



### International

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES TREATY RATIFIED: The formal exchange of ratifications of the tripartite North Pacific Fisheries Treaty took place on June 12 in Tokyo, according to word received by the Department of State. The treaty entered into force on the date of the exchange of ratifications.

The International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean was signed May 9, 1952, at Tokyo by representatives of the United States, Canada, and Japan. The Convention, which was negotiated at the Tripartite Fisheries Conference held at Tokyo in late 1951, marks a further step in the conservation of international fisheries in the North Pacific Ocean. Japan now becomes a joint partner with the United States and Canada in cooperative measures to preserve and perpetuate the fish stocks of the North Pacific.

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ANTARCTIC 1953 WHALE-OIL PRODUCTION ALMOST SOLD OUT: Only about 81,200 short tons of Antarctic baleen whale oil, including a small carryover of the 1952 output, remained unsold as of mid-May 1953, reports the June 15 Foreign Crops and Markets of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Of this quantity, Panama held 44,800 tons,

Disposition of 1953 Antarctic Whale Oil (including small carryover from 1952) by Country, as of May 14, 1953

Producing Country	Buyer	Quantity Purchased	Avg. Price Per Short Ton
		Short Tons	US\$
United Kingdom .....	Br. Ministry of Food	81,000	190.00
South Africa .....	Br. Ministry of Food	25,760	190.00
	Br. Ministry of Food	28,000	170.00
	Germany	23,800	175.00-180.00
	Sweden	5,600	175.00
	France	9,520	175.00-180.00
Norway .....	Denmark	11,200	175.00
	Belgium	4,200	175.00-181.25
	Netherlands	15,680	175.00-181.25
	Norwegian Hardeners	25,760	175.00
	Norwegian Dealers	22,400	193.75
	Norwegian Dealers	2,800	206.25
Netherlands .....	Netherlands Government	18,800	193.75
Russia .....	Domestic	27,800	Not Available
Argentina .....	Argentine Dealers	2,240	177.50
	Argentine Dealers	4,480	207.50
Japan .....	Germany	12,656	186.25
	Germany	11,334	186.25

Argentina 7,280 tons, and Japan 29,120 tons. However, the bulk of the Japanese holdings probably have been disposed of; negotiations for the sale of 23,500 tons were in process at the time this report was written.

Unsold quantities were being offered at £78 to £80 per long ton (US\$195-\$200 per short ton) but buyers were scarce and willing to pay only £70 to £72 (US\$175-\$180).

The British Ministry of Food purchased the entire British and South African production before the 1953 season started at £76 per long ton (US\$190 per short ton), compared with £90 to £110 (US\$225-\$275) paid in 1952. Whale-oil prices are related to the general fats and oils market which has been weak, at least compared with the previous year. The range of whale-oil prices this year, from £68 to £83 (US\$170-\$207.50), is somewhat less than last year and is disappointing to whaling companies in view of higher operating costs.

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WORLD MARINE-OIL PRODUCTION, 1952: Preliminary data indicate that world production of marine oils in 1952 is estimated at 950,000 short tons, a decline of about 5 percent from 1951. The decrease in 1952 occurred in fish and sperm whale oils--in contrast to 1951 when production of both these oils was up. The 1952 decline was due to generally lower prices and reduced fish landings. Whale-oil output, however, increased moderately. Since baleen whaling largely is restricted by international regulations, whale-oil output has remained fairly constant in recent years. In 1952 world trade in fish oils declined about 11 percent. United States exports fell 12 percent while European trade is believed to have dropped by about a fourth. Indications point to a further decline in marine-oil exports in 1953.

Whale Oil: World production of baleen whale oil in 1952 is estimated at 460,000 short tons as compared with 435,000 tons in 1951 and 545,000 tons in 1935-39 (table 1). Antarctic pelagic (open sea) production of whale oil, although restricted by

Country	1952 <sup>1/</sup>	1951	Average 1935-39
.....(1,000 short tons).....			
Norway .....	192	186	} 2/545
United Kingdom .....	80	79	
Japan .....	40	29	
Netherlands .....	17	17	
Panama .....	18	23	
Union of South Africa .....	41	35	
Soviet Union .....	27	21	
Others .....	45	45	
World total .....	460	435	545
<sup>1/</sup> PRELIMINARY. <sup>2/</sup> BREAKDOWN NOT AVAILABLE.			

international agreement, amounted to about 385,000 tons in 1952 or 85 percent of the world production. Another 25,000 tons was produced from South Georgia shore-station operations. Most of the remaining 1952 whale-oil output resulted mainly from minor shore-station activities in scattered parts of the world including Australia, Norway, South Africa, Japan, Canada, and Iceland.

Norway continued as the leading producer of whale oil in 1952 with some 192,000 short tons, 43 percent of the world

total and slightly less than in 1951. The United Kingdom's output of nearly 80,000 tons was the second largest, followed by Japan, the Union of South Africa, the Soviet Union, Panama, and the Netherlands. The same number of expeditions (19) operated in the Antarctic in 1952 as in the preceding season.

A moderate drop in whale-oil production is in prospect for 1953, as Antarctic output dropped to 350,800 tons. The pelagic catch of baleen whales in the 1953 season amounted to 14,855 blue-whale units, or more than 1,000 units under the 16,000-unit quota established by international agreement. Norway accounted for about 5,000 units, as compared with 7,151 units in 1952. The yield of whale oil from Norway's catch was reported at 137,800 tons, a drop of almost one-fourth from the preceding season.

A total of 16 expeditions participated in the 1953 Antarctic pelagic season, 3 fewer than last year; and included 7 Norwegian, 3 British, 2 Japanese, and 1 each from South Africa, the Soviet Union, the Netherlands, and Panama. The three expeditions withdrawn from service this year were Norwegian.

Sperm Oil: Sperm-oil production in 1952 is estimated roughly at 80,000 short tons, a drop of one-third from 1951 but still more than twice the average quantity produced in the 1945-49 period (table 2). The large output in the past two years as compared with preceding years is a reflection of increased demand stemming from the Korean conflict. Sperm oil has a strategic military value due to its non-gumming characteristic under high temperatures. Sperm whaling is not subject to the same strict international regulations that govern the catching of baleen whales, although some limitations have been introduced.

Table 2 - World Sperm-Oil Production by Major Producing Countries, 1952 with Comparisons

Country	1952 <sup>1/</sup>	1951	Average 1935-39
.....(1,000 short tons).....			
Norway .....	23	29	} 2/30
United Kingdom .....	13	10	
Japan .....	13	9	
Netherlands .....	3	2	
Union of South Africa	8	10	
Soviet Union..... <sup>2/</sup>	10	13	
Others .....	10	47	
World total .....	80	120	30

<sup>1/</sup>PRELIMINARY.  
<sup>2/</sup>UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATE.  
<sup>3/</sup>BREAKDOWN NOT AVAILABLE.

Nearly 65 percent of the estimated 1952 sperm-oil output, or 51,200 tons, came from the Antarctic. South Georgia shore stations produced only 1,200 tons. Complete data are not available regarding production in other areas in 1952. However, the large production of sperm oil in 1951 and early 1952 proved more than sufficient to restore depleted stocks and to meet the increased demand. Thus, the subsequent slump in prices is believed to have reduced production in areas outside the Antarctic to less than half the 71,000 tons produced in 1951.

Norway, as in 1951, was the largest producer of sperm oil with about 25,000 tons or almost 30 percent of the world total. Other principal producers in 1952 were the United Kingdom, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

In 1953 production of sperm oil again is expected to decrease. Returns from expeditions operating during the recent season in the Antarctic indicate a sharp reduction in sperm-oil production in that area.

Fish Oils: World output of fish oils in 1952, including liver oils, amounted to approximately 410,000 short tons (table 3). This is a decrease of 35,000 tons from the 1951 record postwar output, but almost 50 percent above the 1945-49 average. Most of the 1952 reduction occurred in Iceland, Norway, Canada, and the United States.

Output of Norway—the largest of any country in the past two years—dropped about 7 percent in 1952 to 116,000 tons. The sharpest drop in 1952, however, was in Iceland where production fell to about one-fifth of the 26,000 tons produced in the previous year. Fish-oil output in the United States, excluding liver oils, was 59,600 tons against 69,200 tons in the previous year. The 1952 decline was primarily due to the continued small catches of sardines off California and herring off Alaska. Canada produced only 12,100 tons of fish oils in 1952 as compared with 23,700 tons in 1951. Landings of sea fish in Canada were 10 percent lower than in the previous year, a reflection of lower prices paid for fish by processing firms.

South African production of fish oils has been increasing markedly in recent years with output in 1952 reaching almost 24,000 tons. Japan, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union also produce substantial quantities of fish oil.

Country	1952 <sup>2/</sup>	1951	Average 1935-39
	.....(1,000 short tons).....		
United States .....	62	71	120
Norway .....	116	123	40
Iceland .....	5	26	3/ 32
Japan .....	24	23	4/138
Union of South Africa	24	19	-
United Kingdom.....	20	22	20
Canada .....	12	24	17
Others .....	147	137	113
World total .....	410	445	480

1/ INCLUDES FISH-LIVER OILS.  
 2/ PRELIMINARY.  
 3/ AVERAGE 1939-43.  
 4/ AVERAGE 1936-39; INCLUDES IMPORTS FROM JAPANESE TERRITORIES.

World trade in fish oils (including liver oils) in 1952 is estimated at 120,000 tons, a decrease of 15,000 tons from 1951 and 11 percent below the prewar average. Exports from the United States of 22,000 tons were 12 percent less than in 1951 and 42 percent less than in 1950 partly because of decreased production. Canadian shipments of fish oils in 1952 increased to 13,400 tons from 12,000 tons in 1951. European trade in fish oils last year was around 60,000 tons, or 24 percent below exports in the preceding year.

The major exporting countries in Europe are Norway and normally Iceland with smaller quantities being exported by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Sizable quantities of fish oils also are exported by Japan, Angola, and the Union of South Africa. Exports of fish oils in 1953 may decline some from 1952 because fish landings in the North Sea area were reduced by extensive storms.

NOTE: ABSTRACTED FROM FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL CIRCULAR FFO 18-53 (JUNE 5, 1953) ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

### NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

REPORT OF THIRD ANNUAL MEETING: The Third Annual Meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries convened at New Haven, Conn., on May 25, 1953. The meeting continued through May 30. A three-day meeting of the Special Committee on the Commission's research program preceded the Commission meeting.

Excerpts from the report of the United States Commissioners follow:

At this third meeting, the Commission (1) selected Halifax, Nova Scotia, as the site for its permanent headquarters, (2) adopted and provided for the initiation of a comprehensive research program for the Convention Area, (3) amended a proposal, adopted at its second meeting, for the regulation of the haddock fishery in Subarea 5, (4) considered and acted upon a number of technical and procedural matters, (5) adopted a budget for the fiscal year 1954, (6) decided that its next annual meeting should be held at Commission headquarters beginning on the second Monday in June 1954, and (7) elected a Chairman and Vice-chairman for the next two years.

All ten signatory nations were represented by Commissioners. All of the delegations, except the Italian, consisted of Commissioners and Advisors. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea were represented by Observers.

The Officers of the Commission were Dr. John L. Kask, of the United States, Chairman, and Mr. A. T. A. Dobson, of the United Kingdom, Vice-chairman.

Since the bulk of the business before the Commission was conducted during meetings of the two Standing Committees, the more important items of the Agenda are treated in two groups: those referred to the Committee on Research and Statistics, and those referred to the Committee on Finance and Administration.

The Committee on Research and Statistics: Possibly the most important work of the Third Annual Meeting was done during four sessions of this Committee. In addition to Items 10 and 11 of the Agenda, which were referred to it at the first plenary session of the Commission, the Committee had before it a number of problems dealing with the collection of statistics and several miscellaneous items of a technical nature.

Item 10 - Report of the Special Committee on the Commission's Research Program. A report containing a draft research program was prepared and circulated to all Commissioners after the Copenhagen meeting of the Committee on September 26-27, 1952. This program was refined and supplemented during a meeting at New Haven on May 21-23, 1953, and submitted to the Commission for its consideration at the first plenary session of the Third Annual Meeting.

Briefly, the program designates cod, haddock, redfish (ocean perch), and halibut as the four species of most importance in the Convention Area and poses three fundamental questions with respect to these species which must be answered if the Commission is to achieve its objectives. The questions are:

- a. What principal fish stocks are there, where, how divided, and how now used?
- b. How do intensity and method of fishing affect the stocks and the long-term yield?
- c. How are the stocks affected by natural factors?

The program then outlines the work to be done in answering these questions, specifying (1) essential records on all fisheries which must be collected by all countries, i.e. statistics on catch and effort, and samples of catch for analysis of length composition; (2) essential records to be obtained cooperatively, not necessarily by every country, i.e., data defining the stocks and their movements, data making possible the assessment of the sizes of stocks and rates of mortality and recruitment, and data making possible a determination of the effects of natural factors on abundance and distributions; and (3) contributory information to be obtained as opportunity permits, e.g., measures of basic productivity which will give the rate of production of the organic material on which fish ultimately depend. The program then describes how the work should be coordinated. It is contemplated that the work will be carried out by national research agencies in centers far removed one from another. If it is to be effective, with no duplication of effort, special provision must be made for pooling the varied knowledge and experience, for the coordination of the work, and for the development of sound, agreed conclusions and recommendations.

The program proposes four measures to accomplish this coordination, i.e., (1) the establishment of three working parties on cod and haddock, redfish (ocean perch) and halibut, and hydrography, respectively, to consist of active research workers and to be responsible to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics; (2) provision of opportunity for working scientists to make visits to the research stations and ships of other countries to observe and practice techniques and develop ideas; (3) maintenance at Commission headquarters of an up-to-date register of scientists engaged in the various branches of the Commission's work; and (4) exchange, through the Executive Secretary, each December or as soon thereafter as possible, of programs for the ensuing year. The program also contains a schedule of field activities in the Convention Area, an inventory of the research facilities available for the Commission's work, and a list of scientists

presently engaged in research in the Convention Area.

The Standing Committee on Research and Statistics considered this report at its second session on May 27 and agreed to transmit it without amendment to the Commission for approval. The Committee also recommended that the Commission approve the appointment by the Committee of three working parties, as suggested in the Comprehensive Research Program. At its second plenary session on May 27, the Commission approved both the Research Program and the supplementary recommendation of the Committee.

Item 11 - Report on Haddock Regulations in Subarea 5 including Revised Research Program and Proposals for Amendments to Mesh Regulations: At its Second Annual Meeting, the Commission adopted and transmitted to the Member Governments for their approval, a proposal for regulation of the haddock fishery in Subarea 5. Essentially, the proposal would prohibit the taking of haddock in Subarea 5 with trawling nets having an average mesh size less than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches when measured wet. The proposal was accepted by the Member Governments and entered into force on June 13, 1953. During the past year, Canadian and United States scientists have been testing the effect of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh and have, as a result of these tests, concluded that the proposal should be amended insofar as it specifies methods of measuring mesh size. The suggested amendment and a report on research in Subarea 5 to be conducted by the United States were considered by the Committee at its first session on May 25 and it was agreed to recommend adoption of the amendment to the Commission. At its second plenary session on May 27, the Commission adopted the amendment with a minor change in wording proposed by the United States. The amendment adopted by the Commission follows:

.....Delete Paragraph 1 of the Commission's proposal and substitute the following:

"That the Contracting Governments take appropriate action to prohibit the taking of haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus) in Sub-area 5 by persons under their jurisdiction with a trawl net having a mesh size less than four and one-half inches when measured wet after use, or having a mesh size when measured dry before use less than the equivalent of four and one-half inches wet measurement after use. For the purposes of this proposal, the four and one-half inch mesh size when measured wet after use shall be taken to be:

- a. In the cod end of the net, the average of the measurements of each mesh in any series of fifty consecutive meshes running parallel to the long axis of the cod end and beginning at the after end of the cod end, such series to be at least ten meshes from the lacings and to be measured with a flat, wedge-shaped gauge having a taper of two inches in nine inches and a thickness of three thirty-seconds of an inch, inserted into the meshes under a pressure of not less than ten nor more than fifteen pounds, and;
- b. In any part of the net other than the cod end, the average of the measurements of each mesh in any series of twenty consecutive meshes, such series to be at least ten meshes from the lacings and to be measured with a flat, wedge-shaped gauge having a taper of two inches in nine inch-

es and a thickness of three thirty-seconds of an inch, inserted into the meshes under a pressure of not less than ten nor more than fifteen pounds.

Consideration of Statistics: The Committee had before it several papers prepared by the Secretariat dealing with the collection of statistics from Contracting Governments. Generally speaking, these papers reviewed the several aspects of the system for the collection of statistics established at previous meetings of the Commission, pointed out deficiencies, and suggested means of improving the system. The Committee studied the recommendations of the Secretariat and adopted certain of them for transmittal to the Commission, deferring action on others to the future. At its second and third plenary sessions on May 27 and 29, the Commission accepted the recommendations of the Committee.

Publications: The Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission through the Committee on Finance and Administration, that the Commission's publications be established in two series, one a statistical bulletin and the other annual proceedings to contain the report of the Commission together with scientific papers specially prepared for the annual meeting.

The Committee on Finance and Administration: A number of items on the Agenda were referred to this Committee, but the most significant were:

Item 5 - Review of Panel Membership: The Committee was presented with a paper reviewing panel membership as accepted at the Second Annual Meeting and indicating the desires of France and Italy for membership on Panels I, II, III, and IV, and Portugal's desire for membership on Panels I, III, and IV. The Committee was informed verbally by the Commissioner from Portugal that his government desired membership on Panel II also. After reviewing these requests in accordance with Article IV, 2 of the Convention, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission that it approve Panel memberships as listed. The Commission accepted this recommendation at the third plenary session.

Publications: The Committee received a report from the Committee on Research and Statistics rec-

Recommendations of Committee on Research and Statistics Adopted by the Commission: Some of the more pertinent recommendations which the Commission adopted in accepting the Final Report of the Committee on Research and Statistics follow:

1. That all Contracting Governments be requested to make those observations on the changes in weight of fish from the fresh round state to the various processed states which seem, in consultation with the Commission's Statistician, to be necessary to obtain accurate statistics.

2. That the Contracting Governments be requested to submit statistics in terms of fish in the state in which they are first weighed and to provide the Commission with the conversion factors necessary to calculate the fresh round weights.

3. That, in view of the usefulness of such information, the participating Governments report statistics of landings to the Commission according to commercial size categories already in use by the industry and report annually the definition of such categories of fish sizes.

ommending that the Commission's publications be in two series and, after hearing the opinions of the Chairman of the latter Committee, agreed to recommend its acceptance to the Commission with the understanding that special papers might be separately published on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Research and Statistics and the Executive Secretary and the approval of the Commission. This recommendation was adopted by the Commission at its third plenary session.

The Panels: The International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries provides for the establishment of Panels for each of the Subareas of the Convention Area, which Panels shall be responsible for keeping under review the fisheries of the Subareas and the scientific and other information relating thereto. Prior to the Third Annual Meeting, four Panels had been organized. France and Italy, having ratified the Convention during the past year, the fifth Panel, Panel II, was organized at the Third Annual Meeting. Each of the Panels met at least once during the current meeting. With the exception of Panel II, each heard reports on the status of the fisheries in its Subarea and explanations of the research to be conducted during the coming year. The meeting of Panel II was organizational only. In Panels IV and V alone did the condition of the fisheries warrant any action other than the coordination of research. Panel IV heard a report presented by Canadian scientists which indicated a decrease in the abundance of cod in the Subarea and a considerable destruction of small haddock at sea. Concerned with this evidence of depletion, the Panel appointed a committee of scientists, similar to that previously organized by Panel V, to maintain a close watch over these fisheries and report to the Panel at future meetings. Panel V considered and adopted for recommendation to the Commission the amendments to the haddock regulation proposed by the United States.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: At its final plenary session on May 30, the Commission elected Mr. Stewart Bates, Commissioner from Canada, Chairman to succeed Dr. J. L. Kask, and Commander Tavares de Almeida, Commissioner from Portugal, Vice Chairman to succeed Mr. A. T. A. Dobson.

4. That the participating Governments be requested to report in summary form information on the numbers of vessels of various types and sizes fishing in the Convention Area during each year and that to provide the basis for classification of fishing vessels, each Government report the name, gross tonnage, horsepower, and type of fishing gear for each vessel fishing in the Convention Area in 1953....

6. That, in order to provide indices of relative abundance, the Commission Secretariat be requested to arrange for the collection of more refined fishing effort data for representative types of vessels and methods of fishing.

7. That the participating Governments be requested to compile their statistics of catches and fishing effort on a monthly basis....

## Research Reports

1. That the present practice of obtaining summaries of research by countries for publication in the Annual Report be continued for the time being, but that there also be included in the Annual Report a brief summary of research by subareas, prepared by the Executive Secretary....

## Sampling, Tagging, and Planning of Hydrographic and Biological Research

1. That the Commission approve of the instructions for sampling incorporated in the First Report of the Subcommittee on Cod and Haddock for the guidance of research personnel in this field.

2. That the Commission request participating Governments to take responsibility for the collection of tags taken by their fishermen, with information concerning the recaptures; for the payment of rewards for these tags; and for the exchange of full information concerning each tagging.

3. That the Commission instruct the Executive Secretary to prepare and distribute posters, in each language used by the member nations, with illustrations of the types of marks used, a statement concerning the purpose of tagging, a request for specific information about each recapture, and details of the reward.

4. That further research on cod in Subarea 1 proceed mainly on three lines: (a) the relation to

temperature, (b) the identity of stocks, and (c) the correct measurement of mortality.

5. That the Commission approve the recommendations regarding redfish research set forth in the Report of the Subcommittee on Redfish and Halibut.

6. That the Commission adopt the draft program of hydrographic research drawn up by the Hydrographic Subcommittee at the Second Annual Meeting of the Commission as a satisfactory minimum for the present and request participating Governments to make available to the Commission, as soon as possible, the appropriate temperature salinity sections with brief reports on them.

7. That, since the Commission's hydrographic problems are not circumscribed by the Commission's area boundaries, consideration must be given in the Commission's research programs to the water movements (a) to the east of Greenland, (b) to the west of Ireland, and (c) through the Florida Straits.

8. That the European countries, and the United Kingdom in particular, be requested to undertake a section approximately from the southwest of Ireland to a position about 51° N. lat., 31° W. long., to a depth of 500 m. and in some stations to at least 1,000 m.

9. That during their travels members of the Secretariat be asked to discuss with the various countries how best to avoid unnecessary duplication of hydrographic effort.

Ratifications: The Executive Secretary announced ratification of the Convention since the Second Annual Meeting by Portugal on July 19, 1952, Italy on August 19, 1952, and France on January 27, 1953. All ten signatory Governments (Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom, United States) have now ratified the Convention and have become members of the Commission.

NOTE: ALSO SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JUNE 1953, PP. 42-43; APRIL 1953, P. 37.

## NORTH EUROPEAN OVERFISHING COMMISSION

PERMANENT COMMISSION HOLDS FIRST MEETING: At the first meeting of the Permanent Commission of the Overfishing Convention held in London on May 5, 1953, delegates attended from all the signatory countries--Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Irish Republic, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. An observer from Western Germany was also present, a May 22 U. S. Embassy dispatch from London states.

The meeting lasted a week and the emphasis was largely upon organizational and financial arrangements whereby the Commission could be put upon a working basis. It was decided to establish the office of the Commission in London.

Among other matters considered during the meetings: rules of procedure were adopted; arrangements were approved for submitting a budget to the various governments concerned; agreement was reached on the need to collaborate with other international fisheries organizations; the scope of the Commission's field of work was discussed; some statements were put forward by several delegations dealing with various problems of conservation, and arrangements were made for the further study of the problems in consultation with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, in preparation for the next meeting of the Commission which is to be held in London next November.

The Icelandic-British dispute on Iceland's territorial waters was brought up by the British Minister of State when answering a question in the House of Commons on May 20, stated: "...Her Majesty's Government have themselves taken the initiative in raising in the Permanent Commission under the Overfishing Convention the question of conservation of fish stocks in the neighbourhood of Iceland. At the first meeting of the Commission early this month all member countries, including of course, Iceland, agreed that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea should be asked to study the fisheries in northern waters generally, including those in the neighbourhood of Iceland, and to give the Commission their advice. While this action does not bear directly upon the dispute, I hope, nonetheless, that it will prove a useful and helpful step in this unfortunate situation.

The next meeting of the Permanent Commission of the Overfishing Convention will take place in November.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, APRIL 1953, PP. 35-36.

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN LATIN AMERICA: A review of the fisheries development problems in Latin America is included in a study prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the request of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America. The review points out that Latin America as a whole has shown steady progress in the development of its fisheries since the end of World War II. A summary of the salient points of the report follows:

The report shows that certain limited areas of Chile, Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico already have the nuclei of large fishery industries, including secondary processing industries like freezing and canning. In general, however, it states, the industry is still at an elementary stage of economic development where primitive techniques and small-scale production prevail.

The study, "Present Status and Prospectives of the Fishery Industry in Latin America," was prepared by Jorge d'Alarcao, an FAO fisheries economist. It is based largely on unpublished reports of FAO technical assistance experts working in the region and on the reports of the FAO Fisheries Regional Office for Latin America.

Statistical tables appended to the report represent an initial effort to correlate the data available in national publications in a simpler form for interpretation of the region's problem, FAO points out.

The report states: "Developing the fisheries industry to its full capacity is a process that calls for well-developed business management in handling and trade, and technological standards which only a highly developed economic structure can normally support." Per capita income has to be high enough to provide a consumers' market, and the economic structure has to be able to permit a higher labor productivity than is customarily found in underdeveloped countries.

As large-scale mechanization is very expensive, FAO experts feel that it should not take place in Latin America before mass demand has been secured. But sound policies of small-scale mechanization on the basis of existing types of craft and gear, particularly when combined with social and credit schemes for the benefit of small producers in the region, can result in a substantial rise in labor productivity.

Cooperatives have proved very effective in this respect in Brazil, Mexico, British Guiana, and certain Caribbean countries. The Brazilian law, for example, requires that fishermen belong to societies which must have a minimum of 150 members. These societies levy a 3-percent tax on the catch, out of which certain services are provided. These include education, medical care, and loans for financing the purchase of boats and gear.

Advanced methods of fish processing have comparatively minor importance in the economy of the industry, except in a few industrial centers in Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela.

A freezing industry has developed in Mexico and Peru largely because of a steady demand for shrimp, tuna, and tuna-like products in the United States market. But in Mexico, where almost all frozen shrimp is exported to the United States, the plants do not normally work at full capacity owing to lack of raw material; but the resources could be more intensively exploited. In Peru, where vessels with refrigeration facilities and shore freezing plants can freeze 460 metric tons and store 6,600 metric tons of fish a day, the domestic consumption is only about 200 metric tons a year. Total annual landings were 105,550 metric tons in 1951. Ten percent of this was frozen, mostly for export, well below the freezing capacity.

The author comments: "This situation illustrates how far the freezing industry still is from its main role of stabilizing the volume of supplies in the domestic fresh fish market with the result of increased demand for fish on the basis of a price structure much less sensitive to seasonal fluctuation than that of fresh fish."

Curing is the most important form of fish processing in Latin America, and sales of cured fish are second only to those of fresh fish on the domestic markets. However, in general, except in Argentina,



Chile, and Peru, the technological methods are primitive, and the product low in grade.

Canning is one of the most industrialized sectors of the fishing industry in the entire region, particularly in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela where local products have been competing successfully with foreign products since the War. Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela have even succeeded in entering the international trade in canned fish products which before the War was monopolized by such traditional world suppliers as Norway, Portugal, Spain, Japan, and the United States.

However, effective production for canning in Peru in 1951 was less than 17 percent of the capacity of the present industrial setup. Swift establishment of such a capacity is an impressive achievement, but the author suggests that it needs to be backed up on a regional basis. Internationally-recognized quality standards for the product and the can must be established, and a cheaper and more reliable supply of tin plate must be found before possible domestic and foreign markets can be fully exploited.

Food production in Latin America has not kept up with population growth since the War, but the increase in fisheries production has been well ahead of the birth rate. The value of the increase is, however, lessened by the fact that it is so unevenly spread geographically. Chile, southern Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico contribute more than 80 percent of the total landings in the region, while 15 other countries with analogous marine resources contribute less than 20 percent.

The findings of FAO's experts indicate: "Among the many factors which are hampering the growth of fisheries production in these underdeveloped areas, the limitations imposed by the peculiar economic and social structure predominate. Lack of reasonable marketing organization and an efficient transport system to handle perishable foodstuffs, high costs of distribution, and deficiency in purchasing power in the lower-income brackets of the population undoubtedly are the main reason for the low levels of productivity observed."

Governments and the fishery industries now realize that expanded domestic market outlets are needed for rational economic development of fisheries, and are taking steps to build up such outlets.

Annual per-capita consumption of fish for the region ranges from 0.1 kilogram ( $\frac{1}{4}$  pound) in British Honduras to 15.8 kilograms (35 pounds) in Venezuela, and most of this consumption takes place in the coastal areas and in the large urban centers near the coast. This is a very low per-capita consumption compared with that in fish-producing countries in Europe. It becomes lower when figures are broken down to show consumption of processed fish.

The author reports that this is "a very significant indication of the fact that the many possibilities observed in industrialized countries for diversifying and improving preserved fish products in order to attract consumer preference and raise the general level of consumption have so far remained unfulfilled in the region."

Such improvements as more hygienic handling and storage of fish on board, wider use of ice at sea

and during transportation and retailing, and more attractive presentation of fishery products could eliminate most of the checks on consumer demand, although one very important check would still remain. That check is the high retail price. Better marketing and storage organization and the elimination of unproductive links between fishermen and consumers would help drive down prices and permit low-income groups to buy fish.

An illustration of the growth of the Latin American fisheries is provided by foreign trade statistics. The total value of exports for the region (21 countries) rose from approximately US\$5 million in 1938 to US\$55 million in 1950, an increase in nominal value of 1,000 percent. This figure, while representing only 0.8 percent of the total exports from the region, still exceeds that of many other primary and secondary industries, and is a definite contribution to the regional trade balance.

However, the study indicates that trade restrictions, particularly in the United States, have meant that post-1950 export figures are substantially lower, and prospects of any significant expansion of foreign markets are not very bright. The more industrialized countries--Mexico, Chile, and Peru, for example--built up industries with a capacity beyond that of their domestic markets in reply to steady foreign demand during the hungry postwar years. Investment rose from insignificant prewar levels to nearly US\$40 million. As early as 1951 these countries had reached a very critical situation with regard to the disposal of their surpluses. Expansion of the domestic market seems to be the only rational approach to the problem of rescuing the industry from its present situation.

In spite of problems of local surpluses, the great need over the whole area, including those countries which have already developed productive nuclei of industrialized fisheries, is for increased supplies of cheap, good-quality fish for human consumption. The FAO Second World Food Survey, published in November 1952, says that a 26 percent increase in the gross supplies of fish over recent Latin American levels is necessary to meet immediate targets of improvements of nutritional standards in the region.

The spectacular expansion in a few centers in Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela compares favorably with the highest rates of increase of production anywhere in the world. The author states: "This may indicate that, given the right social and industrial structure for a well-balanced fisheries development, the region has large possibilities for the economic exploitation of marine and inland resources which, although capable of yielding four or five times the actual production of the area, are at present largely unproductive."

The main economic causes of the low level of fish production in the region are (1) low productivity per fisherman, (2) defective techniques in marketing and transportation, (3) consumer preference for other foodstuffs, (4) the availability of other sources of food supplies competitive in price and nutritional value with fishery products and, (5) principally, the inadequate purchasing power of the lower-income groups of the population. Wartime food shortages at home and abroad provided incentives for the capital investment which led to large and successful industrial exploitation of fisheries

resources in a few areas of Latin America. There is still an incentive to much greater capital investment, by the governments, private sections of the economy, or by foreign investment in all 21 Latin American countries. That incentive is the

large potential domestic market, which will become an active consumers' market with steady fish supplies at stable prices and, above all, with improvements in processing, transport, and sanitary distribution.



## Australia

Australian Canned Fish Pack, 1951-52		
Species	1952	1951
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Australian salmon	3,608,452	2,839,721
Barracouta .....	2,430,543	3,110,453
Tuna .....	244,384	198,087
Whitebait .....	70,730	50,577
Other .....	600,619	312,618
Total .....	6,954,728	6,511,456

CANNED FISH PACK, 1952: Australian canned fish production in 1952 totaled 6,954,728 pounds, a 6.8 percent increase from the 1951 production of 6,511,456 pounds reports the April 1953 Fisheries Newsletter, an Australian trade magazine. Australian salmon (Arripis trutta) was the leading species canned and comprised 52 percent of the total; followed by barracouta (Leionur atun), 35 percent.

\* \* \* \* \*

PROGRESS ON FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN: The Australian Minister of Commerce and Agriculture on May 13 issued a statement on the progress of negotiations with Japan for an agreement on fisheries, a May 15 U. S. Consular dispatch from Canberra states. Excerpts of the statement follow:

"Negotiations which began in Canberra on April 13 with representatives of the Japanese Government have now reached a stage where broad agreement has been reached on the necessity for control and conservation of pearl-shell fisheries in waters adjacent to Australia. Detailed discussions are now proceeding on the methods by which such control and conservation should be carried out.

"Questions under discussion include sizes and quantities of products to be taken, the designation of closed or open seasons, the designation of prohibited areas, and the prohibition of specific catching methods or gear.

"...In view of the stage which discussions have now reached, and the assurance of the Japanese Government that the operations of the (pearl-shell) fleet will be managed in such a way as not to prejudice a successful conclusion to the negotiations now in progress, the Australian Government has not sought a further postponement."



## Canada

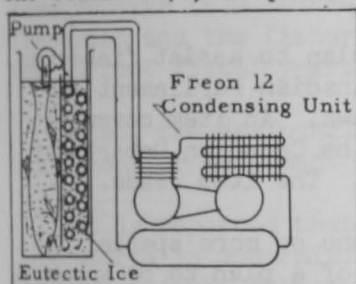
BRINE-FREEZING OF FISH AT SEA: Investigations of brine-freezing of fish at sea are being conducted at the Pacific Fisheries Experimental Station (of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada) at Vancouver, B. C., reports the April 1953 Trade News, a Canadian Department of Fisheries publication.

Brine freezing fish at sea has not previously been investigated in Canada, although it is the oldest known method of artificially freezing fish and is used to

a considerable extent in fish freezing. The aim of the present investigations is to find a method of applying brine freezing suitable for conditions on the British Columbia coast with regard to species, type of vessel, and the form in which the fish are marketed.

The work accomplished to date has been with the apparatus illustrated in figure 1. The brine used is an eutectic solution of sodium chloride (common salt)--one containing 23.3 percent sodium chloride by weight--which freezes at  $-6^{\circ}$  F. to a homogeneous material (eutectic ice) without preliminary separation of either water ice (as from a weaker brine) or solid salt (as from a stronger brine). The operating sequence consists of first cooling the brine to its freezing point, then freezing a considerable quantity of eutectic ice onto the evaporator. The fish is then immersed in the brine and frozen. The circulating pump operates throughout and maintains the brine temperature at  $-6^{\circ}$  F. except for a few minutes when the fish is first introduced. There are several reasons for freezing brine on the coils: (1) it permits cooling the brine to its freezing point, whereas in

conventional brine coolers some margin of safety must be left to avoid freezing and plugging the heat exchanger; (2) it provides a reserve of refrigeration which prevents the rise of brine temperature when the fish is first introduced and gives up heat at a rate exceeding the capacity of the small condensing unit; and (3) it allows the condensing unit to operate in periods of no load or part load, providing refrigeration in the form of eutectic ice, for future use.



APPARATUS USED IN BRINE FREEZING FISH AT SEA EXPERIMENTS.

it is a serious detriment to brine freezing species likely to be frozen in British Columbia. Three possible adverse effects are: (1) acquirement of too salty a taste; (2) impairment of a glaze that may be applied after freezing; and (3) promotion of rancidity. Table 1 shows typical analyses for salt in different species of fish.

The variation in skin salt content recorded is probably due to the fact that the fish were all rinsed in fresh water immediately after freezing to remove adhering brine. However, it can be seen that the salt content of even the first layer under the skin is well below the generally accepted level for palatability, which is usually taken

Table 1 - Typical Analyses for Salt in Brine-Frozen British Columbia Fish

Species	Salt Content			
	In Skin	First 1/8 in. Under Skin	Second 1/8 in. Under Skin	Central Portion
	..... (Percentage of Total Weight) .....			
Spring salmon	1.29	0.15	0.15	0.15
Chum salmon .	6.29	0.27	0.28	0.23
Gray Cod ....	3.37	0.66	0.38	0.23

most serious drawback to brine freezing of fish. Possibly this belief was a result of the high storage temperatures prevalent in the days when brine freezing was commercially tried in the British Columbia coastal area. Storage tests are now being carried out on brine-frozen samples in an effort to determine if there is any acceleration in the effects of rancidity.

Attempts are being made to find if freezing at close to the eutectic-freezing point has an effect on reducing salt penetration beyond that reduction which can

be accounted for by the speed of freezing. A theory has been offered that if fish is immersed in a brine and the brine held at its freezing point, no salt penetration can occur since the removal of salt from the brine would reduce its concentration and hence raise its freezing point. This would in turn freeze the brine and stop the action. Freezing at the exact eutectic-freezing point cannot be accomplished, but it may be that freezing in close proximity to the eutectic-freezing point will retard salt penetration. Results of tests indicate this is true, but they are not as yet conclusive.

If brine freezing proves practical, it could provide a very compact and efficient freezing system for small craft. For example, a tank 16 by 30 by 36 inches operated by a 5-hp. condensing unit could freeze 100 pounds of fish per hour. Little structural alteration would be needed and the condensing unit would require few automatic controls and would operate with a minimum of attention.

\* \* \* \* \*

GOVERNMENT ADOPTS INSURANCE PLAN FOR FISHERMEN: A plan to assist fishermen against abnormal capital losses was agreed upon by the Canadian Parliament on May 14, reports a May 15 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Ottawa. An item covering this plan was approved in the expenditure estimates for the Canadian Department of Fisheries for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 1952. The item reads....

"To authorize and provide for the establishment of one or more special accounts in the consolidated revenue fund for the purposes of a plan to be known as the fishermen's indemnity and loan plan, to be administered in accordance with regulations of the governor in council, for the purpose of assisting fishermen to meet abnormal capital losses; and to authorize payment from the accounts in the current and subsequent fiscal years, in accordance with the regulations of indemnities, loans and administrative expenses, the accounts to be credited with all amounts received by way of premiums, recoveries and repayments, and with advances to the said accounts in accordance with the regulations, such advances not at any time to exceed, C\$250,000."

The Minister of Fisheries stated that the protection scheme will cover the five Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia, but will not be extended to the Prairie fishermen for the first year. He stated further: "We propose to offer to the fisherman, by July 1 of this year, or as soon as the administrative details can be worked out, the opportunity to insure his boat and its fixed equipment--that is the engine--up to a maximum value of C\$7,500 for a premium of one percent of the appraised value. In cases of total loss, there will be an indemnity of 60 percent of the appraised value. In cases of serious damage--damage of over 30 percent of the appraised value--there will be an indemnity of 85 percent of the amount by which the repair bills are in excess of the 30 percent minimum. We are having to include in this scheme the same deductible amount, to cover minor damage, as is common with automobile insurance."

In addition to this plan, the Canadian Government will also instigate a plan to insure lobster traps on an experimental basis. This will be the start of a far-reaching gear-insurance program if such a plan is found feasible. The Government proposes to offer to the lobster fishermen, commencing with the opening of the fall season on August 10 in the Northumberland Strait area, the opportunity of securing partial coverage for lobster traps at a premium of C\$7.50 per 100 traps for the legal fishing season. The premium will be C\$15.00 each for two seasons or a single season of six months. Some areas have only a single two-months' season, and will have a premium rate of C\$7.50 per 100 traps. In areas with 2 two-months' seasons or a six-months' season, the premium will be C\$15.00 per 100 traps.

The normal annual loss on lobster traps through wear and tear is about 25 percent. The fishermen will have to take responsibility for the first 25 percent loss and there will be an indemnity of C\$1.50 for each trap lost in excess of 25 percent. For example, a fisherman with 200 traps will pay a premium of C\$15.00 for the regular two-months' season, and he will receive C\$1.50 for each trap lost in excess of 50, which would be his normal wear and tear on 200 traps for a short season.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERY SUBSIDIES AND ASSISTANCE: The Province of Newfoundland this fiscal year will receive C\$2,631,000 from Canada as fishery assistance money, a May 18 U. S. consular dispatch from St. John's reports. Of this sum, C\$1,250,000 is a special grant for Newfoundland's "take-over" of the Island's bait services. The Premier stated that the operation of the Island's bait centers has resulted in an average loss of C\$177,000 a year for the past 3 years. Newfoundland will also receive from Canada a supplementary C\$1,000,000 for technical services to fishermen and the fisheries. In turn, Newfoundland will provide C\$1,400,000 for the current fiscal year.

Also, the Newfoundland Assembly early in May voted C\$40,000 to be paid to fishermen for equipment damaged by storms in the fall of 1952.

It is reported that C\$50 million might be spent by the Federal and Provincial Governments in modernizing the Island's fisheries. The program has not been fully revealed. A St. John's newspaper (The Daily News) reports that the Provincial Government proposes to use the facilities of a large St. John's fishery firm in the evolution of its new policy.

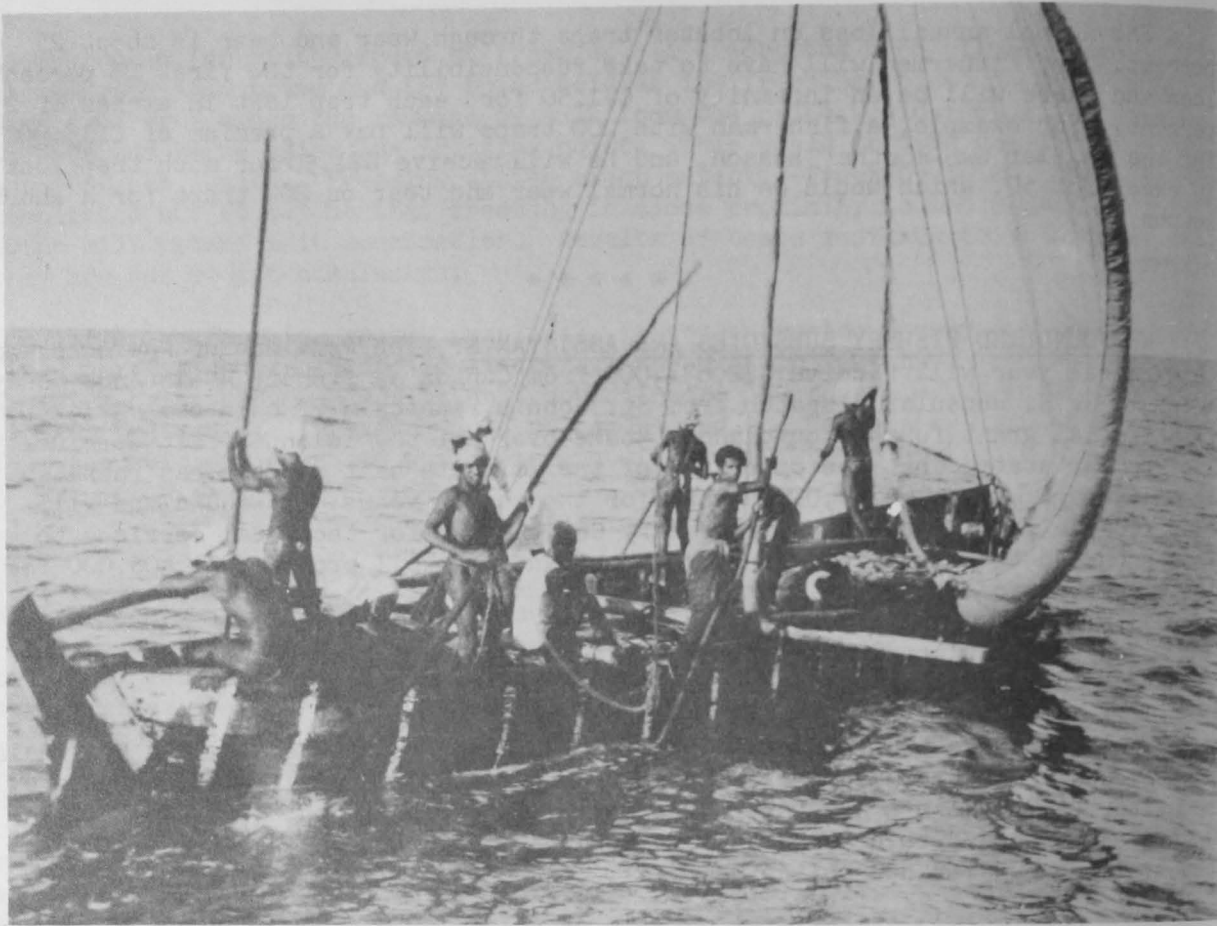
NEWFOUNDLAND TAKES OVER BAIT DEPOTS: The Premier of Canada announced in April that the Province would take over all bait depots from the Federal Government, and these depots will be made centers for integrated fishing operations. It is believed there are 21 such depots in Newfoundland. A St. John's fishery firm will operate these centers and the bait service under a 20-year lease. They will supply facilities for fish driers, natural flakes, refrigeration, and processors of fresh and salted fish. Operations will expand progressively and will eventually result in a centralized fishery operating around mechanized plants, handling fresh, frozen, and salted fish.



## Ceylon

CANADA TO SUPPLY FISHING TRAWLERS: Under the Colombo Plan, Canada will supply Ceylon with two 44-foot British Columbia-type trawlers and also will recondition for Ceylon a 145-foot trawler purchased in the United Kingdom. Canadians will train Ceylonese in the use of the vessels and gear, reports the February 1953 Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council Current Affairs Bulletin issued by the FAO Regional Office at Bangkok, Thailand. Specially designed for service in waters off the coast of Ceylon, the British Columbia vessels will be powered with 80-hp. Diesel engines and provided with equipment including fathometer, radio, and fishing gear.

Arrangements are also being made to supply Ceylon with a modern fish refrigeration plant with fish-freezing, fish- and ice-storage, and mechanical-drying facilities. A pilot fish-canning plant for experimental processing of different species and a mechanical salt-fish drier will also be provided.



CEYLONESE HAND-POWERED FISHING BOAT.



## Colombia

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS LIFTED FROM CERTAIN FISHERY PRODUCTS: An additional list of fishery products have been exempted from Colombian import restrictions, state a May 7 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Bogota. Decree 988 of April 16, 1953, adds the following fishery products items to the list of imports permitted with export certificates under Decree 1830:

<u>Tariff Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
20	Fish: salted, dried, or smoked only. (May not be packed in tins, jars, crocks, or other hermetically sealed containers. Includes dried codfish.)
21 <sup>1/</sup>	Crustaceans and molluscs, fresh, even though boiled or salted. a) Lobsters, spiny lobsters, sea or river crabs, shrimps and other crustaceans. b) Oysters, mussels, snails, and other molluscs.

<sup>1/</sup>WHERE SUBCLASSIFICATIONS ARE SPECIFIED ONLY THE SPECIFIC SUBCLASSIFICATIONS ARE INCLUDED WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS DECREE.

<u>Tariff Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
119	Caviar and other prepared or preserved fish eggs similar to caviar.
121	Crustaceans or molluscs, prepared or preserved, different from those included in Item 21. (Includes those prepared other than by simple salting or boiling and those in hermetically sealed containers.)



## Egypt

UNITED STATES-EGYPTIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISHERIES PROGRAM: The governments of the United States and Egypt on May 21 signed an agreement for a cooperative technical program in Egypt in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, reports a May 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Cairo. The program will be financed equally by both governments--the U. S. through June 30, 1953, will contribute US\$769,000, plus funds to pay salaries and other expenses of the technical mission. The U. S. Technical Cooperation Administration will furnish a group of technicians and specialists to collaborate in carrying out the program. Funds needed for subsequent years to carry out the program from June 30, 1953, through December 31, 1960, will be determined or agreed upon later. This agreement was made under the General Agreement for Technical Cooperation signed by the two governments on May 5, 1951.

The objectives of this program are: (1) to facilitate the development of the economy of Egypt in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries through cooperative action on the part of the two governments; (2) to stimulate and increase the interchange between the two countries of knowledge, skills, and techniques in these fields; and (3) to promote and strengthen understanding and good will between the people of Egypt and the United States of America.

This cooperative program will include, to the extent that the parties from time to time agree upon in specific project agreements, activities of the following types: (1) studies of the needs of Egypt in the fields of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and the resources available to meet such needs; (2) the formulation and continuous adaptation of a program to help meet such needs; and (3) the initiation and administration of activities in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, such as research and experimentation, and extension service to maximize adoption by the people of Egypt of the proven results of research and demonstration, the maximizing of production, and the best utilization of products; (4) related training activities both inside and outside Egypt; and other projects within the scope of the agreement.

In the field of fisheries this program may consist of projects which shall bring about the fuller exploitation of existing and the development of new marine and fresh-water fishery resources, propagation of fish, and improved utilization practices.



## Iceland

**STOCKFISH:** A Reykjavik exporter of stockfish recently returned from a survey trip to West Africa, reports a May 15 U. S. Legation dispatch from Reykjavik. The exporter reported good marketing prospects for Icelandic stockfish in Nigeria with a possibility for developing a market in the Gold Coast, which now imports its stockfish from Portugal.

The 1952 production of stockfish in Iceland was 41,720 bales, or 1,857 metric tons, which was sold for 16.3 million Icelandic kronur (US\$1 million).

**TRAWLERS TO LAND AT BRITISH PORTS AGAIN:** Representatives of the Union of Icelandic Trawler Owners visited London in May and signed an agreement with a British businessman covering the sale of iced fish. The resumption of fish landings by Icelandic trawlers at British ports is to begin in August, and the trips will be sold to this man at a fixed price not yet announced. The number of trawler catches to be purchased has not yet been agreed upon, but it was stated in the press that it was likely to be between 2 and 5 trips per week. Unconfirmed reports in the Danish press were quoted by an Icelandic paper to the effect that some of this fish will be re-exported to North America, India, and Africa.



## Japan

**NEW CANNED TUNA EXPORT PRICES:** New and higher prices for Japanese canned tuna for export were recently announced by the Tokyo Canned Tuna Sales Company, the principal firm selling canned tuna to Japanese exporters for shipment to United States importers, reports a May 12 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. The new prices as compared with Japanese Government check prices (floor prices) are listed in the following table.

Japanese Canned Tuna Export Prices to U. S. Importers						
Product	Cans Per Case	Net Contents Per Can	New Prices <sup>1/</sup>		Govt. Prices <sup>2/</sup>	
			In Brine	In Oil	In Brine	In Oil
... (Price Per Case US\$) ...						
Light-meat tuna (Skipjack of yellowfin):						
	48	3.5 oz.	5.35	5.45	3/	4.80
Fancy .....	48	7 oz.	8.60	8.70	3/	7.90
	48	13 oz.	15.70	15.90	3/	14.00
Flake .....	12	4.4 lbs.	18.50	18.70	3/	15.80
	48	7 oz.	6.90	7.00	6.90	7.00
White-meat tuna (Albacore):						
	48	3.5 oz.	5.70	5.80	3/	5.30
Fancy A .....	48	7 oz.	9.60	9.70	3/	8.80
	48	13 oz.	17.40	17.60	3/	15.60
Flake .....	12	4.4 lbs.	20.40	20.60	3/	17.60
	48	7 oz.	7.70	7.80	7.70	7.80

<sup>1/</sup>F.O.B. JAPAN: 2-PERCENT COMMISSION FOR BROKERS INCLUDED.  
<sup>2/</sup>F.O.B. JAPAN.  
<sup>3/</sup>NO GOVERNMENT CHECK PRICES FOR BETTER GRADES CANNED IN BRINE. CHECK PRICES ON "FANCY A" AND "FANCY B" CANNED IN BRINE WERE ELIMINATED IN APRIL 1953.

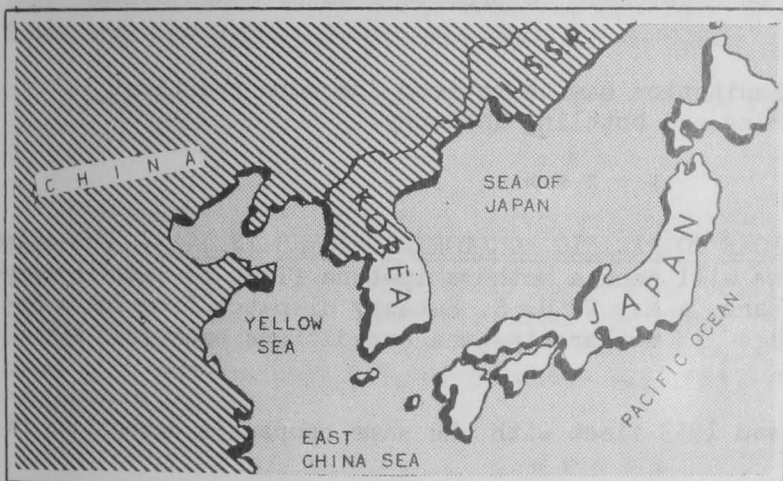


The new prices represent an increase of 30 to 60 U. S. cents per case on some items as compared to the company's previous price. The decision to raise prices may have been influenced by increased competition between exporters and canners for the round tuna landed by the fishermen. Ex-vessel prices for round tuna have been gradually increasing for the past several months. United States packers have maintained a brisk demand for frozen tuna from Japan. Also according to some Japanese sources, United States importers of Japanese canned tuna have shown steady interest for some time.

During the Japanese 1952 fiscal year (April 1, 1952, to March 31, 1953), the Japanese Government limited exports to canned tuna to the United States to a quota of 1,120,000 cases. The Government has not yet announced its policy on the exportation of tuna (canned or frozen) for the fiscal year 1953.

\* \* \* \* \*

TUNA EXPORTERS COMPETE FOR RAW PRODUCT: Japanese exporters of canned tuna and exporters of frozen tuna are in keen competition for the purchase of tuna from



the fishing vessels, an April 27 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reveals. The canners are buying tuna at more ports; previously they bought tuna mostly at the main ports such as Yaizu and Misaki. Ex-vessel prices for albacore, the leading export item, averaged ¥480 per kan (16 U. S. cents per pound) in April as compared with ¥450 per kan (15 U. S. cents per pound) in January and February. The canners recently announced an increase in the price of canned

tuna, f.o.b. Japan, claiming it was necessary to help offset the increased ex-vessel prices.

Yellowfin, the second leading tuna export item, is scarce with seasonal production depending on the mothership operations in equatorial waters that got under way in May. Some producers and exporters of frozen tuna are urging the Japanese Government to either set a separate quota for yellowfin or no quota at all. They point out that yellowfin tuna is produced only in the summer months. Under present demand for tuna, the yearly quota could be filled, or largely so, even before the yellowfin fleet lands its first fish in late summer.

In general, the Japanese tuna industry expects a continued brisk demand for frozen tuna and to a relatively lesser extent for canned tuna for United States buyers. Japanese producers will thus benefit from relatively high ex-vessel prices.

\* \* \* \* \*

CANNERS MEET: A convention of Japanese canners was held at Shimizu, the center of the canning industry, on May 8, according to a recent State Department report. Attendance included canners and bottlers of all types of products (fish, fruit, vegetables). Resolutions included:

(1) that efforts be made to attain an annual production goal of 15,000,000 cases of all products, of which 8,000,000 cases are intended for export and 7,000,000 cases for domestic consumption;

(2) that efforts be made to acquire tin plate for cans at a lower cost;

(3) that better coordination be achieved between production and sales activities;

(4) that study be made of the financial problems of the industry and means for their solution;

(5) that efforts be made to secure a reduction in the United States tariff on canned tuna;

(6) that import duties on materials for canning be abolished;

(7) that campaigns be undertaken to promote greater sales at home and abroad; and

(8) that the Food Sanitation Law be revised for more practical adaptability to the canning and bottling industry.

\* \* \* \* \*

MOTHERSHIP-TUNA EXPEDITIONS TO PACIFIC EQUATORIAL WATERS IN 1953: One of the largest Japanese fishing firms will send a mothership-tuna fleet to Pacific equatorial waters in the near future, a May 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports. This company has engaged in mothership-tuna expeditions each year since 1950.

Comparison of the proposed 1953 fleet with the same company's operations in 1952 is as follows:

Item	1953	1952
Mothership .....	1 - <u>Tenyo Maru</u> (11,224 gross tons)	Same vessel
Catcher boats .....	30 - (ranging from 60 to 240 gross tons--averaging 130 gross tons each)	29 (averaging 135 gross tons)
Carriers .....	2 - <u>Banshu Maru No. 35</u> (1,000 gross tons), and <u>Banshu Maru No. 37</u> (1,000 gross tons)	2 - <u>Taiyo Maru No. 2</u> (490 gross tons) and <u>Taiyo Maru No. 38</u>
Period of Operation .	Estimated early June to mid-September	June 22 to August 25
Fishing grounds .....	Easterly of Solomon Islands	Same
Catch:	<u>Estimated Lbs.</u>	<u>Actual Lbs.</u>
Yellowfin tuna ....	-	6,514,084
Other tuna .....	-	862,774
Other fish .....	-	2,810,597
Total .....	12,400,000	10,187,455

A second large Japanese fishing company, which has also participated in previous operations, has not announced if it will operate a fleet in equatorial waters in 1953; one of its mothership-type vessels, Settsu Maru, was lost in Antarctic whaling last winter.

One other Japanese fleet is definitely scheduled to engage in mothership tuna fishing this summer. This fleet will be headed by the mothership Saipan, recently purchased from a U. S. firm. Operators will be a newly organized firm. Make up of the Saipan fleet is not yet fully known. It is expected to sail for the fishing grounds in July and will fish primarily for yellowfin tuna.

\* \* \* \* \*

U. S. FREEZERSHIP BOUGHT FOR TUNA MOTHERSHIP: The freezership Saipan, purchased by a Japanese firm in October 1952 from a United States firm, is expected to make three expeditions to southern waters as a tuna-fleet mothership, starting July 1. All of the yellowfin tuna taken in these operations are scheduled for delivery to the former owner in the United States, according to a Japanese news report (Nippon Suisan, June 4). The Saipan will carry six 10-ton catcher boats which are expected to make 81 trips and produce 1,300 metric tons of tuna. The three cruises will be completed by the spring of 1954.

The Japanese firm purchased the Saipan for US\$430,000. The firm obtained US\$210,000 in foreign exchange from the American Bank, US\$170,000 from its own funds, and the US\$50,000 balance with a 6-months' note.

Plans call for using the Saipan in the North Pacific salmon fishery in 1954.

\* \* \* \* \*

GOVERNMENT TO FINANCE TUNA VESSEL CONSTRUCTION: Plans for the financing of fishery development in 1953 by the Japanese Fisheries Agency and the Development Bank include the construction of 15 large tuna boats, reports the Japanese press (Nippon Suisan Shimbun, June 11). Included are 1 vessel in the 200-ton class, 8 in the 300-ton class, 1 in the 320-ton class, and 1 in the 350-ton class. The total cost will be US\$3,257,000 of which US\$1,548,600 will be sought from the Development Bank.

\* \* \* \* \*

FISHERIES COLLEGE USES DEEP-SEA TRAINING SHIP: The vessel Umitaka Maru (750 tons), attached to the Tokyo Fisheries College, sailed from Tokyo on June 6 for the first deep-sea training cruise in 14 years. The cruise will take 3 months, and 32 students of the College's Department of Fishing are aboard, according to the Japanese press (Nippon Suisan Shimbun, June 11).

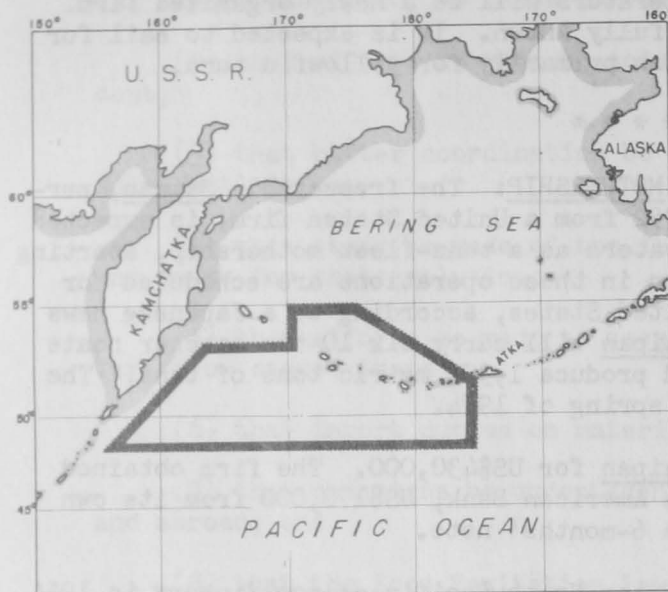
The voyage will take in Bristol Bay and Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians for crab and salmon; and Hawaii, the Solomons, and New Guinea for tuna fishing. The students will train with Loran, radar, and sonic fish detectors.

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NORTH PACIFIC SALMON EXPEDITION PLANS FOR 1953: Plans for the Japanese North Pacific salmon expedition call for three fleets. The expedition includes 3 factory-

Catch Goal by Species for Japanese 1953 Salmon Expedition to the North Pacific				
Fleet	Sockeye or Red Salmon	Chum (keta) Salmon	Pink Salmon	Total
	(Number of Fish)			
Tenyo .....	698,400	369,600	776,000	2,044,000
Meisei .....	662,400	625,600	736,000	2,024,000
Kaike .....	464,400	438,600	516,000	1,419,000
Total .....	1,825,200	1,633,800	2,028,000	5,487,000

ships (Kaiko Maru, Meisei Maru, and Tenyo Maru No. 3), 85 drift-net catchers of 50 to 70 gross tons each, and 13 attached carrier boats. In addition, 8 charte



APPROXIMATE AREA (AREA ENCLOSED WITH DIAGONAL-LINED STIPPLING) OF OPERATIONS FOR PLANNED 1953 JAPANESE MOTHERSHIP-TYPE SALMON FISHING IN THE NORTH PACIFIC.

Area of operations: (lat. 48° long. 156° E.), (lat. 48° N. longitudinal line passing the west point of Atka I. land), (lat. 55° N. long. 175° E.), (lat. 55° N. long. 170° E.), (lat. 53°30' N. long. 170° E.), (lat. 53°30' N. long. 163° E.), and (lat. 48° N. long. 156° E.).

The position of the factoryships in their operations will be more than 50 miles from the above stated lines and the coast lines of islands lying within the fishing area.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, APRIL 1953, PP. 50-51.

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NORTH PACIFIC SALMON FLEETS REPORT GOOD CATCHES: The three Japanese North Pacific salmon fleets reached their destination (100 miles south of Kiska, 50°30' 178° E.) on May 10, reports the May 14 Nippon Suisan Shimbun, a Japanese trade journal.

Trial operations by the motherships Umisachi Maru and Tenyo Maru No. 3 the previous night had produced catch rates of 2.5 fish per shackle. The order was then passed to begin fishing, and by 7:00 a.m. on May 10 more than 100 vessels their nets in the water. Hauling of the nets began on May 11, and catches were good. The highest take by any one boat was about 750 fish.

As of May 15 the three North Pacific salmon fleets were operating successfully in the vicinity of 50° N., 177° E., the May 21 Nippon Suisan Shimbun reported. The over-all average catch rate was 1.66 fish per shackle of gear, with signs that catch rates were improving. One fleet, with 39 catcher boats operating, had taken a total of 36,599 salmon; the second fleet, with 36 catchers, had a total of 30,000 fish; and the catch of the third fleet with 27 boats, was 29,275 salmon. The carrier of the year, the Taiyo Maru No. 18, left the fishing grounds for Tokyo on May 14 with 148,860 pounds of fish. The weather was reported to be worsening, with north winds and snow flurries.

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fishing boats will be used by the Government for research purposes. The research ships will engage in exploratory fishing in addition to other assignments. The expedition was scheduled to sail on April 30, reported a U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. The expedition is expected to return to Japan in late August.

The catch target for 1953 is approximately 5,500,000 salmon, compared with a catch of 2,102,787 fish in 1952. An estimated 40,000 cases of canned salmon will be processed aboard the mothership Meisei Maru from its catch target of 2,024,000 fish, while the remainder of the catch will be frozen. While the number (three) of motherships is the same as in 1952, two are considerably larger. Only 50 catcher boats were used by the 1952 expedition.

NORTH PACIFIC CRAB EXPEDITION REPORTS FISHING BELOW EXPECTATIONS: The first Japanese North Pacific crab fishing operation since World War II began fishing on April 20, reports the Nippon Suisan Shimbun of May 14, a Japanese trade journal. On May 5 the mothership Tokei Maru was at 55° N., 163° W. in the Bering Sea. A total of 277 trawl hauls had been made and 12,520 crabs were caught. Tangle nets set totaled 19,391 shackles, with 11,734 shackles hauled, for a total catch of 39,338 crabs. The pack was 2,528 cases of first-grade and 579 cases of third-grade crab meat.

The fishing grounds seem to have suffered a change since former times; results have not been up to expectations because over a wide area tanner crabs are preventing the increase of the king crabs. Despite all efforts, trawling success has been below expectations. The southern part of the fishing area, which formerly was good grounds, now gives catches of around 100 tanner crabs per shackle of net. The expedition reported that it was scouting for better grounds.

As of May 15 the mothership was at 56°23' N., 161°47' W., and had packed an additional 1,830 cases. A total of 30,097 crabs was taken with tangle nets and 2,486 by trawling, reports the May 21 Nippon Suisan Shimbun.

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NORTH PACIFIC WHALING EXPEDITION, 1953: The Japanese whaling expedition to the North Pacific departed Japan on May 10, states a May 19 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. It will be the second such expedition in the postwar period; the first was in 1952. A comparison of the 1952 and 1953 expeditions follows:

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
<u>Fleet:</u>		
Factoryships .....	( <u>Baikal Maru</u> , 4,744 gross tons)	1
Catcher boats .....	4	4
Carriers .....	13	8
Tankers .....	2	1
Period on whaling grounds	May 20-Sept. 30	July 20-Sept. 20
<u>Catch:</u>	<u>Target</u> (No.)	<u>Actual</u> (No.)
Blue .....	70	55
Fin .....	420	213
Humpback .....	70	37
Sei .....	40	14
Total .....	600	319
<u>Products:</u>	<u>Estimate</u> ..... (Metric Tons)	<u>Actual</u> .....
Whale oil .....	4,091	2,313
Blubber and meat .....	8,898	5,118
Other .....	211	104
Total .....	13,200	7,535
<u>Area of Operation</u> .....	{ High seas north of lat. 46° N. in the North Pa- cific, including the Bering Sea.	{ Same as in 1953 Especially in vicinity of 53°30' N. lat., 158°0' E. long.

Operation of the expedition in 1953 will be jointly by the same two companies as in 1952.

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TRAWLER FLEET REDUCED TO CURTAIL COASTAL OVERFISHING: As part of the program to curtail overfishing in the coastal waters of Japan, the Japanese Fisheries Agency is continuing its effort to reduce the number of small and medium trawlers. The coastal waters account for approximately 85 percent of Japan's total annual fish production of about 4.5 million metric tons, reports an April 30 dispatch from the U. S. Embassy at Tokyo. This is a 5-year plan that commenced in November 1951, to reduce the fleet from 35,000 boats of 98,000 gross tons to 28,000 boats of 68,000 gross tons.

Boats already withdrawn from service have been sunk or converted to less-crowded fisheries, fish carriers, or common cargo transports. Owners of the fishing boats are compensated by the Japanese Government in accordance with a fixed formula. Financial assistance is extended to help these operators convert to other fisheries or activities.

Reductions to date have been: 233 boats in 1951 and 2,127 in 1952. The planned reduction in 1953 is for an additional 1,224 boats. This will bring the total reduction by the end of this year to 3,584 boats or 51 percent of the 7,000 boats to be withdrawn during the 5-year period.

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INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AGREEMENTS: Inasmuch as fisheries in overseas areas furnish a significant source of export income, there is considerable interest in negotiating international fisheries agreements, a May 2 U. S. Embassy report from Tokyo states.

The Tripartite Fisheries Treaty with Canada and the United States has been consummated. Attention now is being directed to negotiations with the Republic of Korea concerning the controversial issue of fishing grounds in the East China Sea; and with Australia with regard to pearl-shell fishing in the Arafura Sea, and tuna fishing in equatorial and South Pacific waters.

Favorable reception is being accorded requests from Southeast Asian countries for technical assistance in the development of their fisheries, on condition that mutually advantageous agreements can be concluded.

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SARDINE INDUSTRY, 1951-52 AND OUTLOOK FOR 1953: Canning: The production of canned sardines (seasoned) in Japan during 1951 amounted to 213,893 actual cases

Japanese Canned Sardine Pack, 1951			
Type of Can	Net Contents	No. of Cans to Case	Total Actual Cases
Seasoned:		No.	No.
No. 4	12-7/8 oz.	48	28,805
No. 6	6-1/6 oz.	96	40,192
Oval No. 1,	12-1/3 oz.	48	53,969
Oval No. 3,	5-5/6 oz.	96	53,088
Oval No. 3,	5-5/6 oz.	48	18,985
Other types and sizes	-	-	18,854
Total ..	-	-	213,893

(see table), states a May 8 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. The total 1951 sardine catch was about 1.4 billion pounds, of which 60 million pounds (or 4 percent) were used for canning. The total sardine catch in 1952 was about 1.4 billion pounds, data on the amount used for canning are not yet available.

The principal sardine-canning season is from October to March.

The production goal for canned sardines in 1953 planned by the Japanese Fisheries Agency is as follows: in tomato sauce 750,000; in oil 30,000; and seasoned 40,000; a total of 820,000 cases.

Meal and Oil: The Japanese meal and oil industry utilized 78.1 million pounds of sardines in 1951--5.3 percent of the total catch.

Exports: A total of 601,469 actual cases of canned sardines were exported from Japan in 1952--544,062 cases in tomato sauce and 57,407 cases natural and seasoned. Hong Kong was the largest receiver of Japanese sardines (135,290 cases), followed by Africa (129,592 cases), Singapore (123,586 cases), and Burma (107,024 cases). The oval No. 1 can, packed 48 to the carton, comprised 65 percent of the total sardine exports.

The latest price of canned sardines for a case of 48 No. 1 oval cans (12-1/3 oz. net weight) is US\$8.50-9.00 per case, f.o.b. Japan.

No sardines were exported to the United States in 1952, but 100 cases were shipped to Hawaii. However, about 20,000 cases have been exported to the United States during the first four months of 1953.

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry is planning on canned sardine exports in 1953 of 700,000 actual cases--600,000 cases in tomato sauce and 100,000 cases of other style packs.

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PEARL-SHELL EXPEDITION SAILS FOR ARAFURA SEA: The postponed Japanese pearl-shell expedition to the Arafura Sea sailed from Kushimoto on May 14, reports a May 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. Also on May 14, the Japanese Government announced publicly that the expedition had been authorized to depart Japan following a broad agreement with Australia on pearl fishing in waters adjacent to that country. Sailing was originally scheduled for early March, but held up by the Japanese Government during the fishery talks with Australia which began on April 13. The problem of pearl-shell fishing in 1953 was given special consideration. Japanese news items (Nippon Times and Mainichi, May 15), indicate the talks at Canberra have been centered mainly on "control and conservation of pearl fisheries." No definite agreement has been reported on other considerations, such as open or closed seasons, prohibited areas, or bans on certain methods or gear for pearl fishing.

Details on the Japanese expedition are as follows:

1 mothership, Ebisu Maru (196 gross tons)  
 1 carrier (not yet selected)  
 25 diver boats (45 to 80 gross tons)  
 2 patrol boats to supervise fishing; Taiyo Maru  
 No. 5 (197 gross tons), Shinyo Maru No. 10 (145  
 gross tons)  
 Sailing date, May 14, 1953  
 Return date, December 23, 1953  
 Catch target, 1,250 metric tons  
 Fishing grounds "on the high seas" within the  
 area bounded by the following coordinates:

125° E. longitude - 50° S. latitude  
 125° E. longitude - 13° S. latitude  
 137° E. longitude - 13° S. latitude  
 137° E. longitude - 5° S. latitude



## Mexico

GUAYMAS SHRIMP FISHERY, APRIL 1953: The most interesting development in the shrimp industry at Guaymas in April was a new plan discussed by producers, U. S. importers, and the Mexican Government. This project would eventually have most of the Mexican west coast shrimp production handled through a single distributor in the United States, providing that such an operation would not violate United States anti-trust laws.

Most of the Guaymas shrimp-boat operators operating out of Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, have returned to Guaymas, and the boats will head northward. The catch was quite good for most operators at Salina Cruz, and is reported to have saved several from going out of business. The high price of shrimp in the United States aided these producers.

Another plan reportedly under discussion to assist the boat operators would have the U. S. importers advance 80 percent of the agreed price on landing of the catch, and the remaining 20 percent on delivery. However, of the remaining 20 percent, more than half would be absorbed by handling, freight, and distribution costs, so that the Mexican shrimp operators would only have to wait for 7 or 8 percent of the price.

Shrimp men are reported optimistic about the prospects of the coming season's fishing out of Guaymas. Fishing has been good in the estuaries this season, and based on past experience that means good fishing in open waters the following season, a May 5 U. S. consular dispatch from Guaymas reports.

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MAZATLAN SHRIMP FISHERY TRENDS, APRIL 1953: The Mazatlan shrimp industry was bolstered considerably during April by the discovery of shrimp beds close by, a May 10 U. S. consular dispatch from Mazatlan reports. Boats fishing near the Creston breakwater brought in from 3 to 4 metric tons on each trip. Shrimp is also reported to have appeared in fairly good quantities in the Altata and El Castillo Bays in northern Sinaloa. The shrimp from this area was the brown variety with a green vein. It sells for a lower price than the lighter colored shrimp.

Another factor which favorably influenced the industry was the recent U. S. price increase.

Mazatlan shrimp exports for March and April were as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>1953</u> <u>Lbs.</u>	<u>1952</u> <u>Lbs.</u>
April .....	680,933	291,766
March .....	454,198	550,491



## Netherlands

WHALE-OIL PRODUCTION, 1953: The Netherlands' only 1953 Antarctic whaling expedition produced 16,965 tons of whale oil during the 74-day season which ended on March 16, compared with 15,500 tons in 64 days during 1952. The total output had been sold in advance to the Netherlands Government at Fl. 817 (US\$215) per ton, reports the May 23 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce publication.





## New Zealand

SPINY-LOBSTER FISHING REGULATIONS CHANGED: The minimum size at which spiny lobster (crayfish) can be legally taken has been increased from 9 inches to 10 inches by the New Zealand Government's revised regulations, states the March 1953 Australian Fisheries Newsletter. In addition, the taking of female spiny lobster showing external eggs is prohibited; the practice of de-tailing spiny lobsters at sea and throwing the remainder overboard has been restricted to the more inaccessible grounds in the southern part of the South Island.

Because of the phenomenal increase in spiny-lobster fishing, the Minister of Marine stated that it was necessary to adopt measures which would insure that stocks would not be unduly depleted.

New Zealand exports of spiny lobsters (mostly tails) have increased from 263,760 pounds in 1947 to 1,837,584 pounds in 1951.



## Nicaragua

GOVERNMENT SIGNS FISHERIES CONTRACT WITH U. S. FIRM: The Nicaraguan Government and a Chicago, Ill., fishery firm signed a 10-year fisheries contract allowing the U. S. firm to operate in Nicaragua's jurisdictional waters, a June 2 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Managua points out. The contract was published in the official gazette (La Gaceta) of May 28, and was the first contract of its kind to be so published. The contract was signed for Nicaragua by the Minister of Public Works and Development, but final decisions on fisheries concessions still must be rendered by the President of Nicaragua. The Minister stated that this contract can serve as a pattern for future parties interested in the fisheries in Nicaragua's jurisdictional waters.

Highlights of the contract, reflecting Nicaraguan policy on foreign private investment, are set forth in the following provisions:

(a) During the first six years of its ten-year contract, the U. S. company is authorized to import duty-free and exempt of customs surcharges, its trawlers, engines, machinery, replacement parts, tools, and miscellaneous equipment needed for the operation, on sea and land, in the country; no exemption is granted for payment of other taxes or levies.

(b) Paragraph II, Item (f) provides that in accordance with Article 14 of the Basic Foreign Exchange Law of November 9, 1950, the U. S. investor report to the Issue Department of the National Bank the amount of its foreign capital investment so that the bank can authorize remittances in the same currency and amount.

(c) The U. S. company is required to sell 5 percent of its production in Nicaragua at a price not to exceed 25 percent over production cost.

(d) Skilled workers brought to Nicaragua by the foreign investor must have political views that concord with those of nations with which Nicaragua enjoys friendly international relations.

(e) The U. S. company agrees to pay the government of Nicaragua US\$25 per short ton (20 quintals) of shrimp, shellfish, or fish exported, payment to be made bimonthly. In return, the U. S. company is exempted from the foreign exchange regulation requiring the sale of its foreign exchange to the National Bank.

(f) Commercial arbitration is the means prescribed for the adjustment of trade differences. The U. S. company specifically is enjoined from recourse to diplomatic missions for settlement of any difficulties. The latter action constitutes grounds for cancellation of the concession.

(g) The contract may be transferred to any other person subject to approval by the Ministry of Public Works and Development, provided it is not a foreign government or an agency of such a government.

(h) Paragraph III, Item (g) states that a minimum of 75 percent of the work employed by the company be Nicaraguan nationals, subject to exceptions set forth in the country's labor code. The 75-percent clause does not apply to managers, directors, superintendents, and technical employees.

Another U. S. concern of Ft. Meyer, Florida, is conducting some exploratory shrimp fishing on the Pacific Coast of Nicaragua. Although this firm is operating on the basis of a direct contract with the President, it is presumed that, should it desire to continue, a similar contract will be signed and published in La Gaceta.



## Norway

COD FISHING OFF GREENLAND REPORTED GOOD: Preliminary reports from the 50-odd Norwegian vessels fishing off western Greenland indicate good catches of cod. The first catch was landed on April 29, about three weeks earlier than normal, the Norwegian Information Service reported in a May 21 bulletin. In view of reports of ice-free waters, the vessels left Norway a month earlier than usual.

A substantial number of the fishing vessels are for the first time equipped with dragging gear, while the Terten of Bergen features modern refrigeration facilities. On its first trip the Terten will try filleting ocean catfish (steinbit), which has found a ready market in the United States. If the experiment proves successful, other Norwegian fishing vessels are expected to follow suit.

The bulk of the fish caught off western Greenland is cod, which is salted in barrels. Smaller catches of halibut are frozen fresh and shipped to European ports in refrigerated transports. Many fishing vessels have special equipment for extracting cod-liver oil.

Under an agreement recently signed by Faroese, Danish, and Norwegian chandlers, fishermen of the three nations now have equal access to harbor and shore facilities in the Greenland port of Faringehavn. Well over half of the Norwegian vessels work under contract with the new company formed by the cooperating chandlers. Operation of the facilities in Faringehavn are jointly managed by a Faroese, a Dane, and a Norwegian.

The new company is planning substantial investments to develop facilities at the Greenland port. A refrigerated warehouse, now under construction, is expected to be finished this summer. Another project, due to be started in 1954, calls for construction of a much needed salt silo.



## Panama

NEW BAIT-FISHING REGULATIONS PROPOSED: A projected decree to alter the Panamanian bait-fishing regulations has been announced, reports a June 11 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Panama. The new decree would provide for a 3-months' closed season from November 1 until February 1 of each year for bait fishing in place of the present 4-months' closed season, provided in Article 4 of Decree No. 30 of December 22, 1952. The projected decree would also reduce the fee for bait-fishing licenses from US\$15 for each net ton of the vessel's weight to a fee of US\$11 per ton. Also, the licenses would be valid for a period of one year from the date purchased instead of merely for the duration of the season in which purchased.

It was believed that the new decree would be issued by the Panamanian Government shortly.



## Union of South Africa

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA'S EXPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS, 1952: South-West Africa's exports of fishery products in 1952 amounted to 112,490,638 pounds, valued at £2,442,931 (US\$6,840,208), reports a May 5 U. S. Consular dispatch from Cape Town (see table). This is an increase of 75 percent in quantity and 89 percent in value as compared with 1951 exports.

South-West Africa's Exports of Fishery Products, 1951 and 1952						
Item	1952			1951		
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value	
	Lbs.	£	US\$	Lbs.	£	US\$
Fish, fresh .....	7,520,211	332,092	929,858	8,170,899	205,411	575,151
Fish, preserved .	8,945,070	776,397	2,173,912	6,375,864	372,529	1,043,081
Fish Meal .....	96,025,357	1,334,442	3,736,438	49,755,553	717,226	2,008,233
Total .....	112,490,638	2,442,931	6,840,208	64,302,316	1,295,166	3,626,465

Fish meal was the principal fishery item exported from South-West Africa and comprised 85 percent of the total. Compared with 1951, exports were up for fish meal by 93 percent and for preserved fish by 40 percent, but fresh fish exports were down 8 percent.

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FISH OIL AND MEAL OUTPUT SETS NEW RECORD IN 1952: A record output of 21,970 short tons of fish body oil was produced in the Union of South Africa and South-West Africa during the year ending September 30, 1952, reports the May 18 Foreign Crops and Markets, a U. S. Department of Agriculture publication. Production in 1951 totaled 17,420 tons, and 1950 output was 11,340 tons. Of the 1952 production, 13,290 tons were produced in the Union and 8,680 tons in South-West Africa. Production of fish oil in 1953 is expected to be at least as large as last year.

The supply of fish oil in 1952 exceeded local requirements and substantial quantities were exported. January-September 1952 fish-oil exports were approximately 5,870 tons, as compared with about 2,078 tons, mainly refined oil, in the corresponding period of 1951. The great bulk of the domestically-consumed fish oil was used in industrial oils for the paint and varnish industry, although some was refined for edible purposes. Stocks of fish oil on hand as of September 30, 1952, amounted to 1,240 tons.

Fish-meal production during the year ending September 30, 1952, reached a record 85,704 short tons, as compared with 60,000 tons in the previous year. Total fish-meal exports amounted to 50,024 tons, and 31,200 tons (or over 60 per cent) was exported to the United States. Stocks on September 30, 1952, were about 3,780 tons.

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PILCHARD CATCH LIMIT ESTABLISHED: To prevent overfishing, the South African fishing industry has agreed to limit its annual catch of pilchards to 500,000 metric tons--250,000 tons for the Cape and 250,000 tons for Walvis Bay (South-West Africa), reports a May 5 U. S. consular dispatch from Cape Town. The pilchard fishing fleet (about 150 boats in St. Helena Bay and 100 boats in Walvis Bay) is to be limited to the number of boats operating or on order as of January 31, 1953.

The South Africa Division of Fisheries, which controls the industry, is anxious to avoid imposing quotas on factory production and is consequently increasing the present 2-month closed fishing season to 4 months--September 1 to December 31.

It is believed that the new restrictions will prevent further rapid expansion but will not seriously affect the prosperity of the industry. The industry will now be able to concentrate on more efficient and economical catching and processing methods.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, MARCH 1953, P. 66.



## United Kingdom

FISHING PORTS PLAN TO RESTRICT LANDINGS: The two main British fishing ports, Hull and Grimsby, are faced with what approaches a crisis due to financial losses from unsold heavy fish landings, a May 1 U. S. Embassy dispatch from London reports. Apparently consumers in Great Britain are not buying normal amounts of fish. A committee of the Humber Distant Waters Development Scheme has taken steps to introduce a system of "planned production" in an effort to balance the supply of fish with the demand. Landings would be restricted in a manner similar to the schemes of 1937 and 1938.

To avoid the glut which threatens during the coming summer (1953), when consumption of fish is at its lowest, the plan provides for a tie-up of 20 percent of the deep-water fleet during May and June; and those vessels which do fish will be limited to 70 percent of their capacity--30 percent of this to be salted. Many vessels are due to be laid up for their annual overhaul during the summer months so this is not as drastic as it may seem. To some extent German vessels have been replacing the Icelandic vessels with 7 or 8 trips a week at Grimsby--Hull has had such landings. Under the plan these landings are to be restricted to three trips a week at Grimsby.

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BUSINESSMAN GETS EXCLUSIVE CONCESSION FOR LANDINGS OF ICELANDIC TRAWLERS IN BRITAIN: An agreement, signed in London on May 10, gives a British businessman an exclusive concession for a number of years to handle the catches of Icelandic trawlers landing in Britain, reports The Fishing News of May 16, a British trade magazine. Signing for Iceland were the president of the Icelandic Trawler Owners Federation, the Icelandic Vice-Consul at Grimsby, and the Federation's Grimsby representative.

The British businessman revealed that he hoped to bring 5 Icelandic trawlers each week into Grimsby (the main base) and Liverpool. Each trip will have about 200 to 300 metric tons of fish, making a weekly total of about 1,200 to 1,500 metric tons. "We are starting at the end of August," he said. He hoped to provide Icelandic fish--at the cheapest possible prices, "much lower than those prevailing." "I am now trying to fix the marketing arrangements. This is the first time that one man has contracted to buy up the entire exportable catch of the Icelandic fishermen."

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WHITE FISH SUBSIDY EXTENDED: The subsidy (due to end on March 31) to vessels fishing for white fish in the inshore, near, and middle waters was extended to July 31, 1953, reports the April 11 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade periodical. As before, the subsidy was not payable to vessels of 140 feet and over.

There was no change in the rates or conditions of payment for trips by vessels between 70 and 140 feet in length, but in addition, a flat-rate payment was to be made on all landings for human consumption from trips entirely within near and middle waters by these vessels. The rate: 4d. per stone (US\$0.33 per hundredweight) for white fish sold otherwise than by retail; 3d. per stone (US\$0.25 per hundredweight) for most varieties if landed round. No flat rate was to be paid for fish sold other than for human consumption.

The rates to inshore boats less than 70 feet remained at 10d. per stone (US\$0.83 per hundredweight) for white fish sold other than by retail; 8d. per stone (US\$0.67 per hundredweight) for most varieties if landed round.

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WHITE FISH AUTHORITY TO REDUCE EX-VESSEL FISH TAX: A reduction in the general levy on ex-vessel sales of white fish from 4d. to 3d. per stone (from 4 to 2 U. S. cents per hundredweight) was announced recently by the White Fish Authority. The reduction will probably go into effect about June 1, reports the April 11 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade magazine.

The Authority reviewed the levy arrangements at the close of the 1952/53 financial year. One of the objectives during the 16 months since the levy came into force was to create an adequate financial reserve. The authority now estimates that after providing for increased expenditures, mainly on publicity, experiments, and research, and despite the proposed reduction in the rate of levy, its finances will meet its short-term requirements. Loans and other capital expenditures are financed by other means. The Authority emphasizes however, that plans for reorganization and development of the industry may require the reintroduction of a higher rate of levy at some future date.

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FISH CANNERIES FACE CRISIS: The British fish-canning industry is facing a crisis which is attributed to the Government's efforts to clean out its stocks of foreign-canned fish, and the temporary loss of the Australian and New Zealand export markets. The manager of a fish-canning firm claims that because the Ministry of Food flooded the market with foreign-canned fish at half price, it was impossible to compete, reports the April 11 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine. Canneries at Dundee, Fraserburgh, and Looe, have been forced to release most of their workers.

Importation of South African pilchards and competition from canned herring thrown on the British market because of overseas restrictions are blamed for a falling-off in the demand for Cornish pilchards. Owing to the slump, thousands of cans of pilchards have piled up at the Looe plant.

The price paid to the fishermen for pilchards fell from 4s. to 2s. per stone (from 4 to 2 U. S. cents per pound). Even at the lower price no more fish were wanted, and many fishermen have stopped fishing.

The Looe Fishermen's Protection Association has drawn up a petition calling attention to the serious position of the pilchard industry, which is in the throes of its worst depression for years. Copies of the petition have been sent to St Ives, Newlyn, Porthleven, Par, Mevagissey, Polperro, and Plymouth with a request that they should be signed by the fishermen of these ports and returned to Looe for submission to Government departments.

The Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee is seeking either a guaranteed market for home-canned pilchards or a restriction in imports, especially from South Africa. "Although the present plight of the fishermen is bad," said the committee's clerk, "their future prospects are even worse unless something can be done at the highest level to insure that on the domestic market canned Cornish pilchards shall be given priority over imported canned fish."



#### BRITISH TRAWLER ALMOST SETS NEW TIME RECORD

The British trawler St. Leonard recently approached the all-time record for a fishing trip from the port of Fleetwood (England) to the Icelandic fishing grounds and back, some 1,400 miles. The trawler completed the trip in 10 days, 4 hours--shorter by 2 or 3 days than a normal fishing trip to that area. The St. Leonard landed at Fleetwood the last week in May with a total catch of 9,000 stones (126,000 pounds) of cod and haddock valued at £2,250 (US\$6,300) ex-vessel.

The all-time record was established a year earlier by the Fleetwood trawler Woolton. In July 1952 the Woolton made a fishing trip to grounds off Iceland under 10 days. The catch landed totaled 12,000 stones (168,000 pounds), valued at £5,004 (US\$14,000) ex-vessel. However, there are those who contend that "in the good old days this record was beaten," too.

--The Fishing News,  
May 30, 1953, and June 6, 1953