



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SHELL-FISH SANITATION: Almost 100 representatives of Federal, State, and Canadian health and fisheries agencies and of the shellfish industry attended the first national conference on shellfish sanitation in almost 30 years. It was held September 9 and 10, in Washington, D. C. The conference was called by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, to discuss problems of both domestic and international significance.

On the domestic side, it was unanimously agreed that the voluntary, cooperative Federal-State-Industry sanitation control program be continued, with certain technical changes, but essentially in its present form. Under this system, the states assume primary responsibility for sanitation of shellfish production and processing. The Public Health Service will continue to develop uniform standards, evaluate and endorse the state programs which meet its standards, and issue periodic lists of state-certified dealers.

Speaking for the producing states, Dr. Mack I. Shanholtz, Virginia State Health Officer, pointed out that shellfish-regulatory agencies are expending large amounts of time and money to insure that shellfish are not harvested from sewage-polluted areas. Action may range from simple closure of such an area to the construction of sewage-treatment facilities.

"Virginia is the largest shellfish-producing State, but these problems face all other producing States as well," Dr. Shanholtz said. In the face of our ever-increasing population, "it is a constant

race to keep sewage-treatment facilities adequate to the expanding pollution problem," he observed.

"Sanitary control is the foundation upon which the industry is built," it was asserted by David H. Wallace, director of the Oyster Institute of North America, who spoke also for the Pacific Coast Oyster Growers Association. Because of the shellfish industry's interest in producing a safe product, he said, the industry wants the cooperative program to continue.

The need for all states to check on the sources and marketing of shellfish sold within their borders was stressed by Dr. Grady F. Mathews, Oklahoma State Health Officer, who compared the shellfish industry to the milk industry with respect to the need for sanitary controls. He urged all interior states to take steps to insure that only certified shellfish be sold. The interior states are becoming more important in shellfish marketing, he pointed out, with the development of new methods of freezing, changes in merchandizing methods, and advances in express rates on small shipments leading to the location of repacking and breeding and freezing plants in interior states.

The same advances in freezing techniques give rise to the international problems, according to experts who addressed the conference. H. Gerald Smith, of the State Department, noted that dollar-short countries with a surplus of shellfish are eager to take advantage of these developments in order to help stabilize their economies. He recognized, however, that "the many sanitation and administrative problems involved in the shipment of shellfish from distant countries to the United States will have to be solved" before they would be able to market appreciable quantities here.

John Harvey, Associate Commissioner of Food and Drug Administration, and Richard S. Green, chief of the Public Health Service's Shellfish Branch, agreed that "many difficult problems must be solved before the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and other Federal agencies concerned can work out satisfactory methods for dealing with shipments." The industry's point of view, as expressed by J. R. Nelson, of Madison, Connecticut, president of the Oyster Institute of North America, was that "the same rigid controls which have been placed over domestic producers should be applied to foreign producers."

The Department of State, the Food and Drug Administration and the Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of Interior will cooperate in a study of these problems, at the request of the state and industry representatives at the conference.

This is the resolution passed at the Conference:

"During 1924 and 1925, outbreaks of typhoid fever occurred in New York, Washington, Chicago and several other cities. Epidemiological investigation indicated sewage-polluted oysters to be the cause of this illness. The resulting publicity nearly ruined the shellfish industry. To reestablish public confidence in the use of raw fresh shellfish as food, the industry and certain governmental agencies appealed to health authorities for assistance. A meeting of all interested persons was held in Washington, D. C., on February 19, 1925, with the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service presiding, to formulate a plan for sanitary control of the shellfish industry.

"As a result of this meeting, a system of shellfish-sanitation control was developed which placed the primary responsibility for the maintenance of sanitary control upon the state agencies. The function of the U. S. Public Health Service was to assist in development of uniform standards, review state programs, and advise receiving states of the

effectiveness of the shellfish-sanitation programs in the producing states. Now, therefore,

"WHEREAS, to safeguard public health, there is a continuing need for a program for sanitary control of shellfish processing and distribution in receiving areas, and

"WHEREAS, the establishment of adequate control measures in both producing areas and receiving areas will assist the shellfish industry and provide protection for the ultimate consumer, therefore, be it

"RESOLVED,

"1. That the present policy of Federal-state and Industry cooperative relationship be continued including the listing of certified shellfish dealers by the U. S. Public Health Service based on its endorsement of the various State programs.

"2. That the Public Health Service shall develop specific minimum requirements for endorsing state shellfish programs which shall take into account varying geographic and other conditions and the various species of shellfish grown therein.

"3. That the certification of shellfish packers and repackers, with endorsement of satisfactory state programs by the U. S. Public Health Service, be developed in all receiving states.

"4. That all states be encouraged to require that only shellfish from certified dealers be permitted to be sold.

"5. That the program for sanitary control of the shellfish industry shall be maintained throughout the year in both producing and receiving states.

"6. That the Public Health Service shall maintain a staff to carry out its responsibility in this program, including the necessary research and consultation service.



Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

EXPANDED FISHERY RESEARCH PROGRAM APPROVED BY SECRETARY

MCKAY: Approval of a greatly expanded research program designed to strengthen the United States commercial fishing industry was announced September 10 by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

The research program will be carried out by the Fish and Wildlife Service under the terms of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Bill (Public Law 466, 83rd Congress). This legislation provides that an amount equal to 30 percent of duties collected under the customs laws on fishery products be transferred annually for three years from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. The basic purpose of the legislation is to "promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce." Expenditures for any one year may not exceed \$3,000,000.

Projects initially approved by Secretary McKay call for the expenditure of approximately \$1,800,000. The balance of the allocation will await the consideration of an advisory committee which will be appointed in the near future. This committee will comprise representatives of all segments of the fishing industry and will be invited to propose and review research projects and to recommend priorities for activities by types and areas.

The \$3,000,000 research fund allocated under the Saltonstall-Kennedy bill supplements \$3,593,000 appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service to carry on authorized research programs. These programs include \$2,485,000 for fish and fisheries and \$1,108,000 for exploration and utilization of fish and fish products. Included in the first of these programs is the extensive work now being carried on by the Service on the Great Lakes sea lamprey and the Florida red tide scourge. In addition, \$50,000 has been appropriated for research on escapement of fish in connection with the construction of multiple-purpose dams.

The majority of the projects approved under Public Law 466 funds are recognized by the industry as requiring immediate attention. Secretary McKay pointed out that in most instances they parallel programs either under way or which have been postponed previously because of the lack of funds.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is authorized to conduct an expanded fishery educational service, as well as technological, biological, and related research programs. The transferred funds will also be available for the "purchase or other acquisition, construction, equipment, operation, and maintenance of vessels or other facilities necessary for conducting the required research."

The projects now approved provide for increased activities at many points in the United States and in Alaska. A statement listing the types of projects and the localities in which they will be carried on follows:

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS

MAINE HERRING INVESTIGATION (\$74,000). A study of New England herring populations will be undertaken to discover reasons for the fluctuations in abundance and to develop means of predicting the catch. This will be a cooperative investigation conducted with the Exploratory and Gear Development unit. Headquarters for the activity will be at a point on the Maine Coast.

NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES (\$205,000). A study of flounder, sea scallop, whiting, and ocean perch fisheries will be undertaken to determine the condition of these fisheries in order to devise methods of conserving the fisheries and to obtain information for the use of the industry concerning supplies of fish and shellfish, and trends of the fisheries. These activities will be carried on from the Service's Woods Hole, Mass., laboratory.

OYSTER INVESTIGATIONS (\$75,000). Studies of the oyster fisheries of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts will be conducted to learn more about seed-oyster production, control of drill damage, and other possibilities for improved cultivation of these shellfish. These activities will be conducted from Milford, Conn.; Annapolis, Md.; Pensacola, Fla.

GULF OF MEXICO SHRIMP INVESTIGATIONS (\$80,000). The shrimp populations of the Gulf will be studied to determine the effects of environmental changes on shrimp production, in order to provide information necessary to maintain the production of these shellfish. Headquarters for this activity will be at Galveston, Texas.

RED TIDE INVESTIGATIONS (\$20,000). This amount will supplement and strengthen studies being conducted to determine the combination of environmental factors which "trigger-off" blooms of *Gymnodinium brevis*, the organism which causes extensive fish kills in west coast Florida waters. Headquarters for these investigations are at Fort Meyers, Fla.

PACIFIC SARDINE, ANCHOVY, AND MACKEREL INVESTIGATIONS (\$125,000). Cooperative research will be conducted to determine reasons for the recent decline in the sardine fishery and to learn the distribution, abundance, and reasons for fluctuations in the numbers of sardine-like fish in Pacific Coast waters. Studies of the anchovy and

mackerels will be carried on concurrently. Headquarters for the staff in this research will be at La Jolla, Calif.

NORTH PACIFIC ALBACORE INVESTIGATIONS (\$234,000). Biological, oceanographic, and fishing studies will be conducted to locate and determine abundance of albacore tuna in waters north and west of Hawaii. The project will be conducted from the Service's laboratory at Honolulu, T. H., and will be coordinated through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

EXPLORATORY FISHING, STATISTICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, EDUCATIONAL, MARKET DEVELOPMENT, AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND SERVICES

Exploratory Fishing and Gear Development:

MAINE HERRING EXPLORATION (\$76,000). An exploratory fishing and gear research program will be undertaken for the purpose of increasing herring production in cooperation with a biological research program. This activity will be based at a suitable point on the coast of Maine.

NORTH ATLANTIC EXPLORATIONS (\$160,000). A program will be carried on to find new fishing grounds off the New England Coast, and to develop improved fishing methods. This activity will be based at Boston, Mass., and will utilize the Service's technological research vessel Delaware.

Commercial Fishery Statistics:

The collection and dissemination of commercial fishery statistics will be expanded and expedited in many parts of the country. The monthly and annual economic and biological statistical surveys of the domestic fisheries will be issued more promptly; coverage will be strengthened in areas where the collection of data has been weak; and a program will be established for the collection of detailed statistics on the shrimp industry in the South Atlantic and Gulf States. Supervision of the surveys, publication of the data collected, and contracts for special field surveys will be handled from Washington, D. C., at a cost of \$53,000. Personnel assigned to conduct the statistical surveys will be stationed in the following localities:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ATLANTIC COAST (\$33,000):
Gloucester, Mass.
Providence, R. I.
Solomons, Md.
Beaufort, N. C.
Beaufort, S. C.
Brunswick, Ga.
Coral Gables, Fla. | GULF COAST (\$60,000):
Key West, Fla.
Fort Meyers, Fla.
Tampa, Fla.
Pascagoula, Miss.
Biloxi, Miss.
New Orleans, La.
Houma, La.
Morgan City, La.
Galveston, Texas
Aransas Pass, Texas
Brownsville, Texas |
| MID-WEST (\$13,000):
Ann Arbor, Mich.
La Crosse, Wis.
New Orleans, La. (headquarters employee will survey lower Mississippi River) | PACIFIC COAST (\$6,000):
Astoria, Ore.
San Pedro, Calif. |

Technological Studies:

GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC OYSTER RESEARCH (\$40,000): A program to develop the most suitable methods for handling, freezing, and packaging Southern oysters in the Gulf and South Atlantic producing areas. The research will be conducted under contract by qualified laboratories and at the Service's College Park, Maryland, laboratory.

Economic Research (\$143,000):

Consumption of fishery products will be studied in public eating places, institutions, etc., which serve 60 million people daily, in order to obtain information useful in increasing markets for fish and shellfish.

Comprehensive economic surveys, similar to that prepared on the domestic tuna industry, will be made for other important fisheries, such as shrimp, scallops, Maine sardines, etc., to indicate trends and strengthen their competitive position. These studies and surveys will be supervised from Washington, D. C., and include a very large amount of contract research with qualified research organizations in the economic field.

Fishery Education and Market Development:

There will be an expansion of the school lunch, locker, and special marketing activities, and inauguration of a program for the development of foreign markets for fishery products. These funds are in addition to the \$175,000 that the Service received as a result of legislation now superseded by P. L. 466. This brings the total for this activity to \$300,000. Employees to be assigned to these new activities will be stationed in the following localities:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| ATLANTIC COAST (\$101,500):
College Park, Md.
Washington, D. C.
Atlanta, Ga.
Coral Gables, Fla. (contract with University of Miami) | PACIFIC COAST (\$16,000):
Seattle, Wash.
San Pedro, Calif. | GULF COAST (\$7,500):
New Orleans, La. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (\$91,500). Inauguration of the expanded research program authorized by P. L. 466 will require additional employment and expenditures in the Service's Division of Administration in Washington, D. C., and in the various regional offices for increased fiscal, personnel, and similar administrative activities.

CONSTRUCTION SURVEYS AND ENGINEERING STUDIES (\$43,000). Surveys and engineering studies will be made to develop plans for the construction of fishery laboratories at Woods Hole, and Boston, Mass.; Pascagoula, Miss.; and Seattle, Wash.

* * * * *

JOINT AGREEMENT FOR SOUND WILD-LIFE PLANNING ON RIVER BASIN PROJECTS:

An interagency agreement between the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, and the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior to promote sound planning of fish and wildlife facilities on river basin projects was announced August 31.

The agreement signed by Acting Secretary of the Interior Ralph A. Tudor and Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens represents a forward step in the program of cooperation between the Corps

and the Fish and Wildlife Service and is designed to provide for the preservation of fish and wildlife resources in the development of irrigation, navigation, flood control, and power multipurpose projects.

Uniform procedures are set forth in the agreement for the incorporation of recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the State Fish and Game Departments, in project reports submitted to Congress by the Corps of Engineers. General plans will be developed jointly by the two Federal agencies and the appropriate State agency where either the Federal or State wildlife agencies desires to make use of the resources of completed projects. Maximum practicable public benefits for wildlife conservation will be sought on a local, regional, and national scale.

The agreement provides, among other things, that both gains and losses to wildlife will be considered, and that the recommendations of the Fish and Wildlife Service will be as specific as possible as to purpose, costs, results expected, and related matters. The agreement also provides that, as a general policy, leases of project lands by the Corps of Engineers for agricultural purposes shall specify that the lands shall be open for public hunting and fishing. Reports of the Corps of Engineers on projects where effects on fish and wildlife resources are significant shall include fish and wildlife conservation as one of the project purposes.

This agreement establishes definite guidance for personnel of both agencies in the preparation of project proposals within the framework of the Coordination Act of 1946.

* * * * *

TERHUNE APPOINTED ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Hugh W. Terhune has been appointed Assistant Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service's regional office in Atlanta, Georgia, the Department of the Interior announced August 23. He succeeds Walter A. Gresh who became Regional Director after the retirement of James

Silver. Terhune reported for duty in Atlanta about September 10.

Terhune has been assistant chief of the Branch of Alaska Fisheries at the central office in Washington since 1950.

As administrator of the Service's Philippine Fisheries Rehabilitation Program in the 1940's, Terhune directed the work of revitalizing the Philippine Republic's commercial fisheries.

He was also executive officer of the Alaska Game Commission, manager of the White River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas, chief of the division of construction and CCC operations, and area coordinator of fisheries for the State of California.



State Department

HEARINGS ON REVIEW OF GATT: Public hearings concerning possible changes in the general provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were held by the State Department in Washington, D. C., September 13-17. The hearing was conducted under the direction of the Chairman of the United States Delegation for the review and renegotiation of the General Agreement which will take place in Geneva beginning November 8. These hearings relate to the general provisions of the General Agreement and not to individual commodities or tariff rates.

Major matters which are listed for possible consideration at the review in Geneva are:

1. Organizational provisions of GATT.
2. Special treatment for underdeveloped countries.
3. Agricultural quotas and export subsidies (covered in present Agreement primarily by GATT Articles XI and XVI).
4. Import restrictions for balance-of-payments reasons (covered in present Agreement primarily by GATT Articles XII through XV).

Provisions relating to duration of tariff concessions (Article XXVIII).

* * * * *

PUBLIC VIEWS REQUESTED ON THE FIRM LIFE OF INDIVIDUAL TARIFF CONCESSIONS IN GATT: Public views were requested by the U. S. State Department on September 21 regarding the status of tariff concessions granted in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in view of the possibility of modification of Article XXVIII of the Agreement, a State Department release points out.

Article XXVIII, as it stands at present, provides that on or after July 1 1955, any country may withdraw tariff commitments with regard to any particular product. However, a country wishing to withdraw a concession first must try to reach some basis of agreement with other interested contracting parties concerning such withdrawal. A possible basis for agreement would be the granting of new concessions as compensation for the withdrawn concession. If such efforts to arrive at agreement fail, the country can nevertheless proceed with its intended action and the other interested country then becomes free to withdraw equivalent concessions in order to restore balance in the Agreement.

Because of concern that extensive use of the unilateral procedure might lead to a rather rapid increase in world tariffs, the date at which this procedure might become available, which originally was January 1, 1951, has twice been postponed. Proposals to modify the application of Article XXVIII are expected to be made at the Ninth Session of the General Agreement which opened on October 28.

Interested persons were invited to express views with regard to any aspect of this matter, including the general question of modification of the Article as well as possible changes in individual concessions which the United States has received or granted. Such views will be carefully considered before a final decision is reached as to the United States position. Certain views on this subject were presented at the hearings on the GATT review of September 13 through 17, held by the U. S.

Delegation to the Review Session. These views were made available to the trade agreements organization for consideration along with information and views presented at the October hearings.

Written views were to be submitted to the Committee for Reciprocity Information, the interdepartmental organization which receives views with regard to trade agreement matters, by October 18. Public hearings were also held by the Committee beginning October 18.

Article XXVIII now provides, in effect:

1. On or after July 1, 1955^{1/} any contracting party may, by negotiation and agreement with any other contracting party with which such treatment was initially negotiated, and subject to consultation with such other contracting parties as the CONTRACTING PARTIES determine to have a substantial interest in such treatment, modify, or cease to apply, the treatment which it has agreed to accord under Article II to any product described in the appropriate Schedule annexed to this Agreement. In such negotiations and agreement, which may include provision for compensatory adjustment with respect to other products, the contracting parties concerned shall endeavour to maintain a general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions not less favourable to trade than that provided for in the present Agreement.

2. (a) If agreement between the contracting parties primarily concerned cannot be reached, the contracting party which proposes to modify or cease to apply such treatment shall, nevertheless, be free to do so, and if such action is taken the contracting party with which such treatment was initially negotiated, and the other contracting parties determined under paragraph 1 of this Article to have a substantial interest, shall then be free, not later than six months after such action is taken, to withdraw, upon the expiration of thirty days from the day on which written notice of such withdrawal is received by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, substantially equivalent concessions initially negotiated with the contracting party taking such action.

^{1/}The applicable date in paragraph 1, in the case of Brazil, is January 1, 1954.

(b) If agreement between the contracting parties primarily concerned is reached but any other contracting party determined under paragraph 1 of this Article to have a substantial interest is not satisfied, such other contracting party shall be free, not later than six months after action under such agreement is taken, to withdraw, upon the expiration of thirty days from the day on which written notice of such withdrawal is received by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, substantially equivalent concessions initially negotiated with a contracting party taking action under such agreement.

In a statement at the opening of review hearings on the general agreement on tariffs and trade, Assistant Secretary of State Samuel C. Waugh pointed out that in a message to Congress on March 30, 1954, the President stated his intention to renegotiate the organizational provisions of the GATT and to submit the results of this renegotiation to the Congress for its approval. The President stated further that the United States will "suggest to other Contracting Parties revisions of the substantive provisions of the Agreement to provide a simpler, stronger instrument contributing more effectively to the development of a workable system of world trade."

As directed by the President, the United States Delegation, which included representatives of the appropriate agencies of the Executive Branch, discussed the merits of a review of the Agreement with other GATT adherents. There was general agreement that a review of the Agreement in the light of experience since it was first put into effect in 1948 is now appropriate, and the review is scheduled to open in Geneva on November 8.



Tariff Commission

SUGGESTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CUSTOMS SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 1954 INVITED: Title I of the Customs Simplification Act of 1954, approved Sep-

tember 1, 1954, directs the Tariff Commission to make a comprehensive study of the laws of the United States prescribing the tariff status of imported articles and to submit to the President and to the Chairmen of the Ways & Means Committee of the House of Representatives and the Finance Committee of the Senate, within two years, a revision and consolidation of these laws, which in the judgement of the Commission, will to the extent practicable--

(1) Establish schedules of tariff classifications which will be logical in arrangement and terminology and adapted to the changes which have occurred since 1930 on the character and importance of articles produced in and imported into the United States and in the markets in which they are sold.

(2) Eliminate anomalies and illogical results in the classification of articles.

(3) Simplify the determination and application of tariff classifications.

The Tariff Commission has initiated the study, and at this stage thereof the Commission invites importers, domestic producers, customs brokers, and other interested parties to submit any suggestions they may have to offer which in their opinion will accomplish the purposes above indicated. Suggestions should be in quintuplicate and should be addressed to the General Counsel, United States Tariff Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

No hearings will be held in connection with this study until after the Commission has completed its review of the tariff classification laws and has prepared a draft of revised tariff schedules. Hearings will then be scheduled for the purpose of affording interested parties opportunity to be heard with regard to the proposed revised tariff schedules, particularly with respect to the probable effect upon domestic industry of any incidental changes in duties which may be involved in the proposed revision.



Eighty-Third Congress (Second Session)

AUGUST 1954

Listed below are public bills and resolutions introduced and referred to committees or passed by the Eighty-Third Congress (Second Session) and signed by the President that directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries. Public bills and resolutions are shown in this section only when introduced and, if passed, when signed by the President; but also shown are the more pertinent reports, hearings, or chamber actions on some of the bills shown in this section from month to month.

CUSTOMS SIMPLIFICATION ACT: On September 1 the President signed H. R. 10009, a bill to simplify customs procedures. (P. L. 763). The Act authorizes the Tariff Commission to review customs tariff schedules, and transfers from the Treasury Department to the Tariff Commission the task of deciding whether dumping of goods by foreign countries in the United States market has resulted in injury to domestic producers. The Act requires the Tariff Commission to report to Congress by March 18, 1955, indicating the significant problems that have developed and suggesting standards and methods which might be adopted for simplification of existing tariff schedules without significant changes in tariff levels.

One section of the Law which may be of considerable importance in the future reads:

"Sec. 401.**** Sec. 301. Insular Possessions.

"There shall be levied, collected, and paid upon all articles coming into the United States from any of its insular possessions, except Puerto Rico, the rates of duty which are required to be levied, collected, and paid upon like articles imported from foreign countries; except that all articles the growth or product of any such possession, or manufactured or produced in any such possession from materials the growth, product, or manufacture of any such possession or of the United States, or of both, which do not contain foreign materials to the value of more than 50 per centum of their total value, coming into the United States directly from any such possession, and all articles previously imported into the United States with payment of all applicable duties and taxes imposed upon or by reason of importation which are shipped from the United States, without remission, refund, or drawback of such duties or taxes, directly to the possession, from which it is being returned by direct shipment, shall be admitted free of duty upon compliance with such regulations as to proof of origin as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. In determining whether an article produced or manufactured in any such insular possession contains foreign materials to the value of more than 50 per centum, no material shall be considered foreign which, at the time such article is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, in the United States for consumption, may be imported into the United States from a foreign country, other than Cuba or the Philippine Republic, free of duty.

"Sec. 402. (a) Section 28 (d) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, approved July 22, 1954, is amended to read as follows:

"(d) All articles coming into the United States from the Virgin Islands shall be subject to or exempt from duty as provided for in section 301 of the Tariff Act of 1930 and subject to internal-revenue taxes as provided for in section 7652 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

"(b) Section 27 of the Act of August 1, 1950 (64 Stat. 392; U.S.C., 1952 edition, title 48, sec. 1421e), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 27. All articles coming into the United States from Guam shall be subject to or exempt from duty as provided for in section 301 of the Tariff Act of 1930."

The Senate Finance Committee's report on these sections is as follows:

"Section 401

"Section 401 of the bill would add a new section to title III of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the duty status of importations from the insular possessions of the United States. The new section would provide that all articles imported from an insular possession of the United States, except Puerto Rico, shall be dutiable at the same rates as are importations from foreign countries, except those which (1) are entirely of native origin or (2) are manufactured in such possession and do not contain over 50 percent of foreign materials or (3) are articles previously imported into the United States with full payment of duties and taxes which have been shipped from the United States directly to the possession without remission, refund, or drawback of such duties or taxes. This proposal would result in equal treatment for all the insular possessions of the United States, except Puerto Rico, which is within the customs territory of the United States.

"Section 402

"Section 402 of the bill would amend present law to make it clear that Guam and the Virgin Islands come within the general provision for importations from insular possessions added by section 401. Under existing law all products of Guam are duty free, whereas products of the Virgin Islands are subject to duty if they contain over 50 percent of foreign material."

DUTY ON FISH STICKS: The President on August 28 signed H. R. 8628, a bill containing an amendment to provide a 20 percent ad-valorem duty on breaded uncooked and 30 percent on cooked fish sticks and similar products of any size or shape, fillets, or other portions of fish (P. L. 689). The Law shall enter into effect as soon as practicable on a date to be specified by the President in a notice to the Secretary of Treasury following such negotiations as may be necessary to effect a modification or a termination of the international obligations of the United States with which the amendment would be in conflict. The Law reads:

H. R. 8628

AN ACT

411 68 Stat. 896

To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to insure that crude silicon carbide imported into the United States will continue to be exempt from duty, and with respect to the duties applicable to certain prepared fish.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That paragraph 5110n carbide, 1672 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, is amended by inserting 46 Stat. 677, "crude silicon carbide," after "corundum ore."

Sec. 2 (a) Paragraph 720 of title I of the Tariff Act of 1930 (P. L. 1672, U. S. C., 1952 edition, title 19, sec. 1001, par. 720), is amended by 46 Stat. 633, adding at the end thereof the following subparagraph:

"(d) Fish sticks and similar products of any size or shape, fillets, fish sticks, or other portions of fish, if breaded, coated with batter, or similarly prepared, but not packed in oil or in oil and other substances, whether in bulk or in containers of any size or kind, and whether or not described or provided for elsewhere in this Act, if uncooked, 20 per centum ad valorem; cooked in any degree, 30 per centum ad valorem."

(b) The foregoing amendment shall enter into effect as soon as practicable on a date to be specified by the President in a notice to the Secretary of the Treasury following such negotiations as may be necessary to effect a modification or a termination of the international obligations of the United States with which the amendment would be in conflict.

Approved August 28, 1954.

LABELING OF FOREIGN-PRODUCED TROUT: The President on September 2 vetoed S. 2033, relating to the labeling of packages containing foreign-produced trout sold in the U. S., and requiring certain information to appear on a placard in public eating places serving such trout. In vetoing the measure, designed to protect domestic trout growers, the President stated that the present Tariff Act and the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law provide sufficient safeguards if thoroughly enforced.

PROTECTION OF U. S. VESSELS ON HIGH SEAS: The President on August 27 signed H. R. 9584, a bill to protect the rights of vessels of the United States on the high seas and in territorial waters of foreign countries. (P. L. 680). The law reads:

H. R. 9584

AN ACT

All 68 Stat. 883.

To protect the rights of vessels of the United States on the high seas and in territorial waters of foreign countries.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purposes of this Act the term "vessel of the United States" shall mean any private vessel documented or certificated under the laws of the United States.

Sec. 2. In any case where—

(a) a vessel of the United States is seized by a foreign country on the basis of rights or claims in territorial waters or the high seas which are not recognized by the United States; and
(b) there is no dispute of material facts with respect to the location or activity of such vessel at the time of such seizure,

the Secretary of State shall as soon as practicable take such action as he deems appropriate to attend to the welfare of such vessel and its crew while it is held by such country and to secure the release of such vessel and crew.

Sec. 3. In any case where a vessel of the United States is seized by a foreign country under the conditions of section 2 and a fine must be paid in order to secure the prompt release of the vessel and crew, the

owners of the vessel shall be reimbursed by the Secretary of the Treasury in the amount certified to him by the Secretary of State as being the amount of the fine actually paid.

Sec. 4. The provisions of this Act shall not apply with respect to a seizure made by a country at war with the United States or a seizure made in accordance with the provisions of any fishery convention or treaty to which the United States is a party.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall take such action as he may deem appropriate to make and collect on claims against a foreign country for amounts expended by the United States under the provisions of this Act because of the seizure of a United States vessel by such country.

Sec. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved August 27, 1954.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR FISHERMEN: H. R. 9366, providing for expanded coverage and an improved old-age and survivors insurance program, was signed by the President on September 1 (P. L. 761). The bill includes all persons, except minors employed by parents, engaged in the fishing industry. Affected are not only fishermen on boats or vessels, but also fishermen who operate drop nets and haul seines, clam diggers, and employees of commercial trout and other fish farms. The following detailed provisions are of interest to those affected by the new Law.

The new coverage is effective January 1, 1955. The employee's social security tax will be two percent of his wages up to a maximum of \$4200 a year and the employer will contribute a like amount.

The employer is responsible under the law for withholding the employee's tax and reporting wages every three months. Reports are made on Form 941, U. S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Services. The report covering the calendar quarter January-March should be made before the end of April.



Editorial Assistants--Ruth V. Keefe; Miss S. Boediningsih, Indonesian trainee, also assisted in the preparation of this issue as part of her training in the United States.

Illustrator--Gustaf T. Sundstrom

Compositors--Jean Zalevsky, Betty Coakley, Kathlyn Brophy, & Alma E. Greene

* * * * *

Photograph Credits: Page by page, the following list gives the source or photographer for each photograph in this issue. Photographs on pages not mentioned were obtained from the Service's file and the photographers are unknown.

Pages 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, and 12--Exploratory Fishing and Gear Development Section, Pascagoula, Miss.