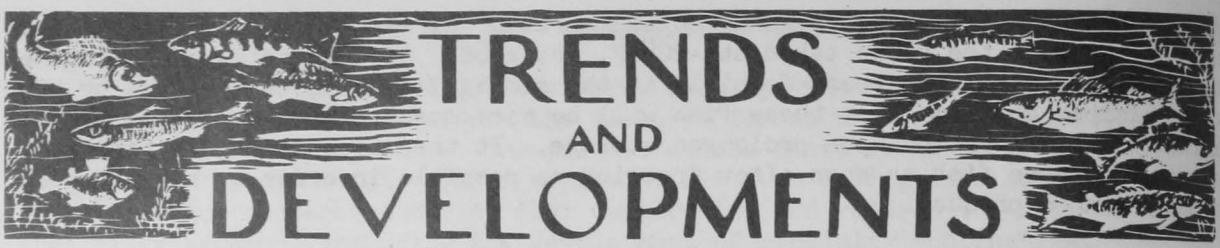


Additions to the Fleet of Fishing Vessels

A total of 52 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during March 1953--8 less than in March 1952. Washington led with 11 vessels, followed by Texas with 8 vessels, and Florida east coast with 6 vessels.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, February and March 1953

Section	March		Three mos. ending with March		February		Two mos. ending with February		Total
	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1952
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	-	1	2	4	-	2	2	3	30
Middle Atlantic	4	2	4	9	-	5	-	7	26
Chesapeake	8	8	17	17	5	5	9	9	65
South Atlantic	7	7	19	26	4	8	12	19	89
Gulf	16	11	50	26	15	9	34	15	161
Pacific	12	18	21	34	5	9	9	16	203
Great Lakes	-	3	2	4	2	-	2	1	13
Alaska	5	10	10	24	3	11	5	14	88
Total	52	60	125	144	34	49	73	84	675

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

In February 1953 first documents as fishing craft were received by 34 vessels of 5 net tons and over--15 less than in February 1952. Florida west coast led with 6 vessels, followed by Louisiana with 5 vessels, and Florida east coast, Virginia, Washington, and Alaska with 3 vessels each.

Alaska Fur-Seal Skin Prices Decline Sharply at Spring Auction

A sharp decline in prices characterized the semiannual auction of Government-owned fur-seal skins at St. Louis on April 13, the Secretary of the Interior announced. Bidding was spirited and there was a good attendance at the auction. A total of 24,400 skins from the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, was sold for $2,084,191, or $700,527 less than the Government receipts from the fall auction held October 13, 1952.

The average price for all fur-seal skins sold at the April auction was $85.42 per skin, or $19.58 under the October average of $105.00.

Black skins, of which there were 7,000 offered, averaged $100.52 per skin as compared with October's average of $122.04. A total of 14,900 dyed "Matara" (brown) skins was offered and these skins sold for an average of $82.67, or $27.04 less than in October. A total of 2,500 "Safari" brown (a lighter brown) skins was offered and averaged $59.51 per skin, as compared with $69.14 in October.

In addition to the United States-owned skins, the Fouke Fur Company sold 4,978 Cape of Good Hope fur-seal skins for the government of the Union of South Africa. These skins averaged $32.49 per skin, as compared with the October average of $34.54.

California

STATE TAGS TUNA: A total of 1,638 tuna--1,139 yellowfin, 499 skipjack--were tagged by the California Department of Fish and Game on a 3½-months', 20,000-mile cruise on the commercial vessel Intrepid. The cruise was completed at Los Angeles on February 11. Three types of tags were used. Other major purposes for the cruise were to test the feasibility of carrying out tagging operations on a commercial fishing vessel; gain experience in commercial fishing methods; and collect post-larval specimens of yellowfin and skipjack tuna under a night light to further delineate the spawning range.

Two of the tagged yellowfin tuna have already been recovered, reports the Department of Fish and Game in a March 6 bulletin. One fish taken by a Peruvian purse seiner on January 17, 1953, three miles west of Mancora, Peru, had moved 34 miles south by west in 33 days from the spot tagged. The other fish, taken by the tuna clipper Santa Helena on January 17, 1953, five miles west of Culpepper Island in the Galapagas group had traveled 5 miles west in 49 days. Both fish were in good condition and showed no significant increase in length.

For all fish tagged, 96.7 percent of the yellowfin tuna were released in satisfactory condition and 92.4 percent of the skipjack. The skipjack were the more difficult of the two species to tag regardless of the type of tag used.

* * * * *

RESEARCH VESSEL "YELLOWFIN" FINDS ABALONE IN POOR CONDITION IN CHANNEL ISLAND REGION: Abalone in the Channel Island region of Santa Cruz and San Clemente Islands were found to be few in number, small in size, and poor in quality (most were infested with round worms). These were the findings of the research vessel Yellowfin of the California Department of Fish and Game. The vessel completed a two-weeks' cruise at Los Angeles on February 26. Dives were made in the Santa Cruz Island and San Clemente Island areas. Off San Clemente Island there was a greater concentration of abalone than off Santa Cruz. Compared to a similar survey in 1952, fish life and abalone were observed to be considerably less abundant.

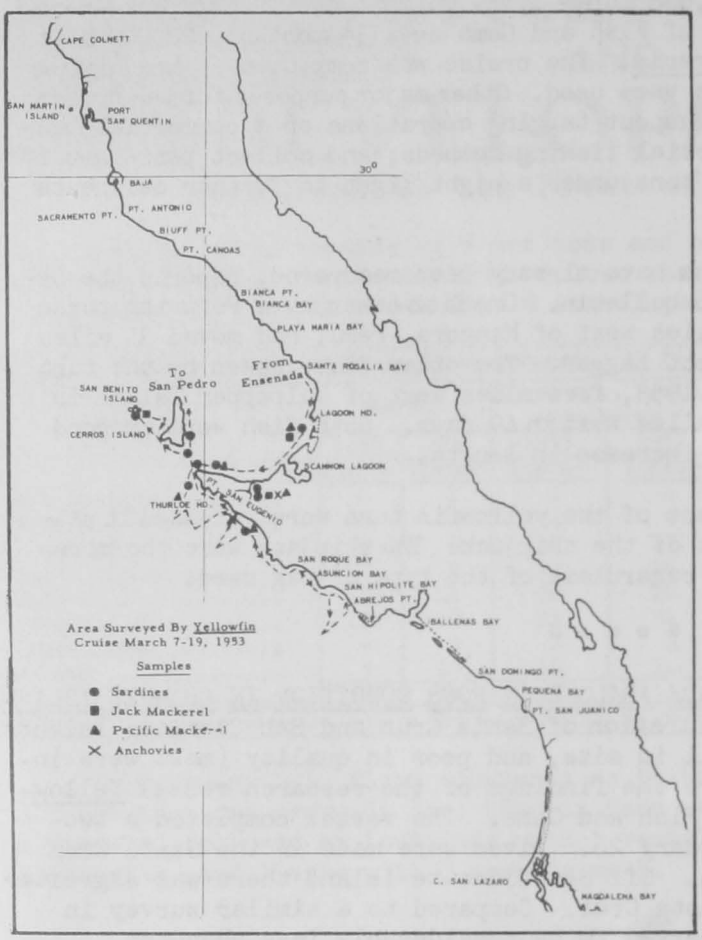
One day of the cruise was spent in underwater photography off San Clemente Island where conditions were judged favorable for this work. The results of these films were encouraging and it is planned to return later in 1953 for additional work, the California Department of Fish and Game announced recently. This was Cruise 2 of the Yellowfin for 1953.

This vessel's Cruise 1 (January 5-24, 1953) was a routine one for hydrographic research for the Cooperative Sardine Research Program. The purpose was to collect data for determining the oceanographic factors responsible for the behavior, spawning success, and survival of Pacific sardine. Operations were conducted in the coastal and offshore area between Pt. Conception and Cape Colnett.

* * * * *

"YELLOWFIN" STUDIES SARDINE ABUNDANCE OFF LOWER CALIFORNIA: A total of 68 schools of fish were spotted by the California Department of Fish and Game research vessel M/V Yellowfin on a 15-day 375-mile cruise completed at Los Angeles on March 20. The cruise was made to assess the abundance and distribution of spawning sardines; to obtain sardine samples for age determinations; to test the feasibility of using the Hardy Plankton Indicator in conjunction with the sardine surveys; and to study the spawning population of sardines and their environment off lower California. The area from Sebastian Vizcaino Bay to San Hipolito Bay, including the area around Cedros and San Benitos Islands, was scouted, an April 21 report from the California Department of Fish and Game states.

Of the 68 schools spotted, it was estimated that 36 were of sardines, and 25 of mackerel. Two samples of sardines and one of Pacific mackerel were obtained from the schools sampled. Thirty-nine light stations were occupied and yielded samples of sardines, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, and anchovies. Two samples of sardines were obtained from tuna clippers in Turtle Bay. All the sardine samples contained fish very near spawning.



AREA SURVEYED BY THE CALIFORNIA RESEARCH VESSEL YELLOWFIN IN CONJUNCTION WITH SARDINE ABUNDANCE STUDIES OFF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

The Hardy Plankton Indicator tested worked satisfactorily, but more studies are needed to develop a standard technique for interpretation of the results of the tows. In general, sardines in this area were not as abundant inshore as they have been during the fall months. They were more abundant from San Cristobal Bay northward to the area around Cedros Island, and in the southwest part of Sebastian Vizcaino Bay. Heavy weather prevented a survey of the adjacent offshore area.

* * * * *

YELLOWTAIL TAGGED: Rough weather off Guadalupe Island, Mexico, limited the tagging of troll-caught yellowtail by the California Department of Fish and Game on a 5-day cruise completed on April 14. The privately-owned yacht Goodwill, chartered for this cruise, was used for this tagging operation.


YELLOWTAIL (CALIFORNIA) (SERIOLA DORSALIS)

Altogether five yellowtail (Seriola dorsalis) were caught by trolling. Four were tagged and one was retained for study. One large yellowtail was double tagged, using a Petersen disk and a nylon capsule tag. The others were tagged only with Petersen disks because of very rough waters, states the California Department of Fish and Game in an April 22 report.

Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, MARCH 1953: For the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, the Army Quartermaster Corps in March 1953 purchased a total of 1,329,751 pounds (valued at $764,181) of fresh and frozen fishery products (see table). This was a decrease of 10.3 percent in quantity and 11.8 percent in value as compared with the previous month, and 44.0 percent in quantity and 30.8 percent in value less than in March 1952.

Purchases during January-March this year dropped 36.4 percent in quantity and 23.5 percent in value, compared with the corresponding period in 1952.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army
(March and the First Three Months of 1953 and 1952)

QUANTITY				VALUE			
March		January-March		March		January-March	
1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	$	$	$	$
1,329,751	2,376,662	4,370,957	6,867,389	764,181	1,103,526	2,470,426	3,229,644

Prices paid for fresh and frozen fishery products by the Army Quartermaster Corps in March 1953 averaged 57.5 cents per pound as compared with 46.4 cents in March 1952. The average price paid for the first three months of 1952 was 56.5 cents per pound, considerably higher than the average of 47.0 cents for the similar period a year earlier.

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.

* * * * *

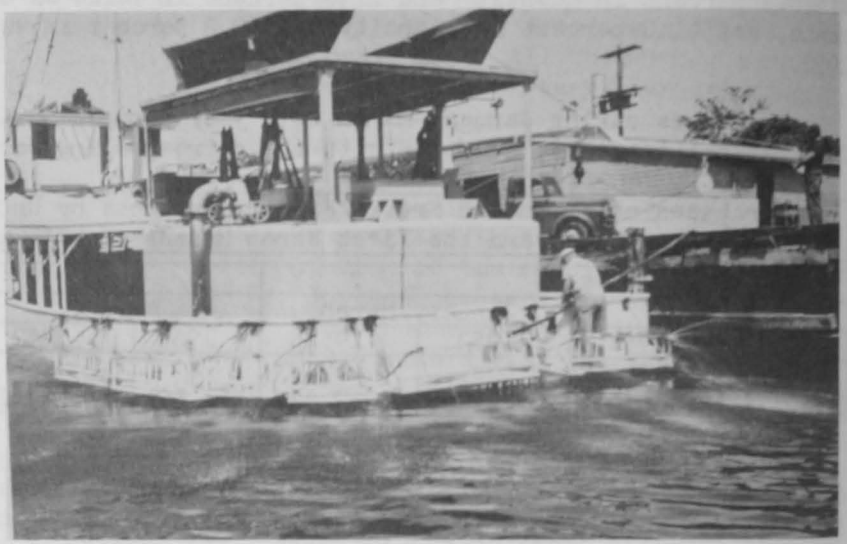
FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, 1952: For the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, the Department of Defense in 1952 purchased over 32,000,000 pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products in the United States, according to the Quartermaster Corps. A total of about $15,000,000 was spent for United States-produced fishery products (see table). The New York City Market Center office (including New England) was the largest purchaser in 1952, accounting for one-third of the total value purchased. Other large buying centers were Seattle, Wash., 19 percent; New Orleans, La., 18 percent; and Richmond, Va., 11 percent.

alue of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products Purchases by U. S. Department of Defense, 1952

Market Center (Purchasing Office)	Value
	$
ew York, N. Y.	5,000,000
ichmond, Va.	1,700,000
olumbia, S. C.	750,000
ew Orleans, La.	2,700,000
hicago, Ill.	100,000
enver, Colo.	200,000
ort Worth, Tex.	250,000
eattle, Wash.	2,850,000
an Francisco, Calif.	1,100,000
os Angeles, Calif.	350,000
Total	15,000,000

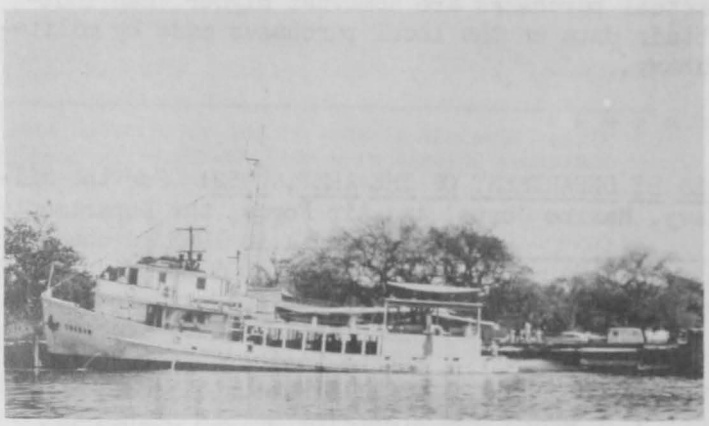
Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

BAIT FISHING FOR TUNA TO BE TRIED BY "OREGON" (CRUISE NO. 19): Live-bait fishing for tuna and the capture and trial use of live bait taken off the United States Gulf coast are the chief objectives of the Service's exploratory fishing vessel Oregon. The cruise commenced at Pascagoula, Mississippi, on April 9. Operations will be centered in the approaches to the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, the Yucatan Channel, and the northeastern Caribbean Sea. Emphasis will be placed on live-bait fishing for blackfin and yellowfin tuna and white skipjack (Katsuwonus).



STERN VIEW OF THE OREGON SHOWS TUNA FISHING RACKS. NOTE THAT THE SPRAY SYSTEM IS BEING TESTED.

The Oregon has been readied to fish for tuna with live bait in the conventional style used successfully by the U. S. fishery off the Pacific coast. However, some additional kinds of equipment are being carried for trial use under conditions in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The gear has been prepared so that changes in methods of bait fishing can be made without returning to port.



FITTED OUT FOR TUNA BAIT FISHING, THE SERVICE'S EXPLORATORY FISHING VESSEL OREGON GETS READY TO SAIL.

In addition, exploratory drags with a 40-foot shrimp trawl will be made in areas hitherto not covered by the Oregon. Red snapper fishing with wire lines will be undertaken in deep water if and where indications of potential snapper fishing are found.

An "electronic fish finder," the Fischlupe, has been installed and will be tested during this cruise.

The Oregon is scheduled to return to Pascagoula on June 25.

Metal Cans--Shipments for Fishery Products, February 1953

Total shipments of metal cans for fish and sea food in January-February 1953 amounted to 7,910 short tons of steel--9 percent less than the 8,675 short tons shipped in the first two months of 1952. This is based on an April 23 report issued by the Bureau of the Census.

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 Atlantic Fishery Investigations

"ALBATROSS III" FISHES FOR YOUNG OCEAN PERCH (Cruise No. 47B): Bad weather hampered operations and cut short the cruise of the Branch of Fishery Biology's research vessel Albatross III to the northeast peak of Georges Bank and the area south of Jeffrey's Ledge. The six-day cruise was completed at Woods Hole, Mass., on April 1. The objectives of the cruise were to determine the characteristics of a fish school, to obtain a sample of young ocean perch, and to obtain live haddock for experiments at station.

Fourteen tows were made on the Northeast Peak of Georges Bank; no concentration of haddock suitable for more detailed operations was discovered. The haddock were very uniformly distributed along the entire section covered by these tows. Northwesterly winds and heavy seas on the evening of April 17 made it necessary to cease fishing operations. Because of unfavorable weather reports for April 18, the vessel proceeded to the ocean perch area.

Eleven tows were made in the area south of Jeffrey's Ledge and a total of 200 young ocean perch were caught. Operations then ceased because of bad weather.

Bottom photographs were obtained by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution personnel with the stereocamera in the Northeast Peak area and during the fishing operations for young ocean perch. A series of night photographs of the bottom were obtained in the area south of Jeffrey's Ledge. The number of bottom samples obtained was limited both because of failure of the equipment to operate satisfactorily and because of the type of bottom encountered.

North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

"JOHN N. COBB" MAKES GOOD SHRIMP CATCHES IN ALASKAN WATERS (Cruise No. 15): Good shrimp catches were made in southeastern Alaska waters by the Service's Exploratory fishing vessel John N. Cobb on a 7-week cruise completed at Seattle, Washington, on April 17. This trip was the fifth in a series of explorations to locate commercial concentrations of shrimp and other shellfish in southeastern Alaskan waters.

Fishing operations were carried out in Yakutat Bay and the adjacent ocean waters near the Cape Phipps Peninsula. A total of 79 drags were made--the majority with a 9-foot beam trawl, although a small West Coast box-type otter trawl and a New Bedford-type scallop dredge were used in some instances. Shrimp traps were also fished.

Good catches of pink shrimp were made with the beam trawl from off Blizhni Point to off Kame Stream. Nine drags in this area averaged 242 pounds of pink shrimp per 30-minute drag, with the best drag yielding 510 pounds of 80-count (80 whole shrimp per pound) pink shrimp. Six 30-minute drags northwest of Knight Island produced from 102 to 145 pounds of mixed pink and side-stripe shrimp per drag. Drags off Krutoi Island yielded up to 300 pounds of 67-count pink shrimp per 30-minute drag.

Shrimp traps set from the vicinity of Gregson Island to north of Knight Island were generally productive. One set of 38 traps was set for 47 hours off the north tip of Knight Island to the vicinity of Eleanor Cove. The set averaged slightly under $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of 13-count spot shrimp and $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of 41-count coon-stripe shrimp.

Otter-trawl tows off the Cape Phipps Peninsula resulted in negligible catches of shrimp and fish. Drags with the scallop dredge in Yakutat Bay caught only a few scallops.

Norwegian Sardines Promoted in Major U. S. Markets

The second phase of an intensive three-year advertising and promotion campaign for Norwegian canned sardines has been launched in the United States by the Norwegian Canners Association. This association, with headquarters in Stavanger, represents 106 Norwegian canning companies, an April 9 news release from the Norwegian Information Service points out.

Using newspapers, radio, and television, as well as point-of-sales promotion, the Association is vigorously publicizing Norwegian sardines in six major United States markets--Boston, New York-Newark, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles-Long Beach, and San Francisco-Oakland. A total of 53 daily and weekly newspapers in these market areas are running weekly advertisements.

During Lent the Association backed up its newspaper ads with either radio or television spot announcements. Scheduled to be used in the summer months, these announcements will stress sardines as easy-to-prepare, heat-beating snacks. Moreover, sardines from Norway are being publicized on radio and television cooking shows, as well in grocery, restaurant, and hotel trade publications. Special features of the public relations program are Norwegian sardine recipes and pictures for editorial use, and the color film "Silver Harvest." This film on the Norwegian sardine industry is available free of charge to television stations, clubs, and associations.

As part of the current drive, tie-ins between Norwegian sardines and four leading cracker companies have been arranged in the New York, Chicago, Boston, and Los Angeles areas. Scheduled to continue through April, the tie-ins include mutual cooperation in newspaper advertising and sales promotion, and in arranging point-of-sales displays. Further tie-ins are being planned for the late spring and summer months.

To stimulate interest in Norwegian sardines among food brokers and store operators, the Association is distributing a 14-page sales portfolio, pointing out that one out of every four families in the U. S. buys Norwegian sardines. The portfolio also tells in pictures and words about the canning process and the standards set by the Association's Quality Control Institute. Other promotional material made available to grocers includes point-of-sales aids, such as shelf-talkers and dump display cards.

In the past 50 years the Norwegian food-canning industry has made tremendous progress. There are at present about 300 canneries scattered along the Norwegian coast, the point of greatest concentration being in the Stavanger district. Since World War II, Norway has exported an annual average of 3,000 to 3,500 metric tons of canned sardines, as well as kippers, crab meat, and shrimp.

Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

"HUGH M. SMITH" STUDIES OCEANOGRAPHY AS RELATED TO SKIPJACK TUNA IN HAWAIIAN WATERS (Cruise No. 20): Detailed data on ocean currents and abundance of nutrient chemicals and marine life were collected by the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations research vessel Hugh M. Smith on a cruise completed at Honolulu on April 4. The cruise, which began February 25, completed the first part of a program of intensive oceanographic studies in Hawaiian waters.

Hydrographic and biological data were obtained at 56 stations around the Hawaiian Islands. Two exploratory sections to 29° N. along the 155° and 158° W. meridians did not reveal any concentrations of marine life. Several oceanic "fronts" were encountered near the northern ends of the lines. The studies were planned to coincide with the season of scarcity of the skipjack tuna or "aku," the most important species in the Hawaiian tuna fishery. A similar investigation will be carried out during the peak of the skipjack season this coming summer; it is hoped that a comparison of the data from these two cruises may shed light on the environmental factors which regulate the seasonal movements of these schools in and out of Hawaiian waters. This could result in an increase in the skipjack catch through the extension of fishing operations into new areas during the local offseason.

In the interim between these two major cruises, a close check will be kept on local hydrographic conditions and on the abundance and whereabouts of the skipjack schools. This work will be accomplished by frequent, short cruises of the smaller research vessel, Charles H. Gilbert, supplemented by aerial scouting in cooperation with the U. S. Navy.

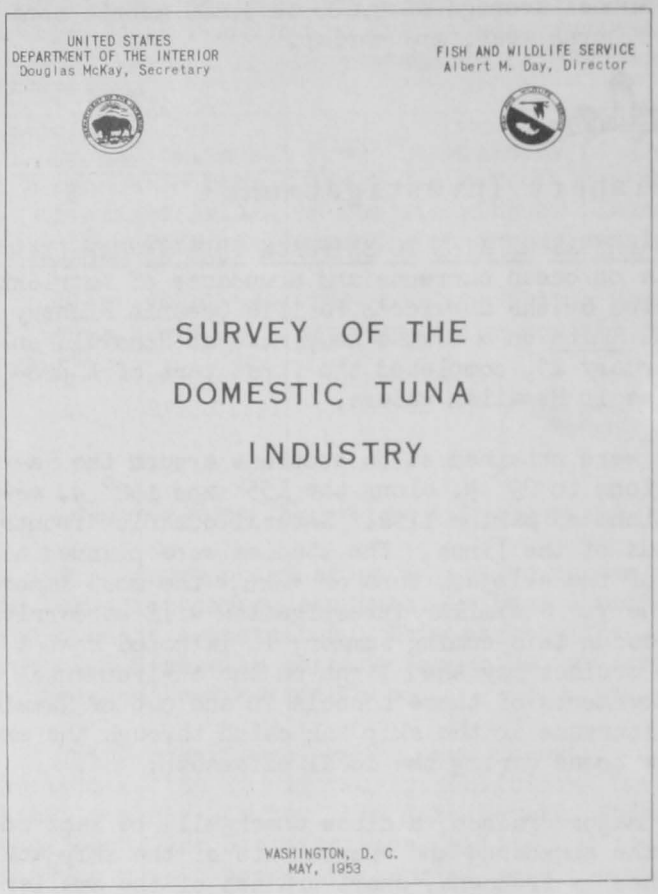
Service Completes Study of Domestic Tuna Industry

A comprehensive study of the domestic tuna industry and its current production and marketing problems has been completed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Interior announced in May.

This study was launched in October 1952 in response to a petition to the Secretary of the Interior by six senators from the tuna-producing states of California, Washington, and Oregon. The senators had expressed concern over increased foreign competition and the industry's general economic health.

The results of the study just completed by specialists in the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries have been compiled in a report of more than 400 pages. Copies have been submitted to the legislators who sought the investigation. Subjects covered include: history of the industry; consumption; world production; domestic production; processing; relationship of the industry to the national interest; distribution; government assistance in the United States and competing countries; and recommendations for action by both the tuna industry and the Federal Government.

The report notes that the outlook for consumption of products of the tuna industry is bright. On the other hand, the prospects of major relative cost reductions in fishing and processing are rather bleak. Distribution, which is responsible for only a small part of the ultimate cost of canned tuna, does not offer any great prospect of cost savings as an aid in improving the position of the industry. In the light of these and associated determinations, the report contains suggestions as to what may be done by the domestic tuna industry--the fishermen, processors, distributors, and importers--and the Federal Government, to promote necessary adjustments so that the industry may achieve and maintain a sound position in the domestic economy.



A crisis in the domestic tuna industry arose in 1951 when duty-free imports of frozen tuna from Japan and Latin America, together with increased imports of brine-packed canned tuna from Japan, reached unprecedented proportions. United States tuna fishermen and cannery operators, particularly on the West Coast, found domestic markets oversupplied with tuna and were forced to tie up their vessels and close processing plants.

As the crisis developed, a bill calling for a 3-cent-per-pound duty on fresh or frozen tuna imports was considered by the Congress. This bill, which also directed the Tariff Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service to initiate investigations of the tuna fishing industry, passed the House but failed of passage in the Senate.

Subsequently, the Senate Finance Committee directed the Tariff Commission to investigate the tuna situation, particularly from the standpoint of foreign competition in order to assist Congress in any future legislation concerning tuna. The Fish and Wildlife Service report supplements, but does not duplicate, the Tariff Commission investigation report published in March.

U. S. Production of Packaged Fish, 1952

The production of fresh and frozen packaged fish (fillets, steaks, and split "butterfly") in the United States during 1952 totaled 190,374,040 pounds, valued at $54,912,172 to the processors. This is a decrease of 7 percent in quantity and 8 percent in value as compared with the 1951 production.

In 1952 ocean perch fillets (58,660,499 pounds) was once again the largest single item of fresh and frozen packaged fish produced. Haddock fillets (52,064,681

pounds) and flounder fillets (24,153,798 pounds) were second and third in importance. Production was down from 1951 for ocean perch fillets (22 percent) and flounder fillets (8 percent). Haddock fillet production was up 2 percent.

Table 1 - U. S. Fresh and Frozen Packaged Fish Production, 1951-52
(Quantity and Value to the Processors)

Species	1952 Quantity	1952 Total Value	1952 Avg. Price Per Pound	1951 Quantity	1951 Total Value	1951 Avg. Price Per Pound
	Lbs.	$	$	Lbs.	$	$
Blue Pike	1,954,114	1,021,750	.52	1,467,037	890,186	.61
Carp	-	-	-	125,000	18,750	.15
Catfish	-	-	-	31,895	12,508	.39
Cod	11,663,782	3,000,576	.26	13,289,890	3,435,864	.26
Cusk	668,994	176,627	.26	595,048	140,426	.24
Flounders	24,153,798	9,840,669	.41	26,309,197	10,817,408	.41
Groupers	336,878	155,746	.46	449,107	191,558	.43
Haddock	52,064,681	15,386,569	.30	50,830,527	14,545,679	.29
Hake	1,782,937	325,558	.18	1,951,218	351,725	.18
Halibut	4,230,874	1,883,954	.45	4,259,864	1,857,324	.44
Herring, lake	834,136	263,154	.32	256,483	50,376	.20
Lake trout	324,205	170,630	.53	215,504	120,217	.56
Lingcod	970,213	261,626	.27	1,207,128	323,707	.27
Mackerel	1,415,424	368,908	.26	815,504	212,718	.26
Ocean perch	58,660,499	14,181,952	.24	75,023,366	18,732,729	.25
Pike or pickerel	44,942	10,119	.23	48,000	16,115	.33
Pollock	7,800,886	1,195,193	.15	7,096,113	1,257,464	.18
Rockfishes	7,833,294	1,780,094	.23	5,542,174	1,322,409	.24
Sablefish	-	-	-	86,615	19,315	.22
Salmon	3,250,562	1,596,651	.49	2,061,292	1,099,982	.53
Sauger	1,162,319	571,089	.49	1,772,382	1,017,840	.57
Scup	-	-	-	39,000	6,800	.17
Sea bass	-	-	-	206,388	51,614	.25
Sea trout	-	-	-	54,651	14,080	.26
Sheepshead	-	-	-	55,259	11,156	.20
Snapper, red	74,500	49,585	.67	49,686	29,993	.60
Spanish mackerel	200,303	71,096	.35	215,231	74,018	.34
Sucker (mullet)	-	-	-	27,188	4,801	.18
White bass	26,600	11,205	.42	18,610	8,044	.43
Whitefish	379,453	215,501	.57	365,921	205,370	.56
Whiting (silver hake)	7,911,613	1,057,794	.13	8,713,782	1,337,767	.15
Wolffish	694,857	222,744	.32	337,439	101,886	.30
Yellow perch	752,707	426,007	.57	579,864	369,057	.64
Yellow pike	966,241	593,804	.61	1,183,087	777,526	.66
Miscellaneous	1/ 215,228	73,571	.34	2/ 206,618	60,686	.29
Total	190,374,040	54,912,172	.29	205,486,068	59,487,098	.29

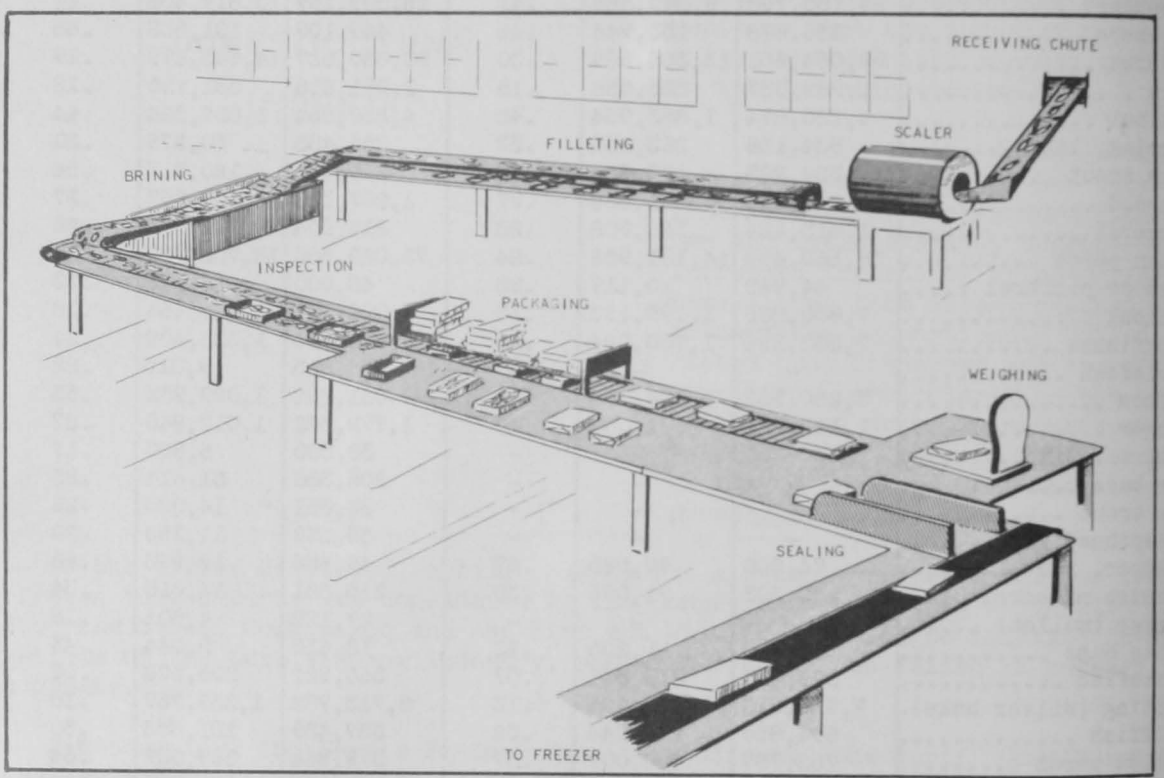
1/ INCLUDES BLUEFISH, CARP, OCEAN POUT, SABLEFISH, SEA BASS, GRAY SEA TROUT, SHAD, SUCKERS, STRIPED BASS, AND UNCLASSIFIED SPECIES.
2/ INCLUDES AMBERJACK, BLUEFISH, BUFFALOFISH, BUTTERFISH, CABIO, DRUM, KING MACKEREL, OCEAN POUT, SCUP, SHAD, STRIPED BASS, SWORDFISH, TILEFISH, WHITE PERCH, AND UNCLASSIFIED SPECIES.

The average price received by the processors for all fresh and frozen packaged fish in 1952 was 29 cents per pound, the same as in 1951. Among the leading items, average prices for ocean perch fillets increased from 24 cents per pound in 1951 to 25 cents in 1952; haddock fillets dropped from 30 cents to 29 cents; while flounder fillets remained steady at 41 cents and cod fillets and steaks at 26 cents.

The merchandising of frozen fishery products in consumer-size packages (2 pounds or less per pkg.) has made rapid strides in the United States since 1950. The production of a selected number of items in consumer-size fixed-weight packages in 1952 totaled over 77 million pounds--25 percent over the 1951 pack and 82 percent more than in 1950. Fillets and shrimp are the principal products put up in the consumer-size packages. Included are frozen breaded and cooked products.

Table 2 - U. S. Production of Certain Consumer-Packaged Frozen Fishery Products, 1950-52

Item	1952	1951	1950
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Fillets	46,685,000	40,423,000	26,930,000
Shrimp:			
Breaded	16,978,000	17,718,000	11,060,000
Not breaded ..	7,181,000		
Scallops	3,692,000	2,546,000	3,800,000
Oysters	2,900,000	1,063,000	865,000
Total	77,436,000	61,750,000	42,665,000

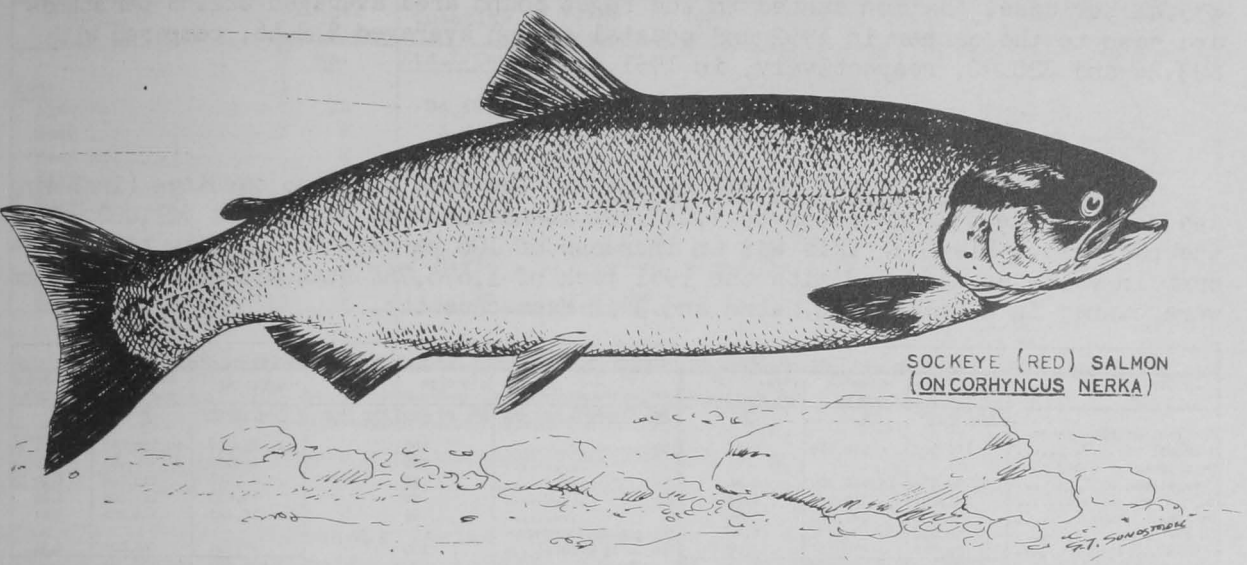


FILLETING PLANT

In addition to fillets, shrimp, scallops, and oysters, there were small quantities of other types of fishery products put up in consumer-size packages, but data on these are not available.

U. S. Canned Pack of Selected Fishery Products, 1952

SALMON CANNED IN PACIFIC COAST STATES: The 1952 pack of canned salmon in the Pacific Coast States of California, Oregon, and Washington amounted to 890,156 stand-



ard cases, valued at $21,906,773 to the canners (table 1). The Puget Sound district of Washington canned 78 percent of the pack, the Columbia River districts of Oregon and Washington 19 percent, and the coastal districts of the three states the remaining 3 percent. Salmon were canned at 28 plants in Washington, 12 in Oregon, and 1 in California.

Table 1 - Pacific Coast States Canned Salmon Pack By Species and Area, 1952[1]

Species	Puget Sound			Columbia River			Coastal			Total	
	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case	Quantity	Value to Canners
	Std. Cases[2]	$	$	Std. Cases[2]	$	$	Std. Cases[2]	$	$	Std. Cases[2]	$
Chinook or king ...	7,887	189,731	24.06	95,353	3,506,181	36.77	1,968	40,432	20.54	105,208	3,736,344
Chum or keta	297,494	4,839,265	16.27	13,759	214,837	15.61	14,998	228,425	15.23	326,251	5,282,527
Pink	4,711	93,594	19.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,711	93,594
Red or sockeye	214,540	6,962,097	32.45	9,824	413,774	42.12	796	33,846	42.52	225,160	7,409,717
Silver or coho	173,238	3,743,476	21.61	29,701	875,380	29.47	6,908	152,748	22.11	209,847	4,771,604
Steelhead	-	-	-	18,979	612,987	32.30	-	-	-	18,979	612,987
Total	697,870	15,828,163	22.68	167,616	5,623,159	33.55	24,670	455,451	18.46	890,156	21,906,773

1/ PRELIMINARY. DOES NOT INCLUDE ALASKA SALMON PACK.
2/ STANDARD CASES REPRESENT CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 1-POUND CANS, EACH CAN CONTAINING 16 OUNCES.

The 1952 pack was 23 percent less in quantity and 25 percent lower in value as compared with 1951 (table 2). This was due to 1952 being an off-year for the pink salmon run. All other species of salmon, except chinook or king, increased substantially; the largest increase (72 percent) was for silver or coho.

Table 2 - Pacific Coast States Canned Salmon Pack By Species, 1942-52
(Quantity in Standard Cases[2] and Value to the Canners)

Year	Chinook or King	Chum or Keta	Pink	Red or Sockeye	Silver or Coho	Steelhead	Total
	Std. Cases[2]	Std. Cases[2]	Std. Cases[2]	Std. Cases[2]	Std. Cases[2]	Std. Cases[2]	Std. Cases[2]
1952[1] ..	105,208	326,251	4,711	225,160	209,847	18,979	890,156
1951	157,231	262,037	441,605	163,657	121,892	14,862	1,161,274
1950	151,928	539,982	2,277	136,741	160,625	10,266	1,001,819
1949	157,861	219,652	553,987	107,801	85,143	8,881	1,133,325
1948	285,266	276,158	4,480	97,907	125,647	20,617	810,075
1947	300,029	185,178	628,300	37,095	155,842	22,782	1,329,226
1946	164,898	68,762	160	283,935	25,505	17,029	560,289
1945	139,262	1,214	301,376	53,130	43,580	19,207	557,769
1944	167,070	1,669	490	38,061	17,809	20,489	245,588
1943	134,225	9,387	62,025	21,610	32,383	16,259	275,889
1942	272,151	149,010	789	282,105	33,728	21,249	759,032

1/ PRELIMINARY.
2/ "STANDARD CASES" REPRESENT CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 1-POUND CANS, EACH CAN CONTAINING 16 OUNCES.

The average price of all salmon packed in the Pacific Coast States in 1952 was $24.61 per standard case to the canners as compared with $25.31 in 1951. Columbia River canned salmon had the highest average price--$33.55 per standard case--due to the large percentage of chinook salmon. The 1951 average on the Columbia River was $35.41 per case. Salmon canned in the Puget Sound area averaged $22.68 per standard case to the canner in 1952 and coastal salmon averaged $18.46, compared with $23.24 and $20.90, respectively, in 1951.

* * * * *

MAINE SARDINES (INCLUDING SEA HERRING): The pack of Maine sardines (including sea herring) in 1952 amounted to 3,457,581 standard cases, valued at $21,402,994 to the packers (table 1). This was an increase of 106 percent in quantity and 46 percent in value as compared with the 1951 pack of 1,676,764 standard cases. Sardines were canned in 47 plants in Maine and 3 in Massachusetts.

Table 1 - Maine Sardine Pack (Including Sea Herring) By Style of Pack and By Size of Can and Case, 1952[1]

Style of Pack	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[2]	Can and Case Size		Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Case
	Std. Cases[2]	$	$	Net Contents Per Can	No. of Cans Per Case	Actual Cases	$	$
Natural, without sauce or oil	198,587	543,598	2.73	3¼ ounces	100	2,998,207	19,762,806	6.59
In soybean or other vegetable oil	2,780,824	17,968,307	6.46	5 "	100	46,920	312,636	6.66
In mustard sauce	291,239	1,812,327	6.22	9 "	48	62,585	412,488	6.59
In tomato sauce	118,912	471,252	3.96	10 "	48	19,895	124,646	6.26
In olive oil	15,242	128,404	8.42	15 "	48	116,125	724,325	6.24
Other[3]	52,777	479,106	9.09	Other sizes (converted to 3¼ ounces)	100	17,355	66,093	3.80
Total	3,457,581	21,402,994	6.19	Total		3,261,087	21,402,994	-

1/PRELIMINARY. 2/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO 100 ¼-OIL CANS (3¼ OUNCES NET) TO THE CASE.
3/INCLUDES SPECIAL PACKS IN COTTONSEED OIL, PEANUT OIL, AND KIPPERED.

The bulk (80 percent) of the 1952 pack was canned in soybean or other vegetable oil. The pack in 3¼-ounce cans comprised 92 percent of the total.

The canners' average price for Maine sardines in 1952 was $6.19 per standard case, 29 percent lower than the $8.73 average price in 1951, and 34 percent less than the record price of $9.39 in 1947. However, the demand for canned Maine sardines in 1952 was good.

Table 2 - Maine Sardine Pack (Including Sea Herring), 1943-52

Year	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[2]	Year	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[2]
	Std. Cases[2]	$	$		Std. Cases[2]	$	$
1952[1] ..	3,457,581	21,402,994	6.19	1947 ..	3,013,910	28,310,674	9.39
1951 ...	1,676,764	14,635,352	8.73	1946 ..	3,276,338	20,275,590	6.19
1950 ...	3,844,164	21,209,033	5.52	1945 ..	2,725,216	12,077,201	4.43
1949 ...	3,074,523	21,051,675	6.85	1944 ..	3,261,984	14,819,803	4.54
1948 ...	3,682,392	29,359,114	7.97	1943 ..	2,505,114	11,104,570	4.43

1/PRELIMINARY. 2/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO 100 ¼-OIL CANS (3¼ OUNCES NET) TO THE CASE.
NOTE: THE PACK OF HERRING HAS BEEN CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 100 ¼-OIL CANS (3¼ OUNCES NET) TO THE CASE AND INCLUDED WITH THE PACK OF SARDINES.

With the exception of 1951, there has not been any great year-to-year fluctuation in the total pack of Maine sardines in the past ten years (table 2).

* * * * *

FISH ROE AND CAVIAR: The United States pack of canned fish roe and caviar in 1952 amounted to 64,080 standard cases (48 1-pound cans), valued at $1,681,010 to the packers (table 1). Alewife roe acounted for 54 percent of the quantity and 24 percent of the value of the pack; while salmon and sturgeon caviar combined comprised 9 percent of the quantity and 42 percent of the value.

The total 1952 pack of canned fish roe and caviar was a decrease of 16 percent in quantity and 13 percent in value as compared with 1951 (table 2).

The average price for all roe and caviar canned in 1952 was $26.23 per standard case to the packer as compared with $25.31 per case in 1951. The average prices

Table 1 - U. S. Pack of Canned Fish Roe and Caviar, 1952[1]

Product	Plants Packing	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[2]	States of Production and Number of Plants
	No.	Std.[2] Cases	$	$	
oe:					
Alewife	25	34,691	411,839	11.86	Md. 4, Va. 12, N. C. 9
Shad	9	3,444	167,680	48.69	Md. 1, Wash. 2, Ore. 4, Calif. 2
Deep sea	2				
Mackerel	1	7,083	104,458	14.75	Mass. 3, Conn. 1
Herring	1				
aviar:					
Salmon	3	4,595	527,510	114.80	N. Y. 3
Sturgeon	2				
Whitefish	3	1,038	56,737	54.66	N. Y. 2, Wisc. 1
Total Edible Roe and Caviar		50,851	1,268,224	24.94	
almon eggs for bait	9	13,229	412,786	31.20	Wash. 9
Grand Total	3/51	64,080	1,681,010	26.23	

/PRELIMINARY.
/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 CANS, EACH CAN WITH A NET WEIGHT OF 16 OUNCES.
/EXCLUSIVE OF DUPLICATION.

or the different products varied considerably in 1952--from a low of $11.86 per standard case for alewife roe to $114.80 per case for salmon and sturgeon caviar.

Table 2 - U. S. Pack of Canned Fish Roe and Caviar, 1942-52

Year	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[1]	Year	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[1]
	Std. Cases[1]	$	$		Std. Cases[1]	$	$
1952[2]	64,080	1,681,010	26.23	1946	58,192	1,905,638	32.75
1951	76,095	1,926,140	25.31	1945	36,795	948,042	25.77
1950	70,382	1,886,959	26.81	1944	55,677	824,197	14.80
1949	86,459	1,969,998	22.79	1943	59,884	1,044,582	17.44
1948	50,629	1,473,320	29.10	1942	53,190	910,890	17.13
1947	52,432	1,641,228	31.30				

1/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 CANS, EACH CAN WITH A NET WEIGHT OF 16 OUNCES.
2/PRELIMINARY.

* * * * *

ANIMAL FOOD FROM FISHERY PRODUCTS: The 1952 pack of canned animal food from ishery products amounted to 3,497,653 standard cases, valued at $15,667,350, or an

Table 1 - U. S. Pack of Canned Animal Food from Fishery Products By States, 1952[1]

State	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[2]
	Std. Cases[2]	$	$
Maine	948,054	3,313,953	3.50
Massachusetts	829,574	3,740,477	4.51
N. Y., N. J., Md., and Va.	135,186	568,968	4.21
Miss., Ill., Ia., and Tenn.	256,326	1,290,913	5.04
California and Washington	1,328,513	6,753,039	5.08
Total	3,497,653	15,667,350	4.48

1/PRELIMINARY.
2/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 CANS, EACH CAN CONTAINING 16 OUNCES.

average price of $4.48 per standard case to the canner (table 1). This is the largest pack in the history of the industry--an increase of 49 percent in quantity and 34 percent in value as compared with the 1951 pack. California and Washington produced 38 percent of the pack, Maine 27 percent, Massachusetts 24 percent, and the other states 11 percent. Animal food was canned in 14 plants in California, 8 in Massachusetts, 3 in Maine, 2 in Washington, and 1 plant each in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Illinois, Iowa, and Tennessee.

Table 2 - U. S. Pack of Canned Animal Food from Fishery Products By Size of Can and Case, 1952[1/]

Can and Case Size	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Case
	Actual Cases	$	$
6 ounces net (48 cans)	17,813	36,327	2.04
8 " " (" ")	2,342,781	5,893,174	2.52
16 " " (" ")	2,301,045	9,633,337	4.19
Other sizes (converted to standard cases)	18,538	104,512	5.64
Total	4,680,177	15,667,350	-

1/ PRELIMINARY.

The 1952 pack was about evenly divided between the 8-ounce and and the 16-ounce can (table 2). Fifty percent was packed in the 8-ounce can, 49 percent in the 16-ounce can, and the remaining 1 percent in containers of various sizes.

Table 3 - U. S. Pack of Canned Animal Food from Fishery Products, 1942-52

Year	Quantity	Value to Canners	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[2/]
	Std. Cases[2/]	$	$
1952[1/]	3,497,653	15,667,350	4.48
1951	2,341,871	11,675,809	4.99
1950	2,721,393	13,870,870	5.10
1949	1,931,757	8,663,442	4.48
1948	1,323,808	6,971,003	5.27
1947	909,964	3,949,419	4.34
1943	1,771	5,319	3.00
1942	104,954	374,718	3.57

1/ PRELIMINARY.
2/ CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 CANS, EACH CAN CONTAINING 16 OUNCES.
NOTE: NO PRODUCTION IN 1944, 1945, AND 1946 BECAUSE CANS WERE NOT ALLOCATED FOR THIS PRODUCT.

The canning of animal food from fishery products has increased sharply since the end of World War II (table 3). More packers have become aware of the value of animal food produced from fishery products, and the expanding market for this product. During World War II no cans were allocated by the Government for the canning of animal food, which accounts for the fact that none was produced during that period.

U. S. Production of Selected Byproducts

OYSTER AND MARINE-CLAM SHELL PRODUCTS: The production of grit and agricultural lime from oyster-shell products in 1952 totaled 429,348 tons, valued at $3,359,024 to the manufacturers (table 1). This was a decrease of 5 percent in quantity and 1 percent in value as compared with 1951. No clam shells were used in 1952.

Crushed-shell products were prepared in 24 plants--3 each in New Jersey, nnsylvania, Virginia, and Washington; 2 each in Maryland, North Carolina, Texas, d California; and 1 plant each in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Oregon.

Table 1 - U. S. Production of Oyster-Shell Products by States, 1952[1]

State	Crushed Shells for Poultry Feed			Unburned Shell Lime			Total	
	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.	Avg. Price Per Ton	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.	Avg. Price Per Ton	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.
	Short Tons	$	$	Short Tons	$	$	Short Tons	$
Jersey	6,144	58,633	9.54	571	2,508	4.39	6,715	61,141
nsylvania and Maryland	25,577	356,717	13.95	12,637	64,108	5.07	38,214	420,825
, N. C., Fla., and Ala.	79,935	859,529	10.75	[2]9,684	124,471	12.85	89,619	984,000
isiana and Texas	230,049	1,496,594	6.50	41,517	166,613	4.01	271,566	1,663,207
n., Oreg., and Calif.	14,726	168,245	11.43	8,508	61,606	7.24	23,234	229,851
Total	356,431	2,939,718	8.25	72,917	419,306	5.75	429,348	3,359,024

RELIMINARY. 2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITY BURNED LIME PRODUCED IN VIRGINIA.

The average price per ton for the crushed shell for poultry feed in 1952 was .25, second only to the record price of $8.36 in 1951, but the first decline

Table 2 - U. S. Production of Oyster and Marine-Clam Shell Products, 1942-52

ar	Crushed Shells for Poultry Feed			Burned and Unburned Shell Lime			Total	
	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Ton	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Ton	Quantity	Total Value
	Short Tons	$	$	Short Tons	$	$	Short Tons	$
52[1] ..	356,431	2,939,718	8.25	72,917	419,306	5.75	429,348	3,359,024
51 ...	377,791	3,157,129	8.36	75,528	411,616	5.45	453,319	3,568,745
50 ...	344,300	2,625,896	7.63	55,075	320,557	5.82	399,375	2,946,453
49 ...	323,662	2,393,794	7.40	38,366	268,458	7.00	362,028	2,662,252
48 ...	296,570	2,140,705	7.22	48,505	333,787	6.88	345,075	2,474,492
47 ...	438,629	2,860,175	6.52	62,764	402,983	6.42	501,393	3,263,158
46 ...	329,717	1,913,584	5.80	60,716	357,269	5.88	390,433	2,270,853
45 ...	369,064	2,001,318	5.42	138,032	572,399	4.15	507,096	2,573,717
44 ...	458,080	2,684,306	5.86	124,135	450,390	3.63	582,215	3,134,696
43 ...	398,852	2,299,053	5.76	110,433	521,933	4.73	509,285	2,820,986
42 ...	345,032	2,028,170	5.88	121,005	554,091	4.58	466,037	2,582,261

PRELIMINARY. THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION WAS FROM OYSTER SHELLS.

nce 1945 (table 2). Prices paid for agricultural lime from marine shells in 52 averaged $5.75 per ton, an increase of 5 percent over the 1951 price, but percent below the record price of $7.00 per ton in 1949.

* * * * *

FRESH-WATER MUSSEL-SHELL PRODUCTS: Fresh water mussel-shell buttons produced the United States in 1952 amounted to 5,078,402 gross, valued at $4,430,114 to e manufacturers (table 1). In addition, 2,444 short tons of lime and poultry

Table 1 - U. S. Production of Fresh-Water Mussel-Shell Products, 1952[1]

State	Buttons			Lime and Poultry Grit			Total Value To Mfgr.
	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.	Avg. Price Per Gross	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.	Avg. Price Per Ton	
	Gross	$	¢	Short Tons	$	$	$
a	4,772,578	4,196,927	88	[2]2,444	[2]8,431	3.45	4,205,358
Y., Pa., Mo., and Ark.	305,824	233,187	76	-	-	-	233,187
Total	5,078,402	4,430,114	87	2,444	8,431	3.45	4,438,545

ELIMINARY.
ALL QUANTITIES OF LIME AND DUST PRODUCED IN NEW YORK ARE INCLUDED WITH THE IOWA PRODUCTION.

t (valued at $8,431) were produced by mussel-shell manufacturers. Mussel shells chased during the year amounted to 8,416 short tons, valued at $393,356 to the hermen.

Mussel-shell products were manufactured in 11 plants in Iowa; 2 in New York; 1 plant each in Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and Missouri. Shells were taken in 10

states in the Mississippi River and Great Lakes region. The producing states in the order of their importance were: Tennessee, which contributed 33 percent of

Table 2 - U. S. Production of Fresh-Water Mussel-Shell Products, 1942-52[1]

Year	Buttons			Other Products[2]	Total Value To Mfgr.
	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.	Avg. Price Per Gross	Value To Mfgr.	
	Gross	$	¢	$	$
1952[1] ..	5,078,402	4,430,114	87	8,431	4,438,545
1951 ...	4,534,759	3,805,352	84	40,309	3,845,661
1950 ...	4,940,190	4,074,775	82	51,758	4,126,533
1949 ...	4,720,239	3,696,452	78	71,251	3,767,703
1948 ...	6,810,135	5,396,511	79	50,610	5,447,121
1947 ...	8,254,000	8,166,000	99	[4]	8,166,000
1946 ...	9,669,580	6,527,758	68	101,820	6,629,578
1945 ...	[3] 9,027,685	[3] 4,844,647	54	-	[3] 4,844,647
1944 ...	8,024,609	4,306,353	54	122,550	4,428,903
1943 ...	8,077,523	3,679,305	46	102,723	3,782,028
1942 ...	11,585,292	4,980,476	43	83,795	5,064,271

1/ PRELIMINARY.
2/ CRUSHED SHELL LIME, POULTRY GRIT, AND CUT SHELLS.
3/ ESTIMATED.
4/ DATA NOT AVAILABLE.

the total quantity; Alabama, 28 percent; Arkansas, 22 percent; Kentucky, 6 percent; Indiana and Iowa, 3 percent each; Mississippi, 2 percent; Illinois, 1 percent; and Louisiana and Wisconsin 2 percent.

* * * * *

MARINE PEARL-SHELL BUTTONS: The production of marine pearl-shell buttons in 1952 amounted to 4,486,456 gross, valued at $6,880,104 to the manufacturers (table 1)

Table 1 - U. S. Production of Marine Pearl-Shell Buttons By States, 1952[1]

State	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.	Avg. Price Per Gross
	Gross	$	$
Connecticut	1,173,423	1,518,957	1.29
New York	1,057,656	1,625,333	1.54
New Jersey	1,059,190	1,718,335	1.62
Pennsylvania and Maryland	1,130,451	1,914,794	1.69
Iowa	65,736	102,685	1.56
Total	4,486,456	6,880,104	1.53

1/ PRODUCED PRINCIPALLY FROM IMPORTED SHELLS. PRELIMINARY.

This was a decrease of 4 percent in quantity and 11 percent in value, compared with 1951. Manufacturers received an average of $1.53 per gross for their 1952 production, compared with an average of $1.65 in 1951 and 84 cents in 1942.

Table 2 - U. S. Production of Marine Pearl-Shell Buttons, 1942-52

Year	Quantity	Value To Mfgr.	Avg. Price Per Gross
	Gross	$	$
1952[1] ..	4,486,456	6,880,104	1.53
1951 ...	4,665,285	7,714,846	1.65
1950 ...	5,803,641	9,239,018	1.59
1949 ...	4,089,712	6,782,281	1.66
1948 ...	4,974,073	8,587,011	1.73
1947 ...	5,087,000	7,902,000	1.55
1946 ...	3,461,559	5,635,904	1.63
1945 ...	2,398,020	3,286,245	1.37
1944 ...	2,035,320	2,601,626	1.28
1943 ...	2,949,978	3,792,059	1.29
1942 ...	5,364,718	4,532,695	.84

1/ PRELIMINARY.

U. S. Shrimp Imports, 1952

United States shrimp (fresh, frozen, canned, and dried) imports from all countries in 1952 totaled 38,470,510 pounds, a decrease of 8 percent from 1951 and 4 percent less than in 1950 (table 1). This decline was due mainly to poor fishing on the Mexican west coast. Mexico as usual was still the largest foreign shipper of fresh and frozen shrimp to the United States. Almost its entire production is exported to the United States.

In 1952 Mexican shipments comprised 88 percent of the total shrimp imports into the United States, compared with 94 percent in 1951, and 99 percent in 1950.

Table 1 - U. S. Shrimp (Fresh, Frozen, Canned, and Dried) Imports, 1950-52

Country of Origin	1952	1951	1950
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Mexico[1/]	33,762,447	39,575,128	39,652,640
Panama[1/]	3,439,429	1,218,200	143,006
Canal Zone[1/]	463,434	657,350	148,250
Other countries[2/]	805,200	373,235	254,167
Total	38,470,510	41,823,913	40,198,063

1/MOSTLY FROZEN, BUT INCLUDES SOME FRESH SHRIMP.
2/MOSTLY CANNED AND DRIED, BUT DOES INCLUDE SOME FROZEN SHRIMP.

Shipments of shrimp (mostly frozen) from Panama have increased substantially in the past few years. From a total of 143,006 pounds in 1950, Panama shipments increased to 3,439,429 pounds in 1952.

Table 2 - U. S. Shrimp[1/] Imports from Mexico by Customs Districts, 1950-52

Customs District	1952	1951	1950
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
New York	463,950	1,098,900	691,875
Buffalo	-	-	34,600
Rochester	-	-	30,000
Philadelphia	-	-	93,100
Maryland	74,600	-	30,000
Florida	326,513	308,302	614,332
New Orleans	2,619,142	2,551,561	1,842,291
Galveston	832,550	1,335,035	68,000
Laredo	6,703,181	5,173,346	3,256,939
El Paso	-	2,009	-
Arizona	17,812,840	24,435,880	23,045,869
San Diego	1,667,569	1,708,168	1,639,932
Los Angeles	591,497	285,589	3,096,136
San Francisco	380,000	352,648	372,115
Chicago	2,192,695	2,060,054	4,043,962
Minnesota	-	30,000	129,750
Vermont	-	3,000	-
Duluth	-	-	1,988
Wisconsin	-	-	34,600
Connecticut	-	4,000	-
Colorado	42,050	78,020	197,995
St. Louis	2,360	109,616	429,156
Washington	16,500	39,000	-
Oregon	37,000	-	-
Total	33,762,447	39,575,128	39,652,640

1/MOSTLY FRESH AND FROZEN.

Imports from Mexico by customs districts indicate that the biggest decline occurred in entries through the Arizona Customs District (table 2). Since the bulk of Mexico's west coast production enters the United States through this port of entry, it corroborates the reports that shrimp production in that area has declined considerably.

Wholesale Prices

Wholesale average prices for edible fishery products this March were down from the previous month and March 1952. The drop was attributed to heavy inventories of frozen fish and lower meat prices. Production of fresh fish was about

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

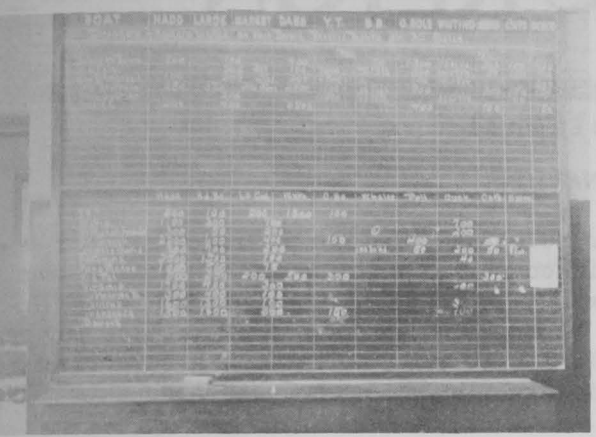
Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification	Point of Pricing	Unit	Avg. Prices ($) Mar. 1953 1/	Avg. Prices ($) Feb. 1953 1/	Indexes (1947-49 = 100) Mar. 1953	Feb. 1953	Jan. 1953	Mar. 1952
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)					102.8	108.0	110.5	109.5
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:					105.7	114.6	119.3	114.4
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:					94.8	112.2	117.5	117.2
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.07	.11	73.4	114.3	131.7	108.3
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed fresh or frozen	N.Y.C.	"	.33	.32	102.1	100.1	103.2	108.4
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	"	"	.49	.49	109.6	109.0	110.7	118.6
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.41	.62	100.4	152.4	142.5	161.1
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh	N.Y.C.	"	.37	.65	73.8	131.4	99.1	156.7
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.63	.63	129.1	128.1	124.0	133.2
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	N.Y.C.	"	.55	.50	129.0	117.2	96.1	155.9
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):					122.1	120.0	125.2	111.5
Fillets, haddock, sml., skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.30	.32	102.1	107.2	131.0	115.7
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	N.Y.C.	"	.83	.79	130.4	124.9	122.5	110.7
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	4.75	4.75	117.5	117.5	126.8	111.3
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):					112.7	112.3	113.6	109.6
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless 10-lb. pkg.	Boston	lb.	.33	.37	115.7	129.7	119.2	136.7
Haddock, sml., skins on, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.21	.21	76.2	76.2	92.0	113.4
Ocean perch, skins on, 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.24	.24	114.4	114.4	114.4	113.2
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg.	Chicago	"	.83	.79	127.3	121.9	121.1	96.4
Canned Fishery Products:					98.5	98.1	97.6	102.2
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	19.71	19.71	104.4	104.4	104.4	109.6
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. ½ tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.80	14.65	92.4	91.5	90.5	89.0
Sardines (pilchards), Calif., tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	"	"	9.25	9.25	108.0	108.0	106.8	109.4
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. ¼ drawn (3¼ oz.), 100 cans per case	N.Y.C.	"	7.70	7.70	81.9	81.9	79.3	105.9

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

normal for this time of year. The over-all edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen and canned) wholesale index for March was 102.8 percent of the 1947-49 average (table 1)--4.8 percent lower than in February and 6.1 percent below March 1952, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

The March index for the drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup was down 5.6 percent from February, but there were mixed trends for the individual items.

n spite of lighter-than-average landings, large drawn offshore haddock at Boston ropped 35.8 percent. Whitefish at New York and Chicago dropped considerably from month earlier--43.8 percent at New York and 34.1 percent at Chicago. All other tems were priced higher than in February. Compared with March 1952, all items in this subgroup sold at considerably lower prices this March.



BOARD ON WHICH TRIP HAILS OF SMALL DRAGGERS AND LINE TRAWLERS ARE POSTED AT NEW ENGLAND FISH EXCHANGE, BOSTON FISH PIER, PRIOR TO THE CALL FOR BIDS.

Fresh processed fish and shellfish prices rose 1.8 percent above February and 9.5 percent over March 1952 due entirely to higher shrimp prices. Shrimp landings continued light and the market was strong. Fresh haddock fillet prices at Boston declined while shucked oysters at Norfolk remained unchanged. Compared with March 1952, fresh shrimp and oyster prices were up and haddock prices were down.

From February to March frozen fish and shellfish prices continued to decline, but inventories were being reduced. This decline was more than offset by a urther increase in frozen shrimp prices. Frozen fillets of haddock and ocean erch were priced the same as in February, but flounder fillets dropped 11.8 percent. Compared with a year earlier, the processed frozen fish and shellfish subroup index was 2.8 percent higher--shrimp was up 32.1 percent, but haddock fillets nd flounder fillets were down 32.2 and 15.4 percent respectively.

Canned fishery products prices in March were 0.4 percent higher than in February, but 3.6 percent lower than March 1952. The only change from February was 1.0-percent increase in canned tuna prices. Inventories of canned tuna were ower and the market stronger. Also, canned tuna was the only canned fish item riced higher than in March 1952--all other canned fish were priced lower.

SEAWEED RESOURCES OF CANADA

DO YOU KNOW THAT:

Enough valuable products can be extracted from Canadian seaweed to pay off Canada's national debt, according to Dr. A. E. Kerr, President of Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.