

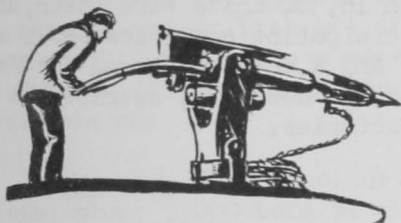


International

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING: The fifth Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission convened in London June 22-26, according to a press release from the Commission. The 17 countries represented by delegates were: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, South Africa, Sweden, U.S.S.R., United Kingdom, and United States. Four other countries--Argentina, Italy, Peru, and Portugal--and three international bodies sent observers. The next meeting on July 19, 1954, will be held in Tokyo, Japan.

Most of the Commission's deliberations centered around the necessity for some definite measures designed to promote the conservation of the whale stocks, which is the main concern of the Commission; unanimity was reached upon a number of these measures. However, as these have to be communicated to each



government which then has the right to object within a period of 90 days, no finality can be reached until the expiration of that period. These measures involve amendments to the Schedule attached to the International Whaling Convention of 1946.

Apart from the substantive amendments, a large number of other amendments to the Schedule, of a purely drafting character, were accepted by the Commission and will also be submitted to Contracting Governments.

The Commission also approved a re-arrangement of the entire Schedule so as to secure uniformity, and this will in due course be submitted to the governments for their acceptance.

ANTARCTIC WHALE-OIL PRODUCTION, 1945/46 TO 1952/53

Whales taken during the recent 1952/53 Antarctic whaling season yielded over one-fourth more oil than those caught 8 years ago (see table) reports the July 13, Foreign Crops and Markets, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The yield of oil per blue-whale unit rose from 16.42 long tons in 1945/46 to 21.09 tons in the last season. Whales killed in recent seasons have been fatter, partly because of a later opening date for the whaling season. More efficient methods of oil extraction also are responsible for the greater yields.

Other observations made at the U. S. Embassy, London, on the basis of a compilation of whale-oil production data by the British Ministry of Food include: (1) the length of the pelagic season has decreased from 122 days in 1946/47 to 64 days in 1951/52 and 74 days in 1952/53, (2) the increased yield of oil has resulted in an increase in total whale-oil production even though the number of blue-whale units

Antarctic Whale-Oil Production, 1945/46 to 1952/53									
Season	1952/53	1951/52	1950/51	1949/50	1948/49	1947/48	1946/47	1945/46	Cumulative Total
Season Commenced	Jan. 2, 1953	Jan. 2, 1952	Dec. 22, 1950	Dec. 22, 1949	Dec. 15, 1948	Dec. 8, 1947	Dec. 8, 1946	Not recorded	
Duration of pelagic season	74 days	64 days	78 days	84 days	102 days	115 days	122 days	Not recorded	
	(Long Tons)								
Land Station Catch:									
United Kingdom	6,723	8,715	9,096	7,793	9,969	10,210	8,672	2,335	63,513
Norway	7,261	7,852	8,251	9,181	9,183	9,075	7,075	3,200	61,078
Argentina	6,739	8,821	8,244	8,677	8,628	9,025	10,000	8,817	68,951
	20,723	25,388	25,591	25,651	27,780	28,310	25,747	14,352	193,542
Production: (Factoryship)									
United Kingdom	65,600	63,443	61,203	71,093	81,086	79,575	76,013	38,115	536,128
Union of South Africa	23,717	27,365	23,000	22,537	22,233	25,864	30,333	-	175,049
Norway	123,019	161,167	155,317	164,735	155,893	156,638	150,085	83,260	1,150,114
Netherlands	16,965	15,500	15,260	12,959	17,587	13,000	12,885	-	104,156
Japan	33,431	34,508	24,569	26,511	19,893	17,476	12,227	-	168,615
Russia	24,783	23,382	17,792	16,804	10,054	9,302	5,783	-	107,900
Panama	25,825	15,951	20,332	-	-	-	-	-	62,149
	313,340	341,356	317,474	314,639	306,746	301,855	287,326	121,375	2,304,111
Average production per B.W.U.	21.09	21.37	19.39	19.65	19.26	18.52	18.87	16.42	-
Total blue-whale units for pelagic catch	14,855	15,971	16,371	16,011	15,926	16,202	15,230	7,390	-
Grand total	334,063	366,744	343,065	340,290	334,526	330,165	313,073	135,727	2,497,653

1/ INCLUDES SEAL OIL CATCH FOR EACH SEASON EXCEPT 1952/53.

has been fixed at 16,000 by international agreement. Thus, although the total number of units caught in 1952/53 was 14,855, the production of whale oil was 334,063 tons, or greater than the 330,165 tons in 1947/48 when 16,302 units were taken, and (3) the output of whale oil by expeditions of the participating countries shows a sharp upward trend for the Russian and Japanese ships and a downward trend for Norwegian vessels. United Kingdom production also has tended downward, despite the increased daily processing capacity of her floating factories.



Aden

STATUS OF THE FISHERIES: Landings: It is estimated that 3,000 to 3,500 metric tons of fish are landed yearly in Aden Colony, reports a June 22 U. S. consular dispatch from Aden. Of this total about 750 tons are consumed as fresh fish within the Colony and the balance is dried and salted for export.

There is no breakdown of landings by species available, but the most important consumed fresh are dairak (a species of jack), Mediterranean tuna, snappers, mackerel, sardines, and assorted rockfish. For drying and salting, sharks and anchovies are used, as well as dairak, tuna, snappers, and sardines.

Fishing Methods: Along the Aden coast almost all fishing is done within a mile or two of the shore. It is estimated that in the Colony itself some 1,100 Arabs are occupied as fishermen and that they use approximately 200 small double-ended native canoes, usually manned by 2 men, and about 40 larger (35-foot) native surfboats. Cast nets are used for sardines; and gill nets, tangle nets, and heddle nets for other fish. At times, and for certain species, hand lines are also used.

Marketing: At present, marketing methods are determined by the lack of cold-storage facilities and by the activities of 6 or 7 important dried fish exporters. A very large number of all the Colony fishermen rely upon these dried fish dealers for loans and advances for boats, gear, and even for personal emergencies and, as a result, are more or less continually in debt to the dealers. When these fishermen land their catch, the dealers compel them to sell it for drying or salting:

where a 10-pound dairak, for example, may bring only three shillings (42 U.S. cents) as against 10 or 15 shillings (US\$1.40-2.10) if sold as fresh fish. Most of the fishermen are illiterate and, in any case, written accounts do not always exist so that, once in debt, it is difficult for a fisherman to get himself out.

There is no central cold storage in Aden and refrigerator facilities among the fresh fish retailers, who usually buy directly from the fishermen, are extremely limited. Very often the retailer must refuse to buy for lack of refrigerator space.

The result of these conditions is that the supply of fresh fish in Aden is usually less than the demand. It is estimated that consumption in the Colony alone would increase from the present 15 metric tons a week to about 25 tons, if the necessary facilities existed to insure a greater supply. It is also estimated that ships calling at Aden would purchase in the neighborhood of 20 tons of fresh fish weekly, if it were available.

Canning: There is little prospect of any canning enterprise in Aden Colony. The tuna and anchovies caught off the Colony are not suitable for canning and, although the dairak and sardines could be made into a pack of inferior quality acceptable in certain markets, the Colony fish supply is inadequate and unreliable, except in the summer months.

Several individuals, however, are said to be interested in the possibility of a canning and/or fish-oil plant in the Protectorate, probably at Mukalla. A plant was established there a year ago and failed. However, the interested firms, including three Italian firms already set up in Somalia, still believe the project is a feasible one.

Exports: Exports of dried and salted fish in 1952 approximated 7,500 metric tons; about 5,000 tons of which were re-exports originally imported into Aden for grading and sorting, chiefly from the Aden Protectorates and Italian Somaliland. Almost all exports are to Ceylon, but in recent months Germany has appeared as a customer.

Government Assistance: In 1948 and 1949 the British Government financed from Colonial Welfare and Development Funds a survey of the Southern Arabian coast. The survey was conducted by two fishery officers in two vessels, accompanied by a fish-oil chemist, a taxonomist, and a cannery expert. The results of the survey have not yet been published but, following the survey, the Colony established a Department of Fisheries to develop fishing in the Colony and Protectorates. At present this Department is staffed by only one British officer who has at his disposal one fishing vessel, but only limited staff, funds, and facilities.

The Department of Fisheries aim in the Aden Colony is to increase landings, to establish cold-storage facilities, and to improve marketing methods. Its own fishing vessel is engaged in research for better fishing areas. There are no banks near Aden and all fishing is shoal fishing, but the Department believes that more suitable areas may be discovered farther offshore and has already located several promising spots 10 or 15 miles at sea. To avail themselves of these areas, of course, it will be necessary for the fishermen to have motors and bigger boats, and to show what can be done the Colony has equipped two surfboats of its own with motors. If any promising areas are discovered at some distance from Aden, the Colony hopes to be able to persuade the fishermen to form a cooperative and perhaps even purchase a modern motorized fishing vessel.

To lessen the dependence of the fishermen on the dried fish merchants, the Colony expects to spend £2,000 (US\$5,600) this year buying gear and tackle for resale to the fishermen at cost, and it is operating a hire-purchase scheme by which fishermen are able to finance purchases of their boats through the Colony. In addition, a marketing cooperative for the export of dried and salted fish is now being formed.

The Fisheries Director also has plans for the establishment of a fish market and cold-storage plant and, in connection with this, for the creation of one or more fishermen's cooperatives. Unfortunately, the funds for this plant have not yet been voted by the Colony and there is no certainty as to when the project will get under way.



Canada

SEARCH FOR ATLANTIC HERRING: A large-scale search for commercial quantities of herring in offshore Atlantic waters has been initiated by the Canadian Department of Fisheries through its Fisheries Research Board, according to the May 1953 issue of Canadian Trade News. The search, which covers a wide range of waters off the coast of Nova Scotia as well as the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is being carried out by a small fleet of specially-equipped vessels.

The M/V Harengus, a Fisheries Department vessel, has been assigned to the Research Board for the work, and a Lunenburg dragger, the Marion Crouse, has been chartered for the duration of the exploration program. Both vessels will use all available modern devices, including echo-sounders, in the attempt to locate schools of herring. One of the Department's patrol vessels, the Louise Ruth, will conduct a search in waters off Newfoundland, and a commercial vessel will be chartered to explore the waters off Nova Scotia.

Technicians from the Research Board's Atlantic Biological Station at St. Andrews, N. B., are taking part in the work to record scientific data, and experienced technicians from France and the Netherlands are on the vessels working in the Gulf to direct the use of special fishing gear which has proved successful in these countries.

Various methods of fishing are being tried--purse-seining and bottom and mid-water trawling. The experiments are expected to determine the most suitable and effective gear and techniques.

Until now the Canadian herring fishery in Atlantic waters has been largely an inshore operation. In the spring in the Gulf, herring are concentrated in the inshore areas, where they spawn, providing good supplies during late April and May. They move farther out to sea in the summer and it is felt that by following them to deep water the herring season can be greatly extended, possibly by as much as five months.

Previous investigations have indicated that there are large stocks of herring in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and that in the daytime they go to the bottom, moving nearer to the surface at night. These investigations, carried out by the Atlantic Biological Station, have been of a research nature only. The present exploratory program is on a commercial scale.

Even with the comparatively short herring season which has been available to Canada's Atlantic fishermen it has provided a substantial revenue. In 1951 the total catch of herring, 271,100,000 pounds, had a marketed value of \$13,400,000.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SURVEY REVEALS LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING SHRIMP FISHERY: In an attempt to extend profitable fishing grounds, the Fisheries Research Board of Canada's vessel Investigator No. 1 made an exploratory shrimp fishing trip in the Strait of Georgia off British Columbia during April. Fishing generally was restricted to depths available to shrimp vessels now operating, according to the May 1953 Trade News of the Canadian Department of Fisheries.

Of the 29 hauls recorded, 24 contained shrimp. However, only relatively few hauls yielded them in quantities to suggest commercial possibilities. The most promising places appeared to be: (1) off Ladysmith Harbour to Chemainus; (2) inside Bjerre Shoal, between Welcome Pass and Pender Harbour; (3) the southwest corner of Gambier Island; (4) off the mouth of the Fraser River

Most of the shrimp fishing in British Columbia waters is now carried out close to fishing ports on well established grounds and the potentialities of the shrimp and prawn resources of the Province have been relatively unexplored.

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STURGEON FISHING IN SASKATCHEWAN: Commercial fishermen in the Cumberland House and Island Falls areas of northeastern Saskatchewan may harvest more than 10,000 pounds of sturgeon this year, according to the Provincial Director of Fisheries, a June 30 news release states.

The commercial season for sturgeon, which extends to September 15, was recently opened for the fourth consecutive year on the Saskatchewan river and tributary waters in the Cumberland House region, where the limit is 8,000 pounds.

In addition, for the first time since 1946, sturgeon fishing is also permitted on Okipwatsikew and Wasawakasik lakes near Island Falls, with a limit of 2,000 pounds for each of the two lakes.

The Saskatchewan Fish Marketing Service is handling the catch, with an initial price of 50 cents a pound being paid fishermen at receiving points, and a final payment when all sales are completed. Sturgeon brings a higher price than any other inland waters fish on the market today.



Chile

FISHING INDUSTRY TO BE MODERNIZED: Annual credits of US\$4 million to fisheries and fish-processing companies are to be granted for a period of five years by the Industrial Credit Bank, Santiago, Chile, to modernize that country's fishing industry. New cold-storage plants are to be constructed, and improvements and expansion to be carried out on fishing ports and equipment.



Ecuador

NEW FISHERIES LAW PLANNED: The Ecuadoran Ministry of Economy plans to submit to Congress after August 10 a new law on fisheries. A meeting was held in Quito on July 20 between representatives of fishing companies operating in Ecuador, leaders of local fishermen's associations, and government officials in order to obtain the

various points of view on Ecuador's fisheries. It is believed that the points of view brought out at the meeting will be taken into account in the draft of a new law on fisheries.

NEW COMPANY PLANS FISH EXPORTS TO U. S.: A new fishing company is being promoted in Ecuador by a United States citizen. This company plans to buy fish from local fishermen in Manabi Province for export to the United States. But the company is also seeking to obtain a contract from the Ministry of Economy to permit it to operate its own fishing boats in Ecuadoran waters.

TWO U. S. BOATS ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES RENEWING FISHING LICENSES: It is reported that two United States bottom-fishing boats operating in Galapagos waters are encountering difficulties in obtaining a renewal of their fishing licenses.



German Federal Republic

FISHERIES PRODUCTION, 1952: The total production of the German sea fisheries in 1952 was 638 thousand metric tons; 2.5 percent less than the 654 thousand tons produced in 1951, reports the July 11 Foreign Trade, published by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. The annual average for the period 1935-38 was 669 thousand tons. The year 1952 was the first since the end of World War II that production failed to increase.

Deep-water trawlers accounted for 74 percent of the total landings in 1952; lugger herring fisheries, 9 percent; and inshore cutter fisheries, 17 percent. Trawler landings decreased from 1951 because of unfavorable fishing conditions during the fall herring season and the unsettled market conditions. The 1952 herring production of 280,088 metric tons was about 30,000 tons below the previous year. The red perch (ocean perch) catch was considerably larger than in 1951; cod and saithe production remained unchanged; and haddock landings decreased.



Japan

U. S. AND JAPANESE TUNA INDUSTRY MISSIONS DISCUSS TUNA PROBLEMS: A three-man mission from the United States canned tuna industry arrived in Japan on July 17, state a U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. It is a fact-finding mission to determine policy, programs, and trends of production and processing with respect to Japan's exports of frozen and canned tuna. The mission will hold discussions on these topics with representatives of the Japanese tuna industry, and will in turn acquaint the local industry with the current status and outlook of the United States industry. It is hoped that these discussions will result in the development of a better understanding of the problems, a basis of improving trade, and more cordial relations between the United States and Japanese tuna industries. It is pointed out that the mission has no official status.

A news release in the July 27, 1953, issue of the Nippon Suisan Shimbum, a Japanese trade journal, indicated that the following was a summary of the statement issued by the three-man mission from the United States:

1. Objectives of the representation: We are the formal representatives of the producers of 95 percent of America's canned tuna. The remaining 5 percent are factories in the east and at Monterey. Consequently what we say reflects the thinking of the United States tuna industry as a whole.

2. Objectives of the trip to Japan: To consult on various problems concerning the methods of exporting Japanese frozen and canned tuna. Accordingly we wish to discuss these problems with all persons and official and unofficial bodies in the freezing, canning, exporting, and fishing businesses.

3. Understanding the position of the Japanese tuna industry: Japan must export frozen and canned tuna to earn dollars. At this time we are not opposed to Japan's tuna industry's having a suitable share in the United States market.

4. Basis of that share: Japan's share should be based upon conformity with past historical records. Of course, the United States market is expanding year by year, and Japan's share in it will probably also increase.

5. Development and determination of the American tuna industry: The United States tuna industry has its troubles just as the Japanese industry does. The reasons why canned tuna production has attained its present level of development are (1) several millions of dollars have been spent on advertising to expand the market; (2) continual studies of marketing areas and seasons are being carried on; (3) the basis of the enterprise has been formed by making the American housewife thoroughly conscious of the protein value and economy of canned tuna. We feel a proper pride in this and we are determined to protect our industry.

6. Frozen tuna problems: There are those who oppose the importation of frozen tuna, but from the points of view of the world distribution of tuna fishing grounds, the conservation of the fish, and international economics, a free and unlimited market should be given to frozen tuna (raw material).

7. The brine-packed tuna problem: We are convinced that continued unlimited exportation of tuna in brine will bring the total ruin of the United States market. Consequently if this is continued in the future the United States tuna industry will rise en masse to agitate for an increased tariff. Brine-packed tuna has a bad effect on the prices of other canned tuna, with the eventual result of lowering the prices of Japan's canned and frozen tuna. In other words, it reduces the income not only of the United States industry but of the Japanese industry as well.

8. Methods of solving canned tuna problems: We wish to seek a solution by the regular and normal methods. Naturally we have no wish to disrupt the Japanese industry. While thoroughly studying the Japanese canned tuna quota, we respect the time-honored position of the canning industry. In this spirit the United States tuna industry is proposing and urging the following plan.

9. Establishment of a joint sales organization: Establishment of a joint sales organization is proposed for the mutual profit of Japanese and Americans. The essentials of the plan are as follows:

- (1) It would carry on sales of canned tuna.
- (2) It would be operated by experienced men conversant with conditions in both the Japanese and United States tuna industries.
- (3) Japanese canned tuna will be guaranteed a share in the American market based on historical records (past sales).
- (4) The organization would probably also undertake the mission of developing world markets.

In case this plan appears worthy of adoption, discussion should be started concerning the following points: (1) location of the company; (2) personnel; (3) financing.

10. Postscript: We have no present connection with fishermen or importers.

In addition to the three-man mission from the United States canned tuna industry, it has been reported that there is a mission in Japan representing the United States tuna fishermen.

Another Japanese press release offers this countermove to the plan offered by the representatives of the United States canners:

The international cast of the U. S. tuna export problem has deepened with the arrival in Japan of representatives of American canners and fishermen and with the publication of the canners' statement. As a conclusion drawn by assembling the opinions of fair-minded third parties, it is indicated that the most important point at this time is the strengthening of the domestic organization of the Japanese tuna industry. After all, for the Japanese tuna industry as a whole it is necessary to export frozen tuna, but the export of canned tuna is also important. Consequently in order to counter the American canners' plan the only method is to form a strong economic organization composed of freezers, canners, fishermen, and exporters to conserve (buy up) all of the fish landed and plan measures to support fish prices and adjust ex-

ports. This would involve--

- (1) Securing (buying) all tuna landings, maintaining fish prices, and regulating exports.
- (2) For this purpose fishermen, refrigerated storage operators (freezers), canners, and exporters would organize to form a raw material purchasing company.
- (3) Buying of raw fish from the fishermen would be done on a floor-price system, and frozen fish would be purchased on a ceiling-price system.
- (4) The holding of frozen fish would be turned over to the freezers at a fixed rate of pay for a fixed period.

- (5) Sales would be first to frozen tuna exporters, second to canners as raw material, and third, excess goods would be sold domestically.
- (6) Inspection for quality of fresh and frozen fish would be carried on.

As for the capital structure, the organization would function perfectly well with a total of about 2,000,000,000 yen (US\$5,555,000), of which the members would put up half, the other 1,000,000,000 yen (US\$2,777,000) for operating capital being obtained on a long-term loan.

However, for this plan a strong and intimate coalition between the canners and freezers is a necessary prior condition, and it is particularly to be hoped that the present situation of stubborn opposition will dissolve, but the attitudes of both sides have proved stiffer than could have been foreseen and it is believed that there is no way out except through the mediation of government leaders. In any case, the healthy development of the Japanese tuna industry lies in the establishment of autonomy through the solidarity of the persons engaged in the industry in Japan, and it is strongly hoped that they will realize this.

On July 23 tuna canners held an important conference with the representative of the United tuna fishermen, the talk centering around the proposals

communicated as the unofficial views of the canners:

- (1) The visit of the American canners' representatives to Japan is not thought of as an official mission representing the parties concerned in the U. S., but simply as a frozen tuna buying group.
- (2) Japanese canning circles have already been studying the establishment of a joint Japanese-American cooperative sales company.
- (3) We wish, however, to study the proposals with the proviso that we will maintain our own standpoint and that Japanese products will use Japanese labels.

These are, however, only the views that the canners representatives would be duty-bound to express, and there are some who believe that they do not actually hold these opinions.

A four-man group engaged in, or closely associated with, the Japanese canned tuna industry left Japan for the United States on July 21. The individuals of the mission are making the trip in connection with the business interests of their individual firms or organizations. It is expected, however, that either as a group or as individuals they will take the opportunity to meet with representatives of the United States tuna industry to discuss problems of mutual interest. This group is not considered an official mission from the Japanese tuna industry.

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EXPORTERS PLAN TO PROMOTE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF CANNED TUNA: Japanese exporters of canned tuna are reportedly sponsoring a bill "for the promotion of canned tuna and skipjack exports" based on the contention that greater profits accrue from the export of canned as compared to frozen tuna. The bill has been introduced in the Diet and has created a furore in Japanese tuna circles, according to a June 22 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. Exporters of frozen tuna are, of course, aroused and have held meetings to organize strong opposition to the bill. Exporters of frozen tuna are attempting to seek the support of tuna and skipjack fishermen organizations in opposing the bill.

An important official of the Japanese Canners Association voiced personal opposition to the bill on the ground that it condones unfair trade practices within the tuna industry. This is significant because the bill obviously intends to favor exports of canned over frozen tuna, and hence should benefit the canners who are not direct exporters. Some individuals in tuna groups believe the bill is in violation of Japan's fair trade regulations.

The bill indicated that considerable interest is being evinced in the Japanese tuna industry at home as well as abroad over exports of tuna products. Canners of tuna and exporters of frozen tuna are in brisk competition for fish, with canners forcing higher bids on ex-vessel purchases. In view of the continued strong demand from United States buyers, especially for frozen tuna and to a less extent the canned product, Japanese firms are presently enjoying "a seller's market." Prospects were that this would continue to the end of the current albacore season in July and extend throughout the summer yellowfin season.

An article in the June 20 issue of Nippon Times points out:

...The backers of this bill contend that the best interests of Japan will be served by exporting tuna as a finished product—canned—rather than in its unprocessed state to feed American canneries. It is argued that Japan's cannery facilities will be expanded and more employment will be given workers, if the export of frozen tuna is curtailed. And in what they believe to be the "clincher" to their arguments, they naively suggest that the continued export of unprocessed tuna would mean Japan's tacit recognition and supine acceptance of a colonial status.

Apparently, it has not occurred to the proponents of this measure that neither the United States nor Australia ever considered it below their dignity as a sovereign nation to export raw cotton and wool to Japan. Surely the mere fact that a nation is an exporter of raw or semi-processed materials does not make it a colony which is being ruthlessly exploited.

Now, one of the rules of marketing and of trade is that the seller keeps himself in close touch with and adjusts his products to meet the needs and desires of the buyer. Japan has been exporting tuna products to the United States, our sole customer, over a long period. And that export has been in the form of both canned and frozen—in varying proportions because our customer wants it that way.

It is true, of course, that we stand to make a greater gain by selling processed rather than raw tuna. But we cannot have our cake and eat it too. It is not difficult to imagine what would happen if we suddenly decided to curb our export of frozen tuna and to concentrate on the sale of canned tuna. For one thing the American tuna packing industry will come out with a concerted drive to raise the

present high tariff on canned tuna and to restrict its import. For another it will give great impetus to our chief competitors, Peru and the Pacific Coast fishermen, to expand their operations and in this they will have the aid of the packers so that the present heavy demands for unprocessed tuna can be met. Japan will lose her market not only for canned but frozen tuna as well. In short there will not be any cake at all for her.

We must realize that the phenomenal growth of the consumer demand for tuna products in the United States—estimated at more than 10 million cases this year—has been the result of a widespread and high-pressure publicity campaign carried out by the American tuna industry. The American taste for tuna is actually being cultivated at the cost of millions of dollars in publicity by the tuna packers there. They are doubtlessly willing to share its results—but not at the expense of their being shut out by a flood of Japanese canned tuna. The desire of the Japanese canners to expand is, of course, understandable and there are many potential markets other than the U. S. which could be cultivated.

We hope that the sponsors of this move will realize their short-sightedness. Certainly the interests of the Japanese tuna fishermen deem that this proposed bill be quashed, for if this measure goes through they will be at the complete mercy of the canneries.

Japan is trying to expand her export at a time when there are forces at play abroad to raise tariff barriers. At such a time, it would be suicidal for any part of our industry to take action which would only encourage a move toward the erection of tariff walls. The whole problem of trade expansion is difficult enough without our making it any tougher.

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BILL FOR PROMOTION OF CANNED TUNA EXPORTS AMENDED: The Japanese tuna industry became increasingly agitated by the proposed bill which would favor the exportation of canned tuna rather than frozen tuna, a July 10 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo points out. The original bill was concerned with "the promotion of canned tuna and skipjack exports." This aroused such a protest from the frozen-tuna interests, that an amendment has been submitted which renames the bill "A Bill for the Promotion of Exports of Processed Aquatic Products;" in addition, certain specific terms were generalized. The principal articles of the amendment are as follows:

- Art. 1. The purpose of this law is to promote exports of superior, processed aquatic products by regulating those processed in a lesser degree.
- Art. 2. Unless permission is obtained from the Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI), the items listed separately shall not be exported in frozen form.
- Art. 3. If it is desired to export canned aquatic products, only those canned at the packing plants designated by the Minister in charge shall be released for export.

Art. 4. Before granting the permission referred to in Article 2, the Minister must have the opinion of the Aquatic Products Export Council (the council shall be established in MITI and its organization and functions specified by a Cabinet ordinance)....

Articles 1 and 2 are causing the most comment. In Article 1 the "superior processed aquatic products" is interpreted by the industry as canned tuna or tuna-like fishes, and the "regulating exports of those processed in a lesser degree," as frozen tuna.

Article 2 makes possible the mandatory control by the Government of exports of frozen tuna.

Discussions on this bill have been quickly drawn into the heated controversy which recently developed over the authorization by an agency of the Government of a reported 21,000 short tons of frozen tuna for export (mostly to the United States) from approximately March 20 to June 26. This equals the official quota for last fiscal year (April 1, 1952, to March 31, 1953), which was originally 12,000 tons, but was raised twice to the limit of 21,000. Critics claim the Government should have started from the same base line in considering exports of frozen tuna for the current year.

Negotiations are already under way between Japanese exporters and United States canners for the exportation of frozen yellowfin as soon as landings are made at Japanese ports, indicating as strong a demand for this product as was the case last year.

At the moment, therefore, interested Government agencies are holding frequent meetings to "consider the problem of tuna exports;" exporters and canners of tuna are urging support of the proposed bill on Exports of Processed Aquatic Products and asking the Government to apply a quota on frozen tuna. Exporters of frozen tuna (conscious of their numerical weakness) are protesting against the bill and opposing any proposed quota on this product. Fishermen, or at least operators of tuna boats, have enjoyed a seller's market for their catches (especially albacore) over the past month, but present prices tend to decline with the end of the albacore season and following the brisk competition for fish which recently prevailed between the exporters of frozen tuna and canners of tuna.

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FROZEN TUNA EXPORTS, 1947-52: Total Japanese exports of frozen tuna (albacore skipjack, and yellowfin) in 1952 amounted to 26,905 short tons, valued at US\$7,850,249 f.o.b. Japan (see table), a June 22 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo points out.

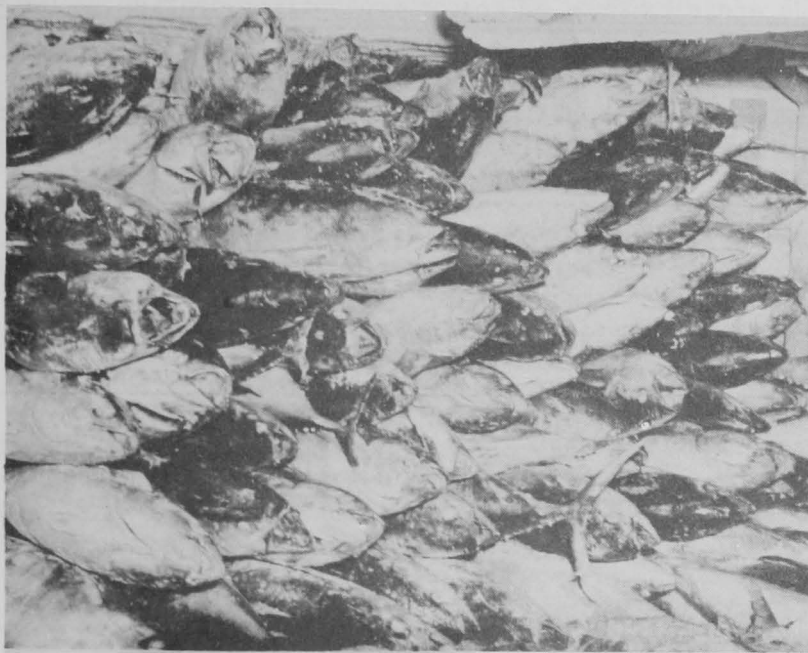
Year	Albacore			Skipjack			Yellowfin			Total		
	Quantity	Value	Avg. Price/Per Short Ton	Quantity	Value	Avg. Price/Per Short Ton	Quantity	Value	Avg. Price/Per Short Ton	Quantity	Value	Avg. Price/Per Short Ton
	Short Tons	US\$	US\$	Short Tons	US\$	US\$	Short Tons	US\$	US\$	Short Tons	US\$	US\$
1952	22,711	6,924,047	305	702	147,698	210	3,492	778,504	223	26,905	7,850,249	292
1951	16,068	4,773,656	297	1,067	188,505	177	1,251	298,646	238	18,386	5,260,807	286
1950	7,331	2,346,190	323	1,721	354,130	200	1,225	299,163	244	10,227	2,999,483	297
1949	1,306	412,689	317	80	16,859	210	-	-	-	1,386	429,548	310
1948	1,142	528,990	463	43	11,180	260	-	-	-	1,185	540,170	456
1947 ^{2/}	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

^{1/}NO 1 A WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE.

^{2/}NO EXPORTS OF FROZEN TUNA IN 1947.

This is an increase of 46 percent in quantity and 49 percent in value as compared to the 1951 exports of 18,386 short tons, valued at US\$5,260,807 f.o.b. Japan. Practically all of the tuna exports were shipped to the United States.

Albacore is the leading frozen tuna species shipped out of Japan and comprised 84 percent of the shipments in 1952. Shipments of albacore have increased sharply in recent years: in 1949 only 1,306 short tons of albacore were exported, as compared with 22,711 short tons in 1952.



WHOLE YELLOWFIN TUNA FROZEN AND STACKED IN A COLD STORAGE HOLD.

The average price f.o.b. Japan of all frozen tuna exported from Japan in 1952 was US\$292 per short ton, 2 percent above the US\$286 reported for 1951. This is the first price increase in the past five years--from 1948 through 1951 the price f.o.b. Japan had been steadily declining.

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A NUMBER OF LARGE TUNA VESSELS TO BE BUILT IN 1953: Applications have been filed with the Japanese Government for the construction of 18 large tuna vessels in 1953, states a June 22 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. These vessels will average from 300 to 450 gross tons each. Some financial assistance is expected from Japanese Government banking institutions.

The boats are intended for the more distant areas of the equatorial Pacific waters. Two tuna boats in the 400-gross ton class recently completed will be used as carriers for the salmon expedition now operating in the North Pacific. At the end of the salmon season in late August, the boats will shift to tuna fishing in the equatorial and adjacent southern waters.

The construction of large-sized tuna boats continues the trend, begun last year, for boats capable of exploring and fishing the more distant areas of the central and south Pacific and Indian Oceans.

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FROZEN BROADBILL SWORDFISH EXPORTS, 1947-52: Japanese exports of frozen broadbill swordfish in 1952 amounted to 3,701 short tons, valued at US\$2,490,973 f.o.b.

Japan (see table), a June 22 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports. This is a decrease of 39 percent in quantity and 34 percent in value when compared with 1951 exports of 6,060 short tons, valued at US\$3,762,340 f.o.b. Japan. Also, it is the first decline in frozen swordfish shipments out of Japan since 1947.

Japanese Exports of Frozen Broadbill Swordfish, ^{1/} 1947-52			
Year	Quantity	Value	Avg. Price ^{2/}
	 f.o.b. Japan	per pound
	Short Tons	US\$	U.S. Cents
1952	3,701	2,490,973	26
1951	6,060	3,762,340	30
1950	3,263	1,539,012	23
1949	1,569	825,356	26
1948	1,165	813,725	35
1947	312	187,200	30

^{1/}DOES NOT INCLUDE STRIPED MARLIN AND BLACK SWORDFISH.
^{2/}NOT A WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE.

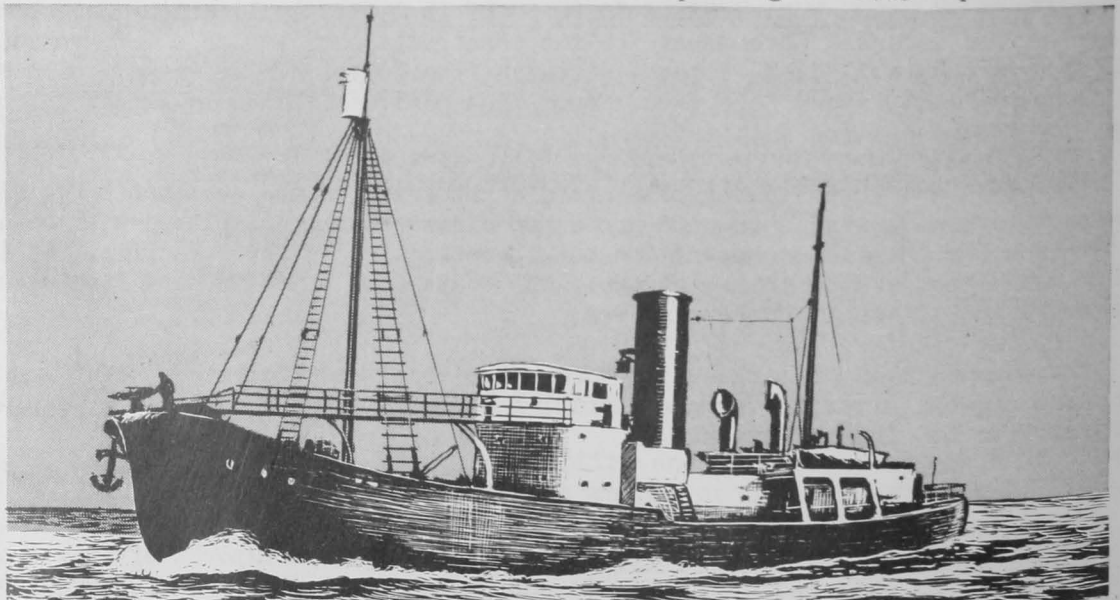
The average price (unweighted) of frozen broadbill swordfish exported from Japan in 1952 was 26 U. S. cents per pound, f.o.b. Japan, 13 percent lower than the price of 30 U. S. cents for 1951.

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NORTH PACIFIC CRAB FISHING EXPEDITION ATTAINS GOAL: About 95 percent of the goal fixed for the current season has been attained by the Japanese crab fishing expedition operating in Bristol Bay, announces the Nippon Times in its July 27 issue. The total catch as of July 27 was 1,032,257 crabs, and the canned crab meat produced by the factoryships amounted to 39,438 cases of first-grade and 8,902 cases of third-grade products.

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ANTARCTIC WHALING EXPEDITION RETURNS: Main units of the Japanese Antarctic Whaling Expedition returned to Japan on April 13 and 14, an April 23 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports. The two fleets comprising the 1953 expedition began



JAPANESE WHALE CATCHER.

baleen whaling on January 2 and ended operations on March 16, in accordance with International Whaling Regulations. On the basis of preliminary data, the expedition produced 34,100 metric tons of whale oil, 24,082 tons of meat, and 968 tons of other products. These figures include the 3,830 tons of frozen whale meat lost with the sinking of the refrigerated vessel Settsu Maru on March 7.

The fleet headed by the factoryship Nisshin Maru reached a total production of 35,349 metric tons of all products, as compared with its target of 35,525 tons. The fleet headed by the factoryship Tonan Maru achieved a total production of 23,801 metric tons (including the 3,830 tons of whale meat lost), approximately 23 percent below the fleet's target of 31,059 tons.

Managers of each fleet were in accord in emphasizing the need for more modern, larger, and faster catcher boats to compete more successfully with the fleets of other nations.

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REGULATION OF TRAWLING IN SOUTH CHINA SEA CONTINUED: Regulations controlling Japanese trawling in the South China Sea will be continued, the Japanese Fisheries Agency recently announced. These regulations were applied by the Agency as a temporary measure in July 1952 when Japanese fishing boats petitioned the Government for permission to re-enter these prewar high-seas fishing grounds. The regulations, in part, require that special approval be obtained from the Government (Fisheries Agency) for operating in that area. The regulations make it possible for the Government to limit the number of boats and otherwise to supervise operations in the interest of maintaining good international relations. Landings are made directly at Japanese ports. The boats of the authorized fleet are not permitted to call at foreign ports either to land fish or to obtain operating supplies.

The fleet reached a total of 12 otter trawlers and 20 pairs of bull trawlers in the early part of 1953. A complete record of the catch is not readily available, but reports indicate that the project is commercially successful, states a United States Embassy dispatch from Tokyo dated July 15, 1953.

Also operating in part of the South China Sea are at least two Japanese fishing boats landing their catches directly at Hong Kong. These craft operate under a different authorization of the Japanese Government and with special permission of the Hong Kong authorities.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT



Mexico

SHRIMP ASSOCIATION RESOLVES THAT U. S. SHRIMP VESSELS WILL NOT FISH WITHIN NINE MILES OF MEXICAN COAST: The Mexico City press carried front-page articles and editorials praising the 3rd Annual Convention of the Shrimp Association of the Americas for its decision to obtain the cooperation of the United States shrimp vessels not to fish within nine miles of the Mexican coast. The press reports speculated that this decision may be followed by formal recognition of Mexico's claim to nine miles of territorial waters.

The Mexico City press (Excelsior, July 24) stated further "...Washington at present is studying the basis for a Mexican-North American treaty whereby the owners of fishing vessels formally will agree not to fish within ten miles.... In exchange for this, United States shrimp fishermen have asked that Mexico establish two refuge

zones near Tampico and Campeche where fishermen might seek shelter from storms without exposing themselves to detention by Mexican gunboats...."

Excelsior attributed the above statements to the President of the "International Commission" of the Shrimp Association of the Americas and the Vice-President of a Brownsville company.

Reports indicated that American members of the Shrimp Association have sent to the U. S. Department of State a memorandum setting forth the need for respecting Mexico's nine-mile limit and requesting that a formal agreement to that effect be entered into with the Mexican Government.

According to the press reports, the 3rd Convention of the Shrimp Association of the Americas was attended by 37 American and 19 Mexican representatives of fishing industries, a July 30 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Mexico City points out.

Vessels found in Mexican territorial waters do not infringe Mexican fishing laws unless they are found with nets in the water.



Netherlands

FLOOD VICTIMS TO RECEIVE ICELANDIC FISH FILLETS: The Netherlands Red Cross has been informed by the Icelandic Red Cross that a consignment of frozen fish fillets, valued at 500,000 Icelandic kroner (US\$30,600) will be shipped to the Netherlands for victims of this year's flood disaster. According to authorized Netherlands sources it is intended to make the shipment through normal commercial channels on the Netherlands market. It is estimated that about 250,000 pounds of fillets will be shipped, reports the May 1953 Trade News of the Canadian Department of Fisheries.



New Guinea

TUNA INVESTIGATIONS: A tuna clipper operated by the Government of Netherlands New Guinea is investigating tuna fishing in the waters north of Netherlands New Guinea. Investigations in the Arafura Sea, south of New Guinea, will be made shortly by a trawling cutter, reports the Pacific Science Association in its July 1953 Information Bulletin.



Peru

CANNED FISH EXPORTS TO THE U. S., 1951-52: Peruvian exports of canned fish to the United States in 1952 amounted to 21,040,532 pounds, valued at 62,017,882 soles (US\$4,016,702), reports a July 8 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lima. This is a 25 percent increase in quantity and a 14 percent increase in value as compared with 1951 shipments of 16,812,959 pounds, valued at 54,543,306 soles (US\$3,616,930). The United States received 76 percent of all Peruvian canned fish exports in 1952 and 85 percent in 1951.



Portugal

FISH CANNING, 1952: The year 1952 proved to have been a difficult one for the Portuguese fish-canning industry, a July 3 United States dispatch from Lisbon points out. This was true in spite of the fact that sardines had returned to the fishing areas in large volume and ample tinsplate stocks were available. Although more fish were caught in 1952, ex-vessel prices remained high but export quotations dropped substantially.

Total Portuguese canned fish exports in 1952 amounted to 38,674 metric tons, valued at 650,541 contos (US\$22,469,000) as compared to 1951 exports of 31,186 tons, valued at 584,681 contos (US\$20,195,000). These statistics indicate a drop in export value.

A total of 23,899 metric tons of canned fish was produced in 1952 as compared with 19,639 tons in 1951.

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LOAN FUND FOR FISHING INDUSTRY: The Portuguese Government has established a Fund for the development and modernization of the fishing industry, a July 24 U. S. American Embassy dispatch from Lisbon reports. The purpose of the fund is to modernize and develop the Portuguese fishing industry, and provide loans for any fisheries activity. It was established by Decree Law No. 39,283 published in the Diario do Governo of July 20, 1953

The Fund will be directed by an administrative committee made up of the Government delegate to the corporative organizations of fisheries, a representative of the fishing gremios chosen by the Ministry of Marine, and a representative of the Ministry of Finance. The Fund is authorized to borrow up to 250,000 contos (US\$8,625,000) through the sale of obligations amortizable in 12 annual installments beginning 3 years from the date of issue. These obligations will be sold through the Government Savings Bank, commercial banks, or direct to the public.

The Fund will make loans at 3.75 percent, also repayable in 12 annual installments beginning 3 years from the date of the loan, and secured by mortgage on the vessels or other property acquired with the loan. In the case of loans made for the construction of new vessels, they will be granted up to 75 percent of the value of the vessel, with the condition that it must be built in Portugal unless it is of a type that cannot be built by Portuguese shipyards.

This fund will operate very much like the Merchant Marine Loan Fund, which was established in 1946 and which has been very successful in helping shipping companies build up a Portuguese merchant marine. The requirement that the ships be built in Portugal is a new one, however.



Republic of the Philippines

FISHERY PRODUCTS IMPORTS, 1951: Philippine importations of fishery products in 1951 were valued at ₱25.4 million (US\$12.7 million). Of this amount, imports from the United States accounted for ₱23.1 million (US\$11.5 million).

Canned fish is subject to a duty 30 percent ad valorem. Smoked, dried, and salted fish are subject to specific duties at varying rates, generally averaging approximately 25 percent ad valorem. Fish meal is duty free.

Philippine Fishery Products Imports, 1951		
	Millions of Pesos	Millions of US\$
Fresh fish008	.004
Canned	23.450	11.725
Smoked, dried772	.386
Fish meal	1.136	.568

Importations of fresh fish are negligible, imported almost entirely from China and Hongkong, 80 percent of all imports of canned fish consist of sardines, imported almost entirely from the United States. Salmon is the

second largest canned item of importation and Canada presently supplies 56 percent of the total value of P1.9 million (US\$950,000) of canned salmon.

Importations of fish meal in 1951 valued at P1.4 million (US\$700,000) were almost entirely from the United States.



Spain

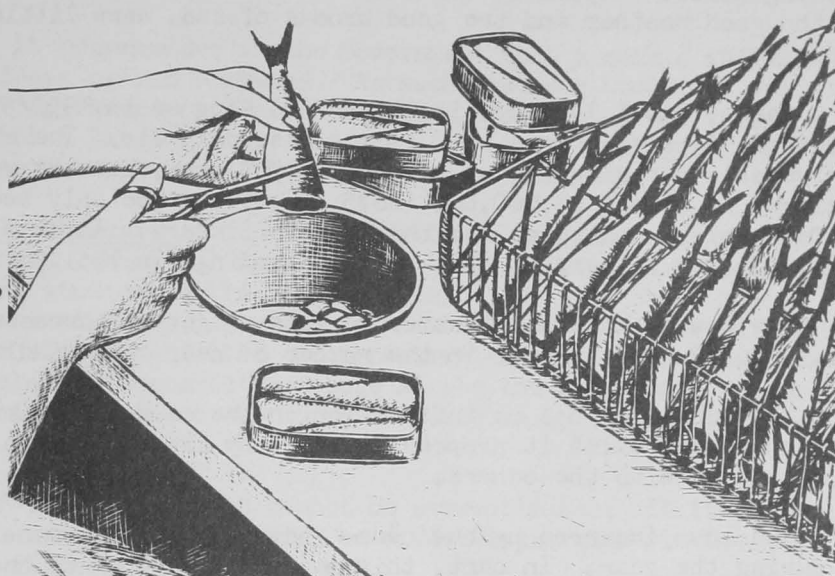
FISH CANNERS PREDICT POOR PACK: The closed season on sardine fishing—March 1 to April 30—failed to produce a return of former sardine runs, the Spanish fish canners in the Vigo District report. The fish packers' outlook for 1953 is gloomy, although heavy sardine catches do not normally begin until later in the season, states a U. S. consular dispatch from Vigo. One packer went so far as to say that the Spanish fish canning industry has already passed into history. Pessimism is mitigated, however, by the hope that the season run of albacore, which usually begins the last part of June, will be good, and by the report that multiple export exchange rates are to be replaced by a single exchange rate.

Fish purchases by the fish canners in the Vigo District during May totaled 211,600 pounds as compared to 35,200 pounds in April and 338,000 pounds in May 1952. May 1951 purchases amounted to 367,800 pounds and May 1950 purchases were 634,300 pounds.

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FISH CANNING TRENDS, JUNE 1953: Fish canning activities in the Vigo area of Spain during June showed a substantial increase over the previous month. Plants in general only operated at an estimated 15 percent of capacity production in spite of the fact that the canners took advantage of all canning fish available. The fish canning industry which is stocked with the largest supplies in some years of the principal raw materials: tin plate, oil, etc., finds itself still blocked because of the continued scarcity of sardines. In an effort to keep factories operating, sardines from the Mediterranean coast were brought overland by truck to Galicia for canning during the period, for the first time in the history of the canning industry. This experiment has not been successful, however, since due to the slow transportation, excessive brine, and the lack of fat in the fish, the finished product has turned a dark color which, if sold abroad, would be prejudicial to the prestige Spanish canned fish enjoys in foreign markets. It is believed, therefore, that the small quantity that has been processed will have to be disposed of at a loss in the domestic market.

The fish canning association of Galicia, the most outstanding in Spain, is keeping in close contact with the authorities in Madrid regarding measures which would permit increased exports (if canning fish become available), which is the principal trade of the industry. Canning operational costs and fictitious export exchange rates have been long standing obstacles to the industry's export trade, as a result of which in the foreign markets its products are quoted at eight or nine U. S. dollars per case over prices quoted by the Portuguese industry, its principal competitor. In order to meet this problem the industry is and has been working to obtain an export exchange rate of at least 40 pesetas to one dollar and a reduction in taxes over a period of at least three or four years.



PRODUCTION LINE IN SPANISH SARDINE CANNERY. WOMEN TAKE FISH FROM SPECIAL SHAPED WIRE BASKETS, CUT TO CONVENIENT SIZE, AND PACK IN CANS. FISH ARE PLACED IN THE BASKETS DIRECTLY FROM THE BRINE TANK.

Purchases by the fish canners during June 1953 totaled 7,712,000 pounds as compared to 2,116,000 pounds in May 1953, 16,079,000 pounds in June 1952, 20,152,000 pounds in June 1951, and 10,350,000 pounds in June 1950.



United Kingdom

MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION RECOGNIZED AS MAJOR PROBLEMS IN SECOND REPORT OF BRITISH WHITE FISH AUTHORITY: Marketing and distribution are recognized as major problems for the British fishing industry by the White Fish Authority in its second annual report (to March 31, 1953). The report discusses landings, the publicity campaign to increase consumption, rebuilding of the fishing fleet, regulation of imports, freezing-fish-at-sea research, marketing and distribution, the position of wholesalers, and costs and earnings.

The British fishing industry will shortly be consulted on a scheme to insure more stable prices for inshore fishermen. This will be introduced only where the prevailing opinion of fishermen is in favor of it, reports a July 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from London.

The main points of the report are:

The year 1952/53 was difficult for all sections of the industry. The operations of the distant-water fleet were further restricted by the Icelandic Government's decision to close fishing grounds which had for many years been open to vessels of all nations. This led to a protracted dispute between the British and Ice-

landic Governments which has not yet been settled, and also to the ban on the landing of Icelandic fish in Britain which has been imposed by the industry at the main fishing ports. Supplies were little affected by the ban and total landings, because of the good weather and the good broods of cod, were little different from the previous year.

Catch: Total landings in the United Kingdom in 1952/53 were about 886,000 metric tons, 5 percent less than in the previous year. The white fish landed by British vessels was slightly up by about 8,000 tons, but the value of the total catch declined by almost £2,000,000 (US\$5,600,000). The only section to show an increase in both weight and value was the inshore fishery. Imports of foreign-caught fish declined from 16 percent of the total landings in 1951/52 to 11 percent in 1952/53.

The number of distant-water vessels slightly increased, but there was a marked decline of about 7 percent in the number of near- and middle-water vessels.

The Authority has no information on the costs and earnings of the distant-water section, a gap which it proposes to fill by carrying out a cost investigation after consultation with the owners.

The loss incurred by the near- and middle-water vessels as a whole rose steeply during the year. In part, this may be attributed to the overfishing of the waters where these boats fish. The Authority welcomes the decision of all the countries concerned to enforce in full the 1946 Convention from April 1954, but hopes that this step will be followed by other conservation measures.

Publicity Campaign: The serious decline in values has reflected a marked fall in the demand for fish by the consumer.

To increase consumption, the Authority decided to launch a publicity campaign, and, for the financial year 1953/54, appropriated £80,000 (US\$224,000), which will be spent largely on press advertising and displays in the retailers' and fishfriers' shops. The campaign began in the spring of 1953. A simultaneous campaign is being run by the British Trawlers' Federation for fillets, but care has been taken to avoid overlapping of effort.

Rebuilding the Fleet: The Authority announced during the year its arrangement for making loans for the construction of new fishing vessels for the near, middle, and inshore waters, and for building or improving processing plants. It expected little response in regard to fishing vessels, as it had concluded that loans would be insufficient to promote rebuilding. This view was put to and accepted by the Government.

A Bill was introduced in December 1952, which has been recently enacted as the White Fish and Herring Industries Act, 1953. This provides for the making of grant by the Authority for the construction of new boats of not more than 140 feet in length and, in certain cases, for new motors. The scheme has still to be approved by Parliament, but the Authority has completed administrative arrangements for dealing with applications.

A prospective boat owner will still be eligible to receive a loan as well as a grant, and, as at the outset he will normally have to find from his own resources only 15 percent of the total cost of the vessel, the Authority trusts that these arrangements will lead to a great step forward in the rebuilding of the fleet.

Regulation of Imports: The Authority, while recognizing that imports are essential at certain times of the year for the proper supplying of the market, considers that regulation is desirable.

It would be unsatisfactory, after the present dispute over fishery limits is settled, to return to the unregulated and sudden gluts which cause loss both to the British catcher and the foreigner.

In February 1953, it recommended to the Government that a scheme for regulating imports should be drawn up and operated. As such a scheme would, in order to comply with the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade, require an equivalent statutory restriction on British landings, it discussed the matter during the year with the Humber distant-water owners; no conclusions have yet been reached.

Freezing Fish-at-Sea Research: Cooperation between the Authority and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research into fish problems has continued. Among the problems being studied is the refrigeration of fish at sea. Preliminary work has been carried out at Torry. Recently it has been agreed in principle that a distant-water trawler should be fitted out experimentally in order to determine whether it is practicable and economic to freeze at sea the early part of the catch, and that the cost of this experiment should be shared equally between the Treasury, the Authority, and the distant-water owners.

"The importance of this experiment cannot be overestimated. If it proves successful and capable of extension, there will be a vast improvement in the quality of a great part of the distant-water landings."

The Authority has also set up a Technical Committee, which includes scientists, vessel owners, builders, skippers, and engineers, to review research on the preservation of fish at sea, and proposes to set up other committees of this kind to deal with practical aspects of research problems.

Marketing and Distribution: The Authority states that it will shortly consult the industry on a scheme designed to insure more stable prices to inshore fishermen and to spread their earnings more evenly over the year; it will be introduced at ports where the prevailing opinion of the fishermen is in favor of it.

The Authority is also considering a scheme to improve the return of fish boxes, of which the box pools at the ports suffer serious losses.

The Authority's Frozen Fish Scheme, which was published in the Autumn of 1952, has been postponed in order to allow for further consultation with the quick freezers, who objected not to the principle, but to the terms of the proposals put forward. It would have been impracticable for any freezing scheme to have been introduced in the present summer. The Authority has appointed five inspectors of freezing, who are undergoing a year's training before taking up their duties.

The Authority has decided to erect and operate a fish-meal factory in the South West of England; negotiations for a site at Plymouth are taking place.

As a preliminary step towards the introduction of statutory regulations, the Authority has prepared two Codes of Practice; the first, "Handling of Fish on Shore," covering the wholesale stages of distribution; the second, "Freezing of Fish."

Scotland and Northern Ireland: The Authority, in August 1952, appointed the Committee for Scotland and Northern Ireland as its instrument for carrying out its statutory duties in those countries. The Committee has been active in the past year in encouraging the formation of mutual trading organizations at inshore ports, and in one or two cases is considering the granting of financial assistance to such bodies.

The Committee has also discussed with the interests concerned at Aberdeen the implementation of the recommendations of the McColl Committee for the rationalization of the Aberdeen fishing fleet and for setting up a marketing organization at that port. No conclusions have yet been reached.

Costs and Earnings: The report includes the general results of the Authority's investigation during the year into costs and earnings of certain sections of the industry. One of the investigations made was into the inshore fishing industry. In the year ended July 31, 1952, the owners of the 110 vessels in the sample made a total net profit (after taking account of the subsidy) of £27,491 (US\$77,000); without subsidy the profit would have been only £4,474 (US\$12,500). The average earning of the crews of these boats was £445 (US\$1,246) with subsidy, and £385 (US\$1,070) without it.

The two other sections examined were the coastal and inland wholesalers. The 60 coastal merchants in the sample earned in the calendar year 1951 a total net profit of £89,896 (US\$251,700) or 1.2 percent of their gross sales. This compares with a loss of £1,184 (US\$3,300) or 0.024 percent of gross sales in 1950. The 54 inland wholesalers examined had a net profit of £86,876 (US\$243,300) or 0.79 percent of gross sales in the twelve months ended June 30, 1952; this compared with £58,722 (US\$164,400) or 0.9 percent of gross sales in the preceding year.

Investigations into other sections are taking place, but the Authority states that, as an insufficient number of firms are volunteering to lay open their books and records for the purpose, it intends to enforce in the near future the statutory powers granted by the 1951 Act.

Position of Wholesalers: Statistical information is given about the number, facilities, and activities of coastal and inland wholesalers, collected as a result of the registration of these traders which the Authority carried out in 1952. There are 2,300 registered premises where a coastal wholesale business is carried on, and 1,053 where an inland wholesale business is carried on; these figures take no account of a large number of premises where the wholesale activities are less than 10 percent of the total business. Appendices to the Report contain an analysis of the numbers and facilities by ports and markets.

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HERRING PROCESSED TO RESEMBLE SALMON: Processing herring to resemble salmon in taste, smell, and appearance is reported from Fraserburgh (Scotland), states the May 1953 Fish Industry, a British trade magazine.

Research has been progressing in this direction for some time. It is indicated that only experts can tell the origin of the new pack, and then only by texture. Initial tests have proved that the new herring-converted-to-salmon pack will have a good demand and plans are being made for an expansion of production to exploit the process. It is claimed that the process eliminates the defects which limit the sale of canned herring, without eliminating any of the nutritional value of the fish.

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BRITISH-RUSSIAN FISHERY PRODUCTS TRADE AGREEMENT: The British and Russian Governments have concluded a trade agreement involving fishery products, the Secretary of State for Scotland announced in the British House of Commons on June 30 in answer to an oral question. Terms similar to those of 1952 were arranged: cured herring to the value of £973,000 (US\$2,724,000) would be shipped to Russia, together with enough tin plate to pack the canned crab meat and salmon which the British Ministry of Food

will receive from Russia in a counterpart agreement of equivalent value. It is estimated that the value of the tin plate would be £117,000 (US\$327,600), reports a July 7 U. S. Embassy dispatch from London. The canned crab meat that Russia will ship is estimated at 50,000 cases or about 1,070 metric tons. The quantity of salmon will depend upon the sizes and types to be supplied.

The Herring Industry Board has released the figure of cured herring to be supplied to the world markets in 1953 as about 280,000 barrels of this year's production, as against the total of 177,000 barrels for 1952. The proportion of this total which will go to Russia by the 1953 agreement has not been divulged, but it is estimated that not less than 180,000 barrels will be involved. There is still a shortfall of 38,000 barrels on the 1952 agreement to be made up. This was caused by the poor autumn season in East Anglia and the acute shortage of labor in the North-East Scottish ports during the bumper summer season. As these same Scottish ports were again enjoying fine summer fishing, they have already begun curing in order to take care of the previous year's shortfall as well as the new contract. For this purpose the labor force at these ports has been increased and a number of herring-gutting machines have been hired from the Herring Industry Board to augment the manual laborers. There is no doubt that the contract with the U.S.S.R. is valued by the herring industry in the United Kingdom as the one substantial outlet for the bulk of the herring catches.

Comment on the agreement by Government Members in the British House of Commons indicated that "lively satisfaction" would be felt, not only in the herring fishing industry but in other circles as well. Opposition Members, however, professed to be disappointed that canned crab meat, which was priced out of reach of the ordinary people at 3s. 9d. (44 U. S. cents) for a 3-ounce can, should have been taken instead of timber or coarse grains, and intimated that the best bargain had not been struck with Russia.

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FISHING PRIVILEGES OFF NORTHERN COAST OF RUSSIA EXTENDED: The British Foreign Office announced that the Russian Government has agreed to the extension of the fishing agreement between the two countries for another year. This Pact, which has been in force since 1930, allows British trawlers to fish up to within three miles of the Russian White Sea coast instead of the twelve-mile limit imposed on all other countries. In conformity with the terms of the Pact, Russia announced in January the intention to terminate the agreement on June 30, thus giving the requisite six months' notice. The agreement to extend the Pact was reached at the last moment but it is known that representations were made to Moscow some months ago, a July 7 U. S. Embassy dispatch from London points out.

The immediate result of Russia's extension of the 1930 Pact will be to relieve the British fishing industry of the threat of further restriction imposed upon it by a foreign country.

Russia's earlier move, if carried to its conclusion, would have deprived British fishing interests of 3,000 square miles of fishing grounds with a loss of some 28,000,000 pounds of plaice and haddock each year. It is hoped that the delay will enable the two countries to discuss further arrangements that will be mutually beneficial.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, APRIL 1953, P. 59.

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TRAWLERS SOLD TO ITALIAN FIRM: Four more Granton trawlers have been sold to an Italian company because of the depressed situation of the Granton industry, reports the May 1953 Fish Industry, a British trade magazine. The owners have disposed of the four because of the continuing serious position and poor prospects of the Granton fleet. This further sale depletes the Granton (Scotland) fleet still more and emphasizes the difficulties which owners in this area are facing through rising costs and poor consumer demand. The sale of two of their trawlers to Italian owners some weeks earlier aroused opposition from the port, but there were no concrete alternative propositions.



Venezuela

PEARL CROP, 1953: The Venezuelan pearl crop in 1953 has been announced by the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture as 978,391 karats, valued at bolivares 1,314,692 (US\$392,400). Of this total, 316,096 karats, valued at bolivares 597,285 (US\$178,300) are in the hands of dealers. The crop is reported as satisfactory. No data are available on the number of pearl fishers engaged, reports a July 7 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas.

The Managing Director of the Banco Agricola y Pecuaria stated that his institution would not purchase this year's collection of pearls unless the Venezuelan Government requests it. The Managing Director announced that the current stock of pearls from past harvests now in the Bank's vaults is valued at bolivares 1,698,000 (US\$507,000). There is almost no market for these since France and India, the principal prewar buyers, are no longer seeking pearls. Efforts have been made to dispose of them in Hong Kong and other oriental centers, but without much success. The Bank feels that the amount of money frozen in these jewels is too high.

A total of 250,000 karats of seed pearls were sold in Europe and 50,000 in the United States plus 30,000 baroques. Also, some pearls have been sold in other Venezuelan cities.



HELICOPTER IS USEFUL AS WHALE-SPOTTER

DO YOU KNOW THAT:

When the whaling factoryship Norhval arrived at Cape Town recently there was high praise for the usefulness of the helicopter carried aboard. On one occasion a school of 200 whales was spotted by the pilot.

... World Fishing, June 1953