appears to be another weak one, according to observations on the 17-day cruise of the California Department of Fish and Game's research vessel Yellowfin completed at Los Angeles on September 17. However, it seems to be slightly stronger to the north than was the

1952-year class. This was the second of four cruises to attempt the assessment of young sardines from the 1953 spawning. The survey was conducted in the area along the coast of northern Baja California from Point Eugenia to the Mexican Boundary, reports an October 6 release from that agency.

There appears to be more sardines north of Pta. Baja and fewer in Sebastian Vizcaino Bay in 1953 than in 1952, thus the sardine seems to be distributed slightly more to the north.

In Sebastian Vizcaino Bay round herring were very numerous. Anchovies were scarce in this area but were more abundant to the north. There is evidence of a fair 1953-year-class of Pacific mackerel in Sebastian Vizcaino Bay and to the south, but there is a scarcity north of Pta. Baja. Jack mackerel appeared intermittently throughout the entire area surveyed.

The Yellowfin traveled a total of 351 miles while scouting for fish, and observed 210 schools--it was estimated that 35 contained sardines, 33 anchovies, 15 jack mackerel, and 10 Pacific mackerel. Seventy-four light stations were occupied yielding 21 samples of sardines, 25 of anchovies, 14 of jack mackerel, and 8 of Pacific mackerel. Of the 21 samples of sardines collected, seven contained sardines less than 125-mm. standard length. Twenty-eight percent of the light stations yielded sardines. In this same area during the 1952 survey 27 percent of the light stations yielded sardines.

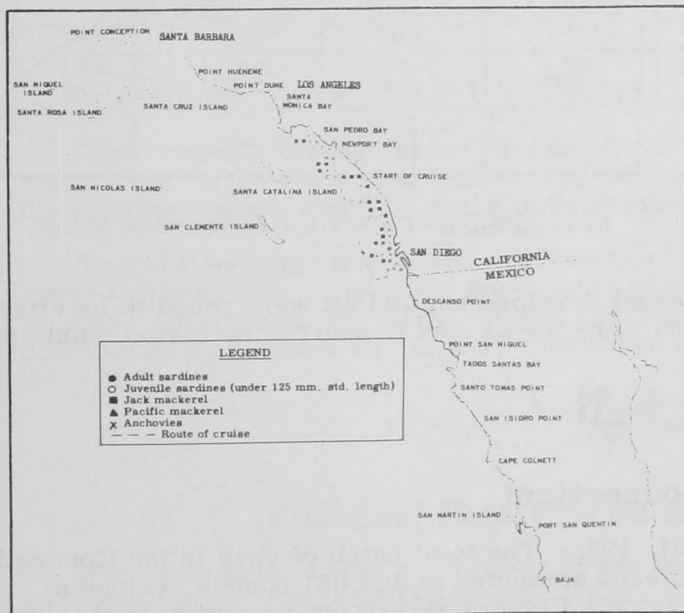


M/V YELLOWFIN CRUISE 53-Y-8, AUG. 31-SEPT. 17, 1953. EACH MARK REPRESENTS ONE SAMPLE.

The third cruise to assess the relative abundance of young sardines from the 1953 spawning and to measure the abundance of anchovies, jack mackerel, and Pacific mackerel was completed by the Yellowfin on October 4. The area along the coast of Southern California from Point Fermin to the Mexican Boundary was covered by this 6-day cruise.

The Yellowfin traveled a total of 130 miles, and five schools were observed en route--3 were estimated to be anchovies and 2 to be jack mackerel. One school of breezing fish was observed during the day alongside the vessel one mile south of Oceanside. The school was sampled and found to be anchovies.

Twenty-nine light stations were occupied yielding 9 samples of sardines, 23 of anchovies, 12 of jack mackerel,



M/V YELLOWFIN CRUISE 53-Y-9, SEPT. 28-OCT. 4, 1953.

and 1 of Pacific mackerel. Of the 9 samples of sardines collected, 3 contained sardines less than 125-mm. standard length (5.8 inches total length). Thirty-one percent of the light stations yielded sardines.

In the 1952 survey of the same area, 24 light stations were occupied. Three of these or 12½ percent yielded sardines. Of the three samples of sardines collected, all contained sardines less than 125-mm. standard length.

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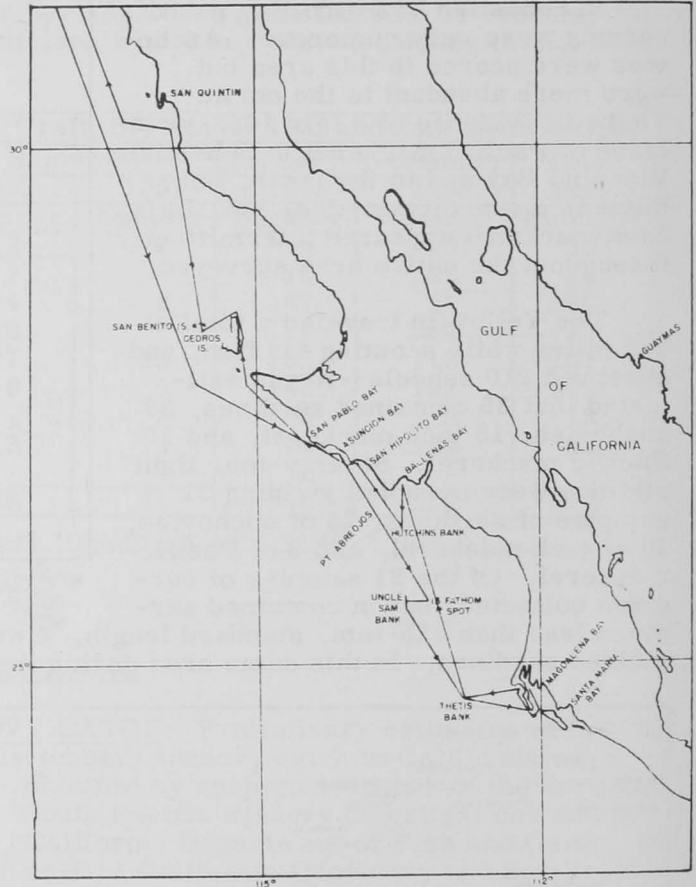
YELLOWTAIL TAGGING CONTINUED BY "N. B. SCOFIELD" (Cruise 53-S-5): A total of 1,477 yellowtail were tagged and released by California's Department of Fish and Game research vessel N. B. Scofield on a 24-day cruise completed at Los Angeles on September 28. The cruise was a continuation of the yellowtail tagging project and other studies which are part of the Federal Aid to Fish Restoration project F1R3, reports an October 6 release from the Department of Fish and Game. The area covered was the west coast of Baja California and the off-shore banks from Magdalena Bay to San Quintin.

Nearly all the yellowtail were double tagged with Petersen disks, attached by monofilament nylon, as the basic tag. The additional tags were vinylite tubing tags or cellulose nitrate jaw tags.

A total of 24 yellowtail tagged on August 7, 1953, at the 13-fathom bank were recaptured in the same locality--21 were released again; two, injured in capture, were saved. Two fish were recaptured the day after tagging and released again. Three other yellowtail showed scars where tags probably had been.

Scale samples were kept from 300 of the tagged fish. It is hoped that some of these fish will be returned at a later date so that it can be seen what actually happens to the scales as the fish grow older.

The casualties were examined for sexual development and all were found to be either spent or young immature fish. These fish were then saved frozen for meristic counts and morphometric studies.



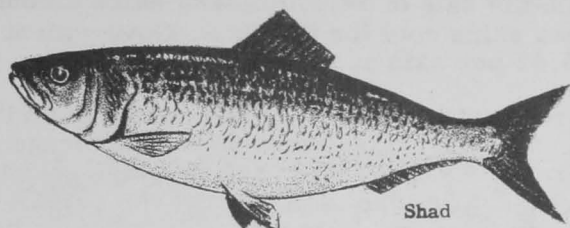
N. B. SCOFIELD YELLOWTAIL TAGGING CRUISE 53-S-5.



## Connecticut

CONNECTICUT RIVER SHAD CATCH, 1953: The total catch of shad in the Connecticut River in 1953 from the 121 nets registered amounted to 400,081 pounds, valued at \$56,639 to the fishermen, reports the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist in that area. In number of fish, the catch consisted of 49,461 buck and 66,716 roe shad. In 1952 there

was a total of 108 nets registered and the catch amounted to 466,674 pounds, valued at \$60,915--consisting of 70,950 buck and 65,452 roe shad.



OYSTER PRODUCTION, 1952: The production of seed oysters in Connecticut waters in 1952 totaled 237,064 bushels, valued at \$681,476 or an average price of \$2.87 per bushel to the producers. This is a decrease of 36 percent in quantity, but only 3 percent in value when compared to the 1951 production of 367,828 bushels, valued at \$700,177 or an average price of \$1.90 per bushel. Oystermen are concerned over this declining production of seed oysters.

The Connecticut production of market oysters in 1952 totaled 163,922 bushels and the average price was \$3.20 per bushel to the producers as compared with the 1951 production of 104,220 bushels which brought an average price of about \$3.30 a bushel.



### Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS PURCHASED BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, SEPTEMBER 1953: The Army Quartermaster Corps in September 1953 purchased 2,292,199 pounds (valued at \$1,025,071) of fresh and frozen fishery products for the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (see table). This was a decrease of 24.8 percent in quantity and 28.1 percent in value as compared with August purchases, and lower by 36.3 and 34.7 percent, respectively, when compared with a year ago.

Army Quartermaster Corps purchases of fresh and frozen fish during the first nine months in 1953 totaled 21,406,211 pounds (valued at \$9,294,731), 18.0 percent lower in quantity and 21.3 percent less in value as compared with the similar period a year earlier.

QUANTITY				VALUE			
September		January-September		September		January-September	
1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,292,199	3,599,651	21,406,211	26,103,721	1,025,071	1,569,421	9,294,731	11,815,029

The over-all average price paid for fresh and frozen fishery products by the Department of the Army during September was 44.7 cents per pound, compared with 46.8 cents the previous month and 43.4 cents in September 1952.

In addition to the purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products indicated above, the Armed Forces generally make some local purchases which are not included in the above figures. Therefore, actual purchases are somewhat higher than indicated, but it is not possible to obtain data on the local purchases made by military installations throughout the country.



### Fur-Seal Skin Prices Lower at Fall Auction

Fur-seal skin prices were lower at the semiannual auction of Government-owned fur-seal skins at St. Louis on October 5, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported to Secretary of the Interior McKay recently. United States skins from Alaska and small lots of South African and Uruguayan skins were offered for sale.

A total of 27,113 skins from the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, where the sealing industry is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was sold for \$1,944,920. At the last auction in April, U. S. receipts from the sale of 24,400 Alaska skins amounted to \$2,084,101. The average price for Alaska skins sold for the U. S. Government in October was \$71.73 per skin, compared with \$85.42 per skin at the April auction.

Of the Alaska skins sold, 16,017 were "matara" brown, 2,900 were "safari" brown (a lighter brown), and 8,196 were black. The matara skins brought an average of \$64.03 per skin as compared with the April average of \$82.67. The safari skins sold for an average of \$45.23 as against \$59.51 in April. The black skins averaged \$96.17, compared to \$100.52 at the April auction.

Because sizes and qualities of skins differ somewhat from one auction to another, these comparisons must be considered relative.

In addition to the U. S. -owned skins, 5,001 Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins were sold for the South African Government at an average of \$25.86 per skin and 817 Uruguay fur-seal skins were sold for the Uruguayan Government at a \$24.73 average.



### Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

"OREGON" DRAGS AT 830-FATHOM DEPTH: A drag at a depth of 830 fathoms was made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's exploratory fishing vessel M. V. Oregon in the northern Gulf of Mexico on October 6, 1953. This was the deepest fishing that the vessel has carried out to date, and it was made with a 40-foot shrimp trawl using 2,300 fathoms of trawling cable. The position was 28°58' N., 88°00' W., about 60 miles east of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

Examination of the chain lead line proved the net had been on the bottom at this depth of nearly one mile. The catch was small, and included seven pounds of very small black fishes and a quart of many kinds of red caridean shrimp. The catch was of more scientific interest than of commercial value at present. Since the net was open at all times, the fish could have been caught at any depth between the surface and the bottom.

Thirty minutes were required to set the trawl, and the haulback took one hour and 45 minutes. Valuable experience was gained for use in future deep-water explorations.



### Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

SHRIMP MAIN TOPIC AT TAMPA MEETING: White shrimp (Penaeus setiferus) was the main topic of discussion at the meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission at Tampa, Florida, on October 15 and 16. Scientists from the Gulf States, universities, and federal agencies pooled their information on the white shrimp, one of the most important commercial species on the Gulf Coast, and it adds up as follows:

Researchers Know-- Characteristics (size composition, state of maturity, and sex ratio) of the commercial catch, both in the inshore and offshore Texas fisheries from 1931 to 1936, and in the Louisiana offshore fisheries from 1940 to 1942. The distribution, size composition, and state of maturity of shrimp along the entire Louisiana coast, in bayous, bays, and inside waters, as determined by fishing with commercial gear from a research vessel during 1931 to 1934. That shrimp spawn in outside waters; when they spawn; how many eggs they produce at one batch. The young move into inside waters of low salin-



ity at a very small size; as they grow they move gradually toward waters of higher salinity, and finally into the open sea. In the open sea west of the Mississippi, shrimp move about at random, in and out along the coast, sometimes traveling as far as 100 miles; east of the Mississippi they move in the direction of the Delta. In Texas, as in other places, young shrimp move from inside to outside. Some large shrimp occur along the northern coast of Mexico during early spring; later in the spring they move northward along the southern Texas coast, going as far as Port Aransas. The annual crops of shrimp fluctuate in abundance.



A MIXED CATCH OF FISH AND SHRIMP JUST AS IT HAS BEEN DUMPED ON THE DECK OF AN OFFSHORE SHRIMP TRAWLER.

good estimates of growth rates below 100 millimeters. The anatomy of early stages of the life history of the shrimp. A number of things about their natural history, but there are many gaps in this knowledge. For example: exactly what shrimp eat, what nourishes them, what stimulates them to moult, to migrate horizontally and vertically, to congregate or disperse, etc., are not known.

**Researchers Believe:** Shrimp spawn more than once, probably in waves with two dominant waves--one in the spring, the other in the fall. In order to survive, young shrimp must reach inside waters. The Mississippi River outflow marks a line of division across which shrimp do not migrate. Large shrimp move southward in fall and early winter along the south Texas and north Mexican coasts. No correlation exists between the number of spawners and the size of broods within the range of abundance over which the researchers have had experience. Climate, offshore hydrographic factors, such as the inshore drift, for example, and unknown conditions in inside areas determine brood survival. Life span of shrimp is something over a year; a few may live as long as two years, perhaps even longer.

**Researchers Do Not Know:** What combination of factors determines year-brood survival; how many shrimp are caught; specifically where they are caught or how much effort goes into catching them; size of shrimp stocks in the Gulf of Mexico; and fishing effect on stocks. If the species composition has changed in recent years, the extent or nature of such changes is unknown. In some areas brown shrimp may have increased and white shrimp decreased. There is some evidence that different species do not intermingle; whether and how they react upon each other is unknown. Average mortality rates of shrimp and effect on the stock of predation or nature, competition, and disease. Distribution of spawning grounds or relation of their location to entrances into inside waters. Mechanism that carries larvae into inside waters.



## Japanese Tuna Mothership Freights Frozen Tuna to U. S.

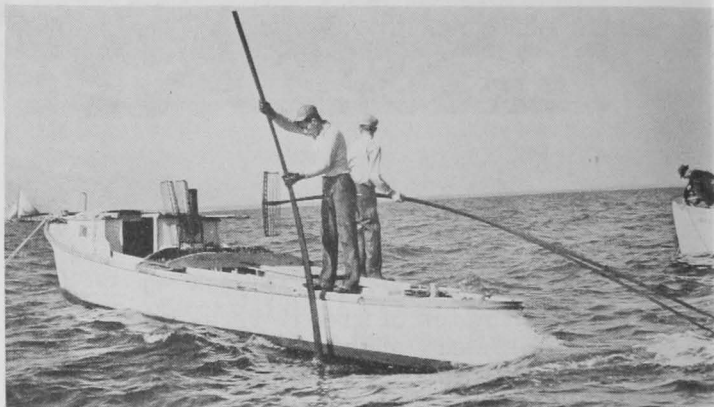
The Japanese tuna mothership *Banshu Maru No. 38* on October 16 landed at San Pedro, California, a cargo of 604 tons of frozen yellowfin tuna and 10,584 cartons of frozen yellowfin tuna fillets. The vessel loaded at Tokyo, Japan. This is the first instance of a Japanese mothership freighting frozen tuna to a United States port, reports the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist at San Pedro.

The frozen yellowfin tuna consisted of 18,056 fish (1,207,200 pounds) in the round; and the fillets weighed 591,264 pounds. The fish were to be canned in a San Pedro plant.



## Maryland

**OYSTER SURVEY:** In October an intensive three-week survey was conducted of Maryland's natural oyster bars lying in the Chesapeake Bay and several of its larger tributaries, reports an October 22 bulletin of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory of Maryland's Department of Research and Education. The oyster-bar survey, the major phases of which are complete, was a joint undertaking by personnel of that Department, the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chesapeake Shellfish Investigations at Annapolis. Approximately 140 half-bushel samples of random mixed material caught by commercial dredge on bars in the Bay and larger tributaries have been examined. Records have been made of the number of marketable oysters, small oysters, spat, 3-inch shells, large and small boxes, together with percent of cinder and observations of oyster enemies, fouling organisms, condition of oyster meats, type of bottom, etc. Detailed findings are filed with the several cooperating agencies. A brief summary of the observations follows:



TONGING OYSTERS IN CHESAPEAKE BAY.

Oysters throughout the area were found generally to be extra fat for this early in the season. Only in the lower portions of the Bay and of Tangier Sound were oysters found with considerable undischarged spawn and fall fattening less advanced than elsewhere. Growth appears to have been slow during the summer but rapid fall growth is in progress. Reports were heard of summer mortalities in certain areas, but on most bars examined survival of oysters was about normal. On the basis of hearsay evidence, it appears that isolated areas in deep water and at a few locations exposed to excessive fresh water during spring and summer may have suffered higher than normal oyster mortalities. Losses on the deep portions of certain bars occur periodically and are believed to be associated with a lack of oxygen caused by marked stratification such as occurred early last summer.

Survival and growth of seed oysters planted in the fall of 1951 and spring of 1952 have been excellent, and these are expected to contribute materially to catches this season. Setting both on natural cultch and planted shell generally has been low so that recruitment to the oyster population is very poor for 1953. A set of 25 to 30 spat per bushel occurred on natural cultch on the Upper Bay Bars along the Eastern Shore, and although a low figure, is better than the average during recent years for that area. Setting was near zero along the Western Shore of the Bay, and in the Choptank and Potomac Rivers. Tangier Sound, Eastern Bay, and Hoopers Straits were other areas visited with light sets considerably below those of other years.

In the seed areas, only the St. Marys River produced sets of commercial value for seed purposes. Counts of spat on 1953 shell in that area were 675 per bushel for the Gravelly Run-Seminary planting and 871 per bushel for Martin Point. The new shells in most cases are mixed with older shells and smaller oysters, but counts of all material caught or "run of the bar" generally were in excess of 600 oysters per bushel.

Several samples of 1953 shells from the Holland Straits planting counted around 200 spat per bushel. On parts of Cinder Hill there were enough yearlings and small oysters on old shell to make the "run of the bar" counts slightly higher but still below the quality usually considered acceptable as seed. New shells on the seed area in Eastern Bay averaged only 35 spat per bushel and setting in that region generally seems to have been a failure.

Most of the other State shell plantings examined failed to receive as many spat as expected, but typically had better sets than did natural cultch in the same areas. Reflecting the slightly better than usual set along the Eastern side of the Upper Bay, the shells planted out of Baltimore last winter at Gum Thicket (lower shore of Kent Island) caught 115 spat per bushel. Those at Poplar Island, however, only showed 14 spat per bushel. At times, scattered original spat or small oysters on the shells before planting were found and had survived well. Where these were especially abundant at a planting on Kirby's in the Choptank, it was found that 88 percent had survived on the basis of a comparison with boxes also present on the planted material. This count was exclusive of small spat which would not be apparent at this date if they had died early in the year.

The highest spat count thus far found occurred on a 1953 shell planting in the upper part of the Great Annemessex where 1,076 spat per bushel was recorded. Other tributaries, some of which usually show high sets, will be examined later.



## New England Tuna Explorations

FINAL CRUISE OF "MARJORIE PARKER" (Cruise 4): Only seven bluefin tuna were caught by the schooner Marjorie Parker on the final cruise of the 1953 season. This vessel, chartered by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries on July 15 for the Gulf of Maine tuna exploration, completed the last cruise at Portland, Maine, on October 14.

The vessel left port on September 21 and during the latter part of September exploratory fishing and gear testing was conducted off the southeastern coast of Nova Scotia, on Browns Bank, and in the "Gully" between Browns and Georges Banks. Only six bluefin tuna were captured on long lines and one tuna was caught on surface-trolling gear. No schooling tuna were sighted in this area.

In early October, operations were carried out in the vicinity of Cashes Ledge from 60 to 70 miles southeast of Portland Lightship, and in the South Channel 40 miles east-southeast of Pollock Rip Lightship. No tuna schools were observed near Cashes Ledge, and fishing results were negative.

On the morning of October 10, within a space of three hours, four schools of tuna were sighted in South Channel. The fish were traveling fast and appeared to be feeding on small herring and other unidentified species which were observed in the water. Long-line sets failed to produce tuna, although the gear was set directly in the path of the schooling fish. One school, estimated to comprise about 100 tuna in the 30- to 45-pound class, was chummed alongside the boat, but hand-line fishing was unsuccessful. Adverse weather conditions prevented fishing in this area after October 11.

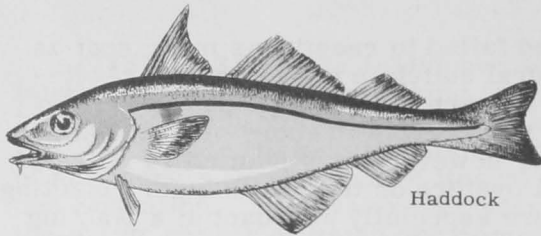
Although tuna catches this year were generally poor and far below those of the first two years' explorations, it does not necessarily mean that the run of New England tuna was smaller than average. This year's exploration was delayed until July 15 due to budget uncertainties, and a large early run of tuna was completely missed. Also, most of the fishing was planned to explore the offshore waters near the edge of the Gulf stream, and little effort was devoted to the inshore areas where the presence of tuna has been well established.





### North Atlantic Fishery Investigations

**ZERO-AGE HADDOCK FOUND TO BE SCARCE OFF NEW ENGLAND BY "ALBATROSS III" (Cruise 55):** A scarcity of zero-age haddock in the Southern New England Banks and the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank area was found by the Service's research vessel Albatross III on a 3-day cruise completed at Woods Hole Mass., on September 25. This indicates poor survival of the 1953 year-class of haddock. This cruise was made to continue the study on the distribution and numbers of zero-age haddock in connection with early life-history and year-class strength studies.



Only one zero-age haddock was found in the area, while yearling fish of other species, principally butterfish and Gulf Stream flounder, were very numerous. A total of 24 20-minute tows with a No. 36 trawl and 30 bathythermograph lowerings were made.



### North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

**FALL-WINTER HERRING FISHING POSSIBILITIES IN PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND BEING INVESTIGATED BY "JOHN N. COBB" (Cruise 17):** An investigation of the commercial herring fishing possibilities in late fall and early winter in Prince William Sound, Alaska, is being conducted by the Service's exploratory vessel John N. Cobb. The vessel sailed from Seattle, Wash., on October 12. The chief purpose of the trip will be to ascertain whether major herring stocks move inshore during the months of October, November, and December, and might be available for commercial fishing. Related information, such as sizes and oil content of the herring, will be obtained. Biological data, including age, weight, and length composition of the catch, will be secured.

Two branches of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will participate in this work: the Branch of Commercial Fisheries and the Branch of Fishery Biology. The John N. Cobb will use depth finders and a newly-developed underwater scanning device to locate herring schools. Samples of herring schools will be obtained with various types of fishing gear, including a herring trawl, sunken gill nets, and a lampara seine.



### U. S. Foreign Trade in Edible Fishery Products, August 1953

United States imports of fresh, frozen, and processed fish and shellfish during August 1953 totaled 72 million pounds (valued at \$17.3 million), according to the August 1953

United States Foreign Trade in Edible Fishery Products, August 1953 With Comparisons						
	August 1953		August 1952		Year 1952	
	Quantity 1,000 Lbs.	Value Million \$	Quantity 1,000 Lbs.	Value Million \$	Quantity 1,000 Lbs.	Value Million \$
Imports:						
Fish & shellfish:						
fresh, frozen & processed <sup>1/</sup> / .....	72,072	17.3	61,470	14.2	705,118	183.1
Exports:						
Fish & shellfish:						
processed <sup>1/</sup> / only (excluding fresh and frozen) ..	2,889	0.8	3,739	0.9	56,604	13.5

<sup>1/</sup>INCLUDES PASTES, SAUCES, CLAM CHOWDER AND JUICE, AND OTHER SPECIALTIES.

United States Foreign Trade, a Department of Commerce publication (see table). This is a decrease of 11 percent in quantity and 9 percent in value as compared with July imports of 81 million pounds (valued at \$19 million). However, August 1953 imports were up 17 percent in quantity and 22 percent in value over a year earlier.

United States exports of processed fish and shellfish (excluding fresh and frozen) in August 1953 amounted to almost 3 million pounds (valued at \$0.8 million), lower by 28 percent in both quantity and value from July exports of 4 million pounds (valued at \$1.1 million). Compared with August 1952, exports were down 23 percent in quantity and 11 percent in value.



## Wholesale Prices, October 1953

WHOLESALE PRICES, OCTOBER 1953: A sharp rise in fresh fish prices, particularly haddock, caused October prices for edible fishery products to rise above September levels. The increase was attributed to light landings all along the Atlantic coast. The over-all edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) wholesale index for October 1953 was 111.3 percent of the 1947-49 average (see table)--6.1 percent higher than in September and 9.5 percent above October 1952, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

Because production was light and demand good, October prices for all varieties in the drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup were 15.1 percent higher than a month earlier and 16.4 percent above October 1952. The largest price increase was for large drawn offshore haddock at Boston (41.0 percent), with smaller increases for halibut and salmon at New York City. All fresh-water varieties, except lake trout at Chicago, were down from September levels; September prices were high due to the Hebraic holidays.

Fresh haddock fillet prices at Boston rose 15.1 percent from September to October due to the light landings of fresh haddock; and were 40.7 percent higher than a year earlier. Fresh shrimp at New York City increased slightly (0.9 percent) over the previous month and were quoted substantially higher (19.1 percent) than in October 1952. Shucked oysters were priced the same as in September.

The October frozen processed fish and shellfish index changed only slightly--2.0 percent above the previous month, but only 0.2 percent below the same month a year earlier. Haddock fillets reflected the largest change from the previous month--up 6.0 percent. Frozen ocean perch fillet and shrimp prices increased 1.1 percent, respectively. Flounder fillet prices remained unchanged when compared with September. Compared to October 1952, frozen haddock fillets and shrimp were up, while fillets of ocean perch and flounder were down.

Maine sardines, the only canned fishery product item to show a price change from September to October, went up 6.6 percent; all others remained the same. The pack of Maine sardines this season was considerably smaller than a year earlier. Compared with October 1952, prices for canned tuna and Maine sardines were higher, while pink salmon sold at the same level.



NEW YORK'S FULTON FISH MARKET.

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Revised Indexes for Edible Fish and Shellfish, October 1953 and Comparisons

Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification	Point of Pricing	Unit	Avg. Prices <sup>1/</sup> (\$)		Indexes (1947-49 = 100)			
			Oct. 1953	Sept. 1953	Oct. 1953	Sept. 1953	Aug. 1953	Oct. 1952
<b>ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)</b> .....								
<b>Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:</b> .....								
<b>Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:</b> .....								
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh .....	Boston	lb.	.16	.11	162.0	114.9	144.0	113.4
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen .....	N.Y.C.	"	.30	.30	93.9	92.3	94.4	130.0
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen .....	"	"	.55	.51	123.9	114.2	112.1	101.8
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh .....	Chicago	"	.49	.63	121.5	154.9	116.5	112.8
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh .....	N.Y.C.	"	.52	.74	104.1	148.6	111.2	106.2
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh .....	Chicago	"	.53	.48	107.6	97.3	117.8	99.4
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh .....	N.Y.C.	"	.45	.60	105.5	140.7	132.5	99.7
<b>Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):</b> .....								
Filletts, haddock, sml., skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.38	.33	129.3	112.3	117.4	91.9
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen .....	N.Y.C.	"	.67	.67	106.4	105.4	109.1	89.3
Oysters, shucked, standards .....	Norfolk area	gal.	5.25	5.25	129.9	129.9	117.5	123.7
<b>Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):</b> .....								
Filletts: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. pkg. ....	Boston	lb.	.31	.31	108.7	108.7	108.7	124.4
Haddock, sml., skins on, 10-lb. cello-pack .....	"	"	.27	.25	98.6	93.0	89.3	93.0
Ocean perch, skins on, 10-lb. cello- pack .....	Gloucester	"	.22	.22	105.9	104.7	95.1	119.2
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg. ....	Chicago	"	.66	.66	102.2	101.1	106.5	92.6
<b>Canned Fishery Products:</b> .....								
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case .....	Seattle	case	17.70	17.70	93.9	93.9	100.4	93.9
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 1/2 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case .....	Los Angeles	"	15.30	15.30	95.5	95.5	92.4	90.5
Sardines (pilchards), Calif., tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case .....	"	"	9.25	9.25	108.0	108.0	108.0	109.4
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 1/4 drawn (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case .....	N.Y.C.	"	8.20	7.70	87.3	81.7	76.6	76.6

<sup>1/</sup>REPRESENT AVERAGE PRICES FOR ONE DAY (MONDAY OR TUESDAY) DURING THE WEEK IN WHICH THE 15TH OF THE MONTH OCCURS.



### ANCIENT OYSTERS UNEARTHED

#### DO YOU KNOW:

That huge fossilized oyster shells, said to be millions of years old, were unearthed in Annapolis, Maryland, in October 1953 when a ditch digger struck "the toughest stuff I've ever struck a pick into."

Some of the oyster shells were several times the size of the present Chesapeake oyster and were almost round instead of elongated. Clam and snail shells were also found in the fossilized material some 15 feet below the surface of the ground.

Similar discoveries of Maryland's seafood ancestors have been made along the York and James Rivers in Virginia, but never before as far north as Annapolis.

--The Compass, August 1953