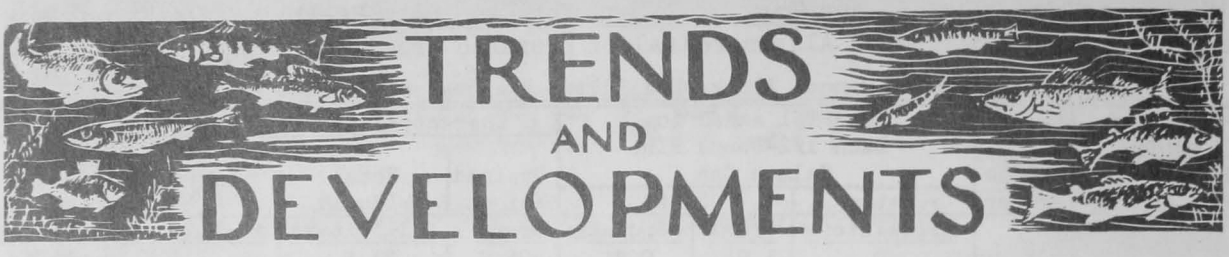


Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 40 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during November 1952--12 less than in November 1951. Florida east coast and Florida west coast led with 7 vessels each, followed by Louisiana with 4 vessels, the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department announced.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, November 1952

Section	November		Eleven mos. ending with November		Total
	1952	1951	1952	1951	1951
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	4	4	30	35	36
Middle Atlantic	1	4	24	34	34
Chesapeake	4	8	63	32	36
South Atlantic	9	13	84	113	118
Gulf	14	7	144	161	173
Pacific Coast	5	9	200	276	284
Great Lakes	1	4	13	25	25
Alaska	2	3	88	68	71
Hawaii	-	-	-	3	3
Total	40	52	646	747	780

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

California Sardine Fishery--State Regulation Proposed

A proposal that legislation be enacted to give full regulation over the California sardine fishery to the State Fish and Game Commission and the Marine Research Committee was adopted by the Sardine and Mackerel Industry Advisory Committee in a meeting held in November. This action is the result of what appears to be the most disastrous season in the history of the California sardine fishery.

The total catch of sardines at California ports in 1952 up to January 21 was only 3,316 tons as compared with 115,562 tons for the same period in 1951.

Unanimous agreement by representatives of fishermen, cannery workers, boat owners, processors, and sportsmen on the need for immediate sardine fishery management signaled the close of a year's debate over the issue of restrictive regulation consistently sought by the State Department of Fish and Game. The request for such regulation was based upon warnings issued by the Department's specialists that the California sardine fishery was in a precarious position with poor prospects for the future.

The concern over dwindling supplies of Pacific mackerel and possible scarcity of anchovy and jack mackerel was indicated by the Committee's inclusion of these

fisheries also in the management proposal. It called for investment of full regulatory powers over the four species in the Fish and Game Commission, acting upon maximum-minimum season and bag-limit recommendations of the Marine Research Committee.

SARDINE PURSE SEINERS DOCKED AT SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA.

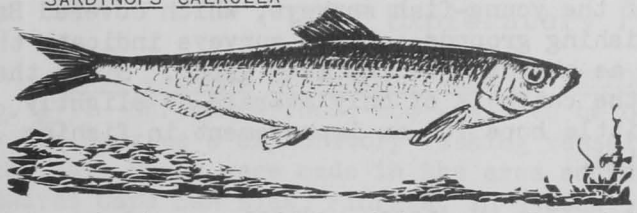
Commission control will be asked for a two-year period starting with the 1953 season, the California Department of Fish and Game announced in a November 26 news release. All commercial fishing laws are now set by the State Legislature.

The Marine Research Committee directs the study of the sardine life history and oceanic conditions affecting the supply. The investigations are made by scientists from the California Academy of Sciences, Department of Fish and Game, Hopkins Marine Station of Stanford University, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

California Sardine Fishery Outlook

For the next few years the sardine industry of California will be dependent for any significant improvement in the catch on the sardines that have been spawned off Southern California and Baja California (chiefly the latter) since 1948, unless the factor of availability should so operate as to increase the catch of older fish. This prediction appears in the latest California Cooperative Sardine Research Program Progress Report (1 January 1951 to 30 June 1952). Under present conditions, that portion of the adult sardine population that is available to the California industry is almost totally confined to the waters off Southern California.

SARDINE (PILCHARD)
SARDINOPS CAERULEA



The consensus is that the industry, if it depends on the sardine alone, and if availability does not operate so as to increase the catch, must for at least the next two seasons subsist upon the smallest catches in more than a generation.

There are two valid lines of reasoning leading to predictions of the future catch that agree in principle though not in detail, according to the report. They differ in the weight given the results of separate investigations, the spawning surveys and the young-fish surveys, and in the emphasis placed on the factor of availability.

It will be seen that these two lines of reasoning lead to predictions for the coming season that on the whole are very discouraging.

The first line of reasoning and the evidence upon which it is based can be summarized as follows:

1. The 1951 surveys indicate spawning population almost double the size of that of 1950. This could indicate either that sardines of the 1948 year class did not spawn appreciably in 1950 or that some other year class, presumably the 1949 year class, first spawned in 1951 and did not enter the 1951/52 catch in proportion to its true abundance. Since one-half of all sardines are mature at a length of 8.5 inches and all are mature at about 9.3 inches, one would expect that one-third to one-half of the fish of the 1948 year class would have spawned in 1950 and about three-fourths or more in 1951. If the increase in number of eggs spawned in 1951 was due largely to the increased growth of the fish of the 1948 year class, no increase in catch should be anticipated. If, however, the increase was brought about by fish of the 1949 year class, then this year class is larger than previously thought and apparently up to now has been distributed to the south of the regular fishing grounds.

2. There is little evidence on the size of the 1951 year class.

3. In the 1951/52 season, the 1948 year class made up the bulk of the catch and the 1949 and 1950 year classes appeared to be of below average size. Even assuming that in the 1952/53 season the entering 1951 year class will be of about average size, the outlook for the 1952/53 season is not a good one. This is only a guess, however, since the fish might be less available than in previous seasons and the catch would be even lower than expected, or the fish could be more available and the catch would be greater than might be expected. One indication that the catch statistics do not reflect the total population with full accuracy is the increase in spawning, as mentioned above.

The second line of reasoning and the supporting evidence can be summarized

1. During 1951/52, the 1948 year class contributed 65 percent of the tonnage taken and older year classes 30 percent. These groups supplied 120,000 tons during that season and it is improbable that they will contribute any increased tonnage in the coming seasons. A decrease of 50 percent or more is much more likely. As a result, in the next one or two seasons the fishery will be more and more dependent on the younger year classes spawned in 1949, 1950, and 1951. Age analysis of the fish in the 1951/52 catch indicates that the 1949 year class is a small one, and this is borne out by the results of the young-fish surveys, which covered Baja California as well as the California fishing grounds. These surveys indicate that the 1949 year class is about one-sixth as abundant as the 1948 group. Since the 1948 year class as it has appeared in the catch is of only average or slightly less than average strength, there is little hope for an improvement in fishing based on the 1949 year-class contribution.

2. The young-fish surveys of abundance of the 1950 and 1951 year classes show approximately equal abundance for each of these groups when about six months old (spawning surveys indicate an egg and larvae abundance of approximately one to two for 1950 and 1951), and that their strength is only slightly greater than that of 1949.

3. There is little hope for improved fishing in the 1952/53 or 1953/54 seasons and the evidence suggests that conditions may be worse. The factors that affect availability are as yet unmeasured. If availability should be exceptionally high it might tend to offset the sparsity of fish.

The work of the California Cooperative Sardine Research Program has been undertaken by five scientific agencies under the direction of the Marine Research Committee of the California Department of Natural Resources. The five agencies are: California Academy of Sciences, California Department of Fish and Game, Hopkins Marine Station (Stanford University), Scripps Institution of Oceanography (University of California), and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, NOVEMBER 1952: For the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, the Army Quartermaster Corps in November 1952 purchased 2,052,565 pounds (valued at $1,102,939) of fresh and frozen fishery products (see table). This was a decrease of 31.8 percent in quantity and 26.5 percent in value as compared with the purchases in October, but an increase of 15.8 percent in quantity and 13.5 percent in value over November 1951.

The average price per pound for fishery products purchased in November 1952 was 53.7 cents as compared with 45.7 cents in October. This seems to indicate that there were some purchases of higher-priced fishery products.

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

QUANTITY				VALUE			
November		January-November		November		January-November	
1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951
Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	$	$	$	$
2,052,565	1,772,725	31,165,904	29,618,339	1,102,939	971,490	14,418,659	12,610,571

January-November purchases in 1952 rose 5.2 percent in quantity and 14.3 percent in value, compared with the corresponding period in 1951. The average cost per pound was 46.3 cents for the first eleven months in 1952 as compared with 42.6 cents for the same period in 1951. This indicates that probably more higher-priced fishery products were purchased in 1952 than in 1951.

Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

SMALL CATCHES OF SHRIMP TAKEN BY "OREGON" OFF CAPE SAN BLAS, FLORIDA (Cruise No. 17): Shrimp catches, too small to be of commercial significance, were taken by the Service's exploratory fishing vessel Oregon on a cruise off Cape San Blas, Florida. Drags were made in the area southeast of Horn Island Pass, Mississippi, towards Cape San Blas, Florida, in depths of 5 to 120 fathoms. Small amounts of large (6 heads-off shrimp per pound) brown-grooved shrimp (Peneaus aztecus) were taken in 56-fathom depths off Cape San Blas.

Spot (Leiostomus xanthurus) were caught in a 40-foot flat trawl in 30-fathom depths southwest of Cape San Blas at the rate of 800 pounds per hour. Flounder (Paralichthys squamilentus) were caught at the rate of 102 pounds per hour in 55 fathoms of water south of Cape San Blas, Florida.

This cruise was interrupted by mechanical difficulties. The Oregon sailed from Pascagoula, Mississippi, on November 6 and was forced to return to that port on November 10. The vessel resumed the cruise on November 13 and returned on November 17.

* * * * *

"OREGON" REPORTS GOOD SHRIMP CATCHES IN NORTH CAMPECHE AREA (Cruise No. 18): The production of shrimp (Penaeus duorarum) in the area north of the present shrimp grounds in the Campeche area appears to offer the best possibilities of extending the shrimp fishing area during the late fall. This statement is based on the results of Cruise No. 18 of the Service's exploratory fishing vessel Oregon. The area southwest of the present fishing area did not produce favorably by comparison. Good results were obtained in positions near 20°20' N. by 91°28' W. The commercial fleet was informed by radio. Northwest of this position shrimp were found but not in such heavy concentrations.

THE SERVICE'S EXPLORATORY FISHING VESSEL OREGON.

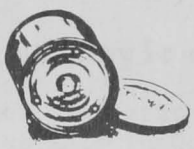
On this cruise the Oregon departed from Pascagoula on December 2 and proceeded directly to the Campeche shrimping area. Shrimp trawl drags were made in the 15- to 30-fathom range east and south of Arcas Reef. A series of drags was completed northeast of Arcas along the northern edge of the present shrimp fishery. From the Campeche area the Oregon worked toward the Florida coast, making a 200-fathom drag on the northeastern Yucatan shelf. In passage to Florida, several hours were spent in plotting depths over the area designated by some charts as a shoal off the Yucatan shelf. Bad weather hampered operations off the Florida coast. Drags were made southeast of Cape San Blas in depths of 15 to 40 fathoms; drags in 60- and 90-fathom depths completed the cruise. Tuna-bait fishing at night was also successfully carried out off Arcas Reef. The Oregon returned to Pascagoula December 19.

In night "light" fishing operations, two species of tuna bait were taken by the Oregon. An 11-foot-square lift net was lowered over the side with a bright light shining on the water over the net. When sufficient bait collected under the light the net was raised. On one lift the net tore in half from the load of bait. Two species (Jenkinsia lamprotaenia and Sardinella anchovia) of bait were taken. Both species were abundant and schools could be detected easily with the depth recorder. Several scoops of each species were put in a small live-bait tank. All of the Jenkinsia died within a week but the Sardinella were hardier, and approximately

50 fish were alive even after the Oregon docked. The bait was observed to be most abundant in the vicinity of Arcas Reef in 10 fathoms or more of water. Little tuna (Euthynnus alletteratus) were taken on trolling lines off the Florida coast. Trolling lines were out at all times during the cruise when the Oregon was underway, but no other tuna were taken.

Metal Cans--Shipments for Fishery Products, October 1952

Total shipments of metal cans for fish and sea food for October 1952 amounted to 9,682 short tons of steel (based on the amount of steel consumed in the manufacture of cans), a decrease of 35 percent when compared with the corresponding month in 1951 and 14 percent less than in September. Most of the decline is attributed to the very small pack of California sardines during October. This is based on a report issued by the Bureau of the Census on December 29.



For the first 10 months of 1952, metal-can shipments for fishery products totaled 95,264 short tons of steel as compared with 93,937 short tons of steel during January-October 1951.

NOTE: STATISTICS COVER ALL COMMERCIAL AND CAPTIVE PLANTS KNOWN TO BE PRODUCING METAL CANS. REPORTED IN BASE BOXES OF STEEL CONSUMED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF CANS, THE DATA FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS ARE CONVERTED TO TONS OF STEEL BY USING THE FACTOR: 23.0 BASE BOXES OF STEEL EQUAL ONE SHORT TON OF STEEL.

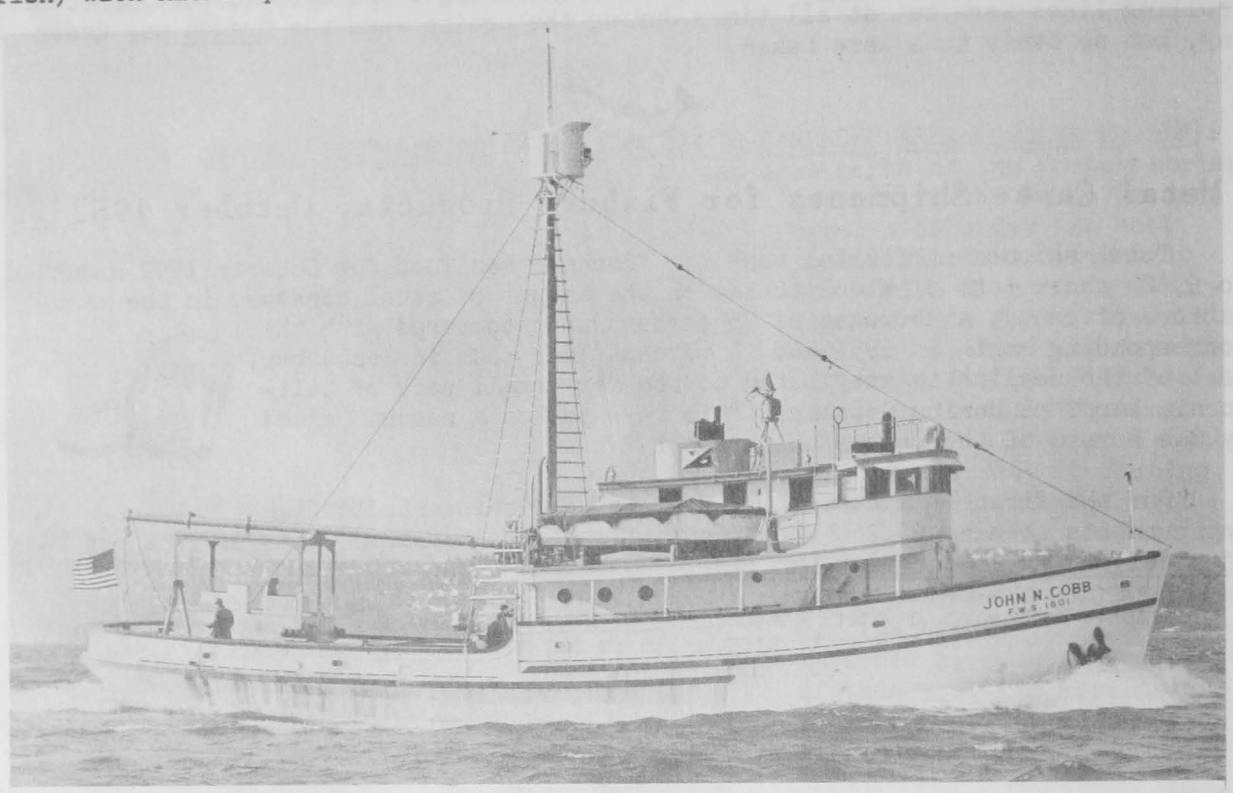
North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

"JOHN N. COBB" INVESTIGATES WINTER HERRING FISHING IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (Exploratory Cruise No. 14): For six weeks the John N. Cobb, the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries exploratory fishing vessel, explored the commercial herring possibilities of certain southeastern Alaskan waters.

The primary purpose of this exploration was to ascertain if in southeastern Alaskan waters during November and December previously unknown stocks of herring moved inshore in commercial quantities. Waters which were explored included the bays and the inlets off Icy Strait, Chatham Strait, Stevens Passage, Seymour Canal, the Sitka Sound area, Sea Otter Sound, Frederick Sound, and lower Clarence Strait. Sets were made in Silver Bay and the south arm of Kendrick Bay. Small fish were found in both of these areas. The majority were in their second year with an average length of approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Evidence of similar small fish was found in Port Camden and Lisianski Inlet. With the exception of Tongass Narrows, large adult fish were not noted in any appreciable quantities in any of the areas explored. The vessel left Seattle on this cruise on November 4 and returned on December 19.

The investigation was a cooperative study made by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska herring industry. The industry supplied the purse seine and other items of fishing gear, and the vessel and personnel were furnished by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Exploratory fishing operations were under the direction of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries and the biological activities were directed by the Branch of Fishery Biology. A biologist of the Alaska Department of Fisheries joined the boat and assisted in the explorations and the tagging of herring.

In an attempt to gain information on the migration patterns, herring were tagged in the south arm of Kendrick Bay (2,000 fish) and in Tongass Narrows (3,400 fish) with nickel-plated steel "belly" tags.



THE SERVICE'S EXPLORATORY FISHING VESSEL JOHN N. COBB INVESTIGATES WINTER HERRING FISHING IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKAN WATERS.

Milo Bell Joins Fish and Wildlife Service as Consulting Engineer

The appointment of Milo C. Bell, of Blaine, Washington, as a consulting engineer to assist in the further development of a Federal fishery program for the Columbia River Basin was announced December 30 by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The problem of successfully getting fish over the numerous power dams now being constructed and planned for the future in the Columbia River is so serious that the future value of the multimillion-dollar fishing industry is being threatened, according to the Service's Director. To meet this situation, the States of Washington and Oregon are cooperating with the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies in studies to develop practical methods for guiding adult fish upstream over the dams, and the young fish down. These studies involve both specialized engineering and biological skills.

Bell, who is an authority in his field, will serve as engineering consultant to the Director in all matters relating to fishways at dams and as liaison officer of the Service with the construction agencies both in Washington and in the field. Initially, he will be headquartered in Seattle, Washington.

Bell, who comes to the Service from the State of Washington's Department of Fisheries where he has been chief technical adviser to the Director of Fisheries, is particularly well qualified to handle his new Federal post. He has developed fish-passage devices for the State of Washington; was chief engineer for the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission during the construction of the eminently successful $2 million fishways at Hells Gate Canyon on the Fraser River; and served as consultant to the Corps of Engineers during the building of the first major fishway at Bonneville Dam and later on the major fishery problems related to the construction of the McNary Dam fish facilities and the fish passages for the Dalles Dam.

Oyster Grounds in Chesapeake Bay Photographed by Maryland

The use of an underwater camera to survey the oyster resources in Chesapeake Bay was attempted by the Maryland Commission of Tidewater Fisheries late in October, according to a news release issued by the Maryland Department of Research and Education. The purpose of the work of the Commission was to delineate the natural bars of the State and to indicate the extent of oyster populations on them. It is hoped that these underwater pictures will settle many arguments as to how many and where the oysters are, and possibly justify a complete up-to-date Bay-wide survey. If this can be done, it will clear up arguments concerning which parts of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries grow oysters naturally and which do not.

The camera, developed by an Ardmore (Pennsylvania) firm, is a stereoptic device which photographs through a large pyramid of filtered sea water. It is operated from a crane and comes to rest near the bottom, at which time the flash takes place. From 3 to 5 minutes are required per picture. Development of the camera has been quite expensive, and operation costs in the field are high. Its use in Maryland to date, however, has been on an experimental basis with a prearranged sharing of the expense by the manufacturers and the Commission.

UNDERWATER CAMERA BEING LOWERED TO PHOTOGRAPH MARYLAND OYSTER BEDS IN CHESAPEAKE BAY.

The Commission has not made public the results of the underwater photographic exploration as the study is still in a preliminary stage. Those who have worked closely with the problem of oyster populations are not sanguine in their expectations of substantial results from this particular approach (photography) which is not new. The major difficulty is not in the actual photographing of the bottom but in the interpretation of the pictures. Oysters harmonize with the bottom to a remarkable degree. Frequently they are encrusted by growths, and at times rest entirely under attached forms--both plant and animal--such as eel grass, barnacles, sea squirts, sponges, and others, through which they are not visible and cannot be photographed. Bottom sampling (through diving or perhaps the use of regular types of gear) done by competent scientists for the purpose of spot sampling to check the disclosure of the pictures could be made to serve a useful purpose in developing factual information, which is the end sought.

Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

LONG-LINE TUNA FISHING EXPERIMENTS BY "JOHN R. MANNING" (Cruise No. 13): Long-line tuna fishing experiments were carried out by the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations research vessel John R. Manning during a 51-day cruise which ended December 6. The area of operations was from the vicinity of Oahu south along the meridian of 150° to a point 5° south of the equator and then back northward along the line of 170° W. longitude. Also, samples of sea water from the equatorial region were collected for shipment to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, for study of their radio activity as a clue to circulation in the ocean.

An innovation in long-line design was tested by setting at each station 10 baskets of gear in which the "sekiyama" was replaced by a similar length of No. 261 cotton line. The new gear, which performed as well as the regular line in every respect, showed promise of giving better catches with simpler and cheaper gear than that in commercial use at present.

Yellowfin tuna were fished with long lines south of 6° N. latitude with the best catch of 6.95 fish per 100 hooks made at 2° N. The results of the other stations indicated a low abundance of yellowfin tuna both to the north and south of the equator with the average catch being 2.51 fish per 100 hooks between 6° N. and 3° S. latitude. North of 6° N. latitude the catches consisted of big-eyed tuna and albacore tuna. Along 170° W. longitude between 5° S. and 4° N. latitude, catches were generally poor with the best catch of 3.64 yellowfin tuna per 100 hooks made right on the equator. Tuna catches were somewhat better south of the equator than north. The average yellowfin catch for this line, which included 10 fishing stations from 4° N. to 5° S., was 1.95 fish per 100 hooks.

Frozen sardine and squid were alternated as bait on successive baskets throughout each set. Bait preferences of the different species of tuna were found to vary with the big-eyed tuna decidedly favoring sardine while the skipjack seemed to show some preference for squid. Yellowfin tuna appeared to take both baits impartially.

Two special stations were worked at 2° N. latitude 150° W. longitude where a regular station had resulted in a good catch of 6.95 yellowfin tuna per 100 hooks. A 24-hour fishing series of setting and hauling 10 baskets of gear every 4 hours around the clock showed that yellowfin catches were best in the set hauled at 1300 hours with a catch of 6.45 yellowfin tuna per 100 hooks. Only sharks were caught in the sets hauled after sunset.

At another special station, where 40 baskets of gear were set in the morning and retrieved 10 at a time at 4-hour intervals, the best catch (4.84 yellowfin per 100 hooks) was made on the section retrieved at 1800 hours.

A Japanese tuna long-line boat was sighted about 300 miles north of Canton Island. This is the first such sighting by a POFI vessel, although it has been known that Japanese tuna boats are fishing southwest of Hawaii.

This 5,000-mile cruise of the John R. Manning produced important contributions to the understanding of seasonal and local variations in the abundance of tuna in the rich band of tuna grounds which POFI explorations have discovered along the equator.

Service's Fish-Cookery Demonstration Program, 1952

A total of 184 fish-cookery demonstrations were presented during 1952 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of its fishery educational and market development program. Although the major portion of these were given for school-lunchroom cooks and managers, 10 were for homemakers or Extension Service groups, and 16 for institutional personnel, Army groups, or college classes. Fourteen states plus the Territory of Alaska were hosts to the Service's home economists for these meetings which were attended by a total of 8,925 persons.

The demonstrations for school-lunchroom personnel far outnumbered the meetings held for other groups because of the recognized importance of the school lunchrooms as an influence on the eating habits of the nation. These demonstrations were attended by an average of nearly 50 people who were responsible for the feeding of almost 3,000 children daily. The children, through the manager's menu choices and the quality of the food served, learn food preferences which influence their eating habits at home and in later life. Therefore, the frequent serving of well-prepared fish in their lunchrooms can do much to encourage greater utilization of this valuable protein food.

In the program with school-lunch personnel during 1952, the Fish and Wildlife Service continued its policy of concentrating most of the meetings in a few states to obtain extensive coverage within a state. On this basis 22 demonstrations were given in Pennsylvania, 44 in New York State, 25 in Louisiana, 36 in Illinois, 12 in Minnesota, and 8 in Michigan. Those given in Louisiana during 1952 supplemented the 23 given in 1951 so that the State has had altogether 48 demonstrations. In addition to the extensive programs conducted in these states while school was in session, a few demonstrations were given for summer "workshop" groups. Nebraska, Kansas, Tennessee, Georgia, and Oregon were states in which one to four such demonstrations were given. Most of those who came to these meetings were leaders in their respective states who carried what they learned back to those unable to attend.

The 26 demonstrations for persons other than school-lunchroom personnel were presented before a wide variety of groups. These included Army Quartermaster Corps subsistence classes, professional dietician's association meetings, college home economics classes, vocational schools, cooks and nutritionists from hospitals and other institutions, meetings of Extension Service leaders, and large groups of homemakers.

Plans for continuing the demonstration program for school-lunch personnel during 1953 have already been laid. In Alabama, 34 meetings are scheduled; New Jersey will have 22; and approximately 30 additional demonstrations have been planned for Illinois. By the end of this school year, all of the schools in these states will have had an opportunity to be represented at one or more fish-cookery demonstration meetings.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, NOVEMBER 1952: Prices for edible fishery products were up in November 1952, reversing the downward trend reported in October. With bad weather curtailing fishing in most areas, a strong upward trend usually takes place at this time of the year. The over-all edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) wholesale index for November was 112.7 percent of the 1947-49 average

(see table)--10.9 percent above October and 3.5 percent above November 1951, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reported.

Except for fresh-water fish, products included in the November subgroup for drawn, dressed, or whole finfish were in good demand and prices were up. Fresh large drawn offshore haddock and fresh and frozen Western dressed halibut sold at substantially higher prices in December 1952 than in the previous month and November 1951. Dressed king salmon prices also rose but were considerably lower than during the same month a year earlier. From October to November 1952, prices for

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Revised Indexes for Edible Fish and Shellfish, November 1952 and Comparisons

Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification	Point of Pricing	Unit	Avg. Prices ($) Nov. 1952 1/	Avg. Prices ($) Oct. 1952	Indexes (1947-49 = 100) Nov. 1952	Oct. 1952	Sept. 1952	Nov. 1951
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)					112.7	101.6	108.1	108.9
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:					125.8	108.1	119.5	115.6
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:					138.5	111.8	129.3	124.3
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.17	.11	177.0	113.4	110.5	141.3
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	N.Y.C.	"	.44	.42	137.0	130.0	162.5	102.5
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	"	"	.49	.46	109.7	101.8	117.5	121.3
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.44	.46	109.1	112.8	223.1	125.2
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh	N.Y.C.	"	.46	.53	92.0	106.2	166.8	110.4
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.59	.49	120.9	99.4	85.0	116.8
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	N.Y.C.	"	.41	.43	96.1	99.7	167.1	115.2
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):					113.8	103.7	107.7	105.1
Fillets, haddock, sml., skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.38	.27	129.3	91.9	103.8	132.8
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	N.Y.C.	"	.61	.57	96.4	89.3	94.9	78.9
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	5.25	5.00	129.9	123.7	123.7	128.3
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):					102.8	103.6	107.6	104.7
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. pkg.	Boston	lb.	.34	.36	119.2	124.4	124.4	147.2
Haddock, sml., skins on, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.25	.25	93.9	93.0	93.9	106.9
Ocean perch (rosefish), skins on, 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.24	.25	114.4	119.2	121.6	125.2
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg.	Chicago	"	.62	.60	94.9	92.6	100.3	77.1
Canned Fishery Products:					93.3	92.0	91.3	99.1
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	18.44	17.94	96.5	93.9	93.9	109.6
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. ½ tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.50	14.50	90.5	90.5	90.5	81.2
Sardines (pilchards), Calif., tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	"	"	9.38	9.38	109.4	109.4	109.4	84.1
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. ¼ drawn (3¼ oz.), 100 cans per case	N.Y.C.	"	7.20	7.20	76.6	76.6	68.6	113.9

1/ REPRESENT AVERAGE PRICES FOR ONE DAY (MONDAY OR TUESDAY, IF AVAILABLE) DURING WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 10.

fresh-water fish items dropped and were lower than a year earlier, but lake trout prices at Chicago rose. Drawn, dressed, or whole finfish prices for November 1952 as a group were up 23.9 percent over October and 11.4 percent over November 1951.

Fresh processed fish and shellfish prices moved higher following the same trend as unprocessed finfish. Products under the fresh processed fish and shellfish subgroup in November sold substantially above the same month in 1951 and October 1952. The only exception was fresh haddock fillets which sold somewhat lower than a year earlier.

Frozen processed fish and shellfish prices showed a mixed trend in November 1952. Substantially lower prices for flounder fillets and ocean perch fillets were

not quite offset by higher prices for haddock fillets and shrimp. The frozen fillet market was considerably weaker than in the same month of 1951; the market for frozen shrimp registered a strong upward trend because cold-storage stocks were considerably below a year earlier. The index for processed frozen fishery products in November 1952 dropped 1.8 percent below the same month in 1951 and 0.8 percent below the previous month.

Higher prices for canned pink salmon accounted for the increase in the canned fishery products subgroup index. The November 1952 index for this subgroup was up 1.0 percent over October 1952, but was still 5.9 percent below November 1951. Prices for canned tuna and California sardines were substantially higher than a year earlier, but those for canned pink salmon and Maine sardines were considerably lower.

RETAIL PRICES, NOVEMBER 1952: Retail prices of all foods purchased by moderate-income urban families dropped very slightly from October 15 to November 15, 1952, but were higher (0.4 percent) than during the same period in 1951. This was the third straight month that these prices declined, which is outstanding in view of the fact that for the past few years prices rose at this time of year. Prices of all finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) also declined (0.7 percent) from the previous month and were lower (4.3 percent) than a year earlier.

Table 2 - Adjusted Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Finfish November 15, 1952, with Comparisons

Item	Base	INDEXES		
		Nov. 15, 1952	Oct. 15, 1952	Nov. 15, 1951
All foods	1935-39 = 100	232.3	232.4	231.4
All finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned)	do.	335.9	338.1	351.1
Fresh and frozen finfish	1938-39 = 100	290.8	292.2	295.8
Canned salmon: pink	do.	433.1	437.4	477.4

Retail prices for fresh and frozen finfish from October 15 to November 15 decreased 0.5 percent at a time when prices were normally rising, and were 1.7 percent lower than in mid-November 1951. Canned pink salmon prices continued downward as they have each month since June 1951, and were 1.0 percent lower than in mid-October and 9.3 percent below mid-November 1951.

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

Product	Unit	UNITED STATES		
		Range of Prices	Average Prices	
		Nov. 15, 1952	Nov. 15, 1952	Oct. 15, 1952
Frozen Finfish Fillets:		¢	¢	¢
Ocean Perch[1/]	lb.	29-69	45.6	45.7
Haddock[2/]	lb.	29-69	50.5	50.7
Canned Finfish:				
Salmon, pink	16-oz. can	39-89	53.6	54.1

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

In mid-November 1952, frozen ocean perch fillets retailed at an average price of 45.6 cents per pound and frozen haddock fillets at an average of 50.5 cents per pound. During the same period in 1951, retail price averages were: frozen ocean perch fillets 46.3 and frozen haddock fillets 50.9 cents per pound. Canned pink salmon retailed at an average price of 53.6 cents per 16-oz. can in mid-November 1952, compared with 59.1 cents per can in mid-November 1951.