

Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF FOREIGN COMMERCE

NEW REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR BRITISH TOKEN IMPORT PLAN: Proposed new regulations and procedures for operation of the British Token Import Plan in 1954 were announced on February 9 by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce. The new regulations were expected to go into effect about March 1. The only fishery commodity subject to the plan is canned lobster.

The British Token Import Plan, established with the United States in 1946, enables eligible United States manufacturers or their agents to export to the United Kingdom token shipments of specified commodities whose importation from dollar sources is generally prohibited by the British Government.

Under the new proposed regulations, the basic principle of the Plan would be maintained. However, changes would be made in the procedure for certification of eligibility and the conditions upon which quotas would be allotted.

The complete text of the new regulations was published in the Federal Register of March 4.



Department of Defense

FEES PROPOSED FOR PERMITS ISSUED BY ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS: The Secretary of the Army is considering a schedule of fees for the purpose of recovering the cost of issuing permits for work in navigable waters of the United States under the provisions of sections 9, 10, and 14 of the River and Harbor Act of March 3, 1899. This action is taken in compliance with the provisions of Title V of the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1952 (5 U.S.C. 140), providing for recovering to the extent possible the cost of Federal services rendered, including the issuance of various types of permits.

The proposed fee schedule follows:

Group	Classification	Estimated Cost of Work	Fee
1	Noncommercial structures or facilities for recreational craft; protective structures such as revetments, retaining walls, bulkheads, groins, jetties, including dredging and filling relating thereto; and dredging of channels, slips, berthing areas, with dumping in designated disposal areas.	Under \$5,000	\$ 25.00
		\$5,000-\$25,000	75.00
		Over \$25,000	150.00

Group	Classification	Estimated Cost of Work	Fee
2	Commercial structures used in water-borne commerce and navigation including piers, wharves, landing bulkheads, and related structures or work.	Under \$25,000 \$25,000 and over	\$ 75.00 150.00
3	Structures not used in water-borne commerce and navigation such as oil wells, water intakes, sewer outfalls, and related structures; and dredging for commercial shell, sand, and gravel.	Under \$25,000 \$25,000 and over	100.00 175.00
4	Dumping of materials in designated disposal areas or at sea.	Per dumper trip	20.00
5	Fish traps and pounds.	Gill nets Traps and pounds	25.00 50.00
6	Bridges, dams, and tunnels.	Under \$50,000 \$50,000-\$500,000 Over \$500,000	100.00 300.00 500.00
7	Revised plans and extensions of time.	50% of original fee (maximum)	100.00

This notice was published in the Federal Register on January 29, 1954, and an amendment thereto was published in the Federal Register on February 6, 1954.



Foreign Operations Administration

GREECE AUTHORIZED TO PURCHASE CANNED FISH: Greece has been authorized by the Foreign Operations Administration to spend \$150,000 for the purchase of canned sardines, herring, pilchards, mackerel, and/or squid, a February 4 bulletin from that Agency states. The contract period covering this purchase is from February 2, 1954, to June 30, 1954. The terminal delivery date is August 31, 1954. Greece is authorized to make these FOA-financed purchases in the United States and possessions.



Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

PACIFIC OYSTER STANDARDS AMENDED: The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on January 6, 1954, promulgated an order that amended the definitions and standards of identity for Pacific oysters. The amendments were made on the basis of substantial evidence received at the public hearing held late in 1953. The new regulations which appeared in the January 13, 1954, Federal Register are the same as the proposals published in Commercial Fisheries Review, January 1954, p. 42.

This order shall become effective on the ninetieth day following January 13, the date of publication of this order in the Federal Register.



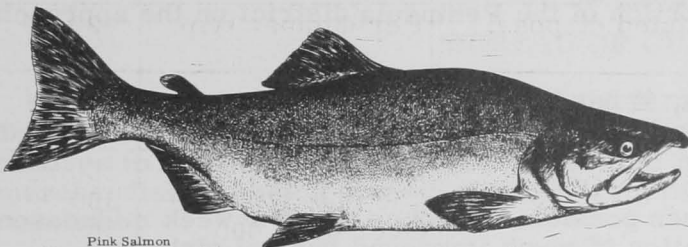
Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR 1954 ISSUED: Alaska salmon operators and fishermen have joined with the Department of the Interior in unprecedented conservation measures for 1954, designed to aid in restoring the pink salmon runs in Territorial waters, Secretary McKay announced February 19.

The measures include the closing of more than half the fish traps in southeast Alaska and a virtual halt for a two-year period in pink salmon fishing in Prince

William Sound. Bristol Bay operators, fishing for red salmon, have voluntarily curtailed the amount of gear to be used in 1954. A quota of 50,000 barrels, about half the annual take in recent years, is placed on the herring catch in southeastern Alaska. Use of mechanical drum seines is barred in the southeastern Territorial waters.



Pink Salmon
(*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)

The run of pink salmon in Alaska waters has been seriously depleted in recent years. Results of the 1953 season were among the poorest on record.

McKay lauded the Alaska fishermen and the operators for their voluntary participation in the 1954 salmon conservation program, despite the individual sacrifices that will be borne by many.

"The Department's interest is in a healthy fishing industry for Alaska," McKay said. "It is vital to the Territorial economy. It was plain after the 1953 season that drastic action would be necessary to reverse the downward trend of the salmon catch. The spirit of cooperation which has been shown by the Alaskans in meeting this situation augurs well for that future day when Alaskans assume sole responsibility for this important resource."

The Alaska commercial fishing regulations will become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register of February 20, 1954.

Southeastern Alaska purse seiners dramatically demonstrated their support of the new regulations by recommending closure of many of their best seining grounds. Trap operators in this same section agreed to the closure of 148 of the 266 trap sites held in 1953.

The herring fishery of Southeastern Alaska has been at low ebb for the last four years, producing only about 100,000 barrels in each of these years. A regulation against the taking of herring for any purpose other than bait was considered. Biological studies, however, indicated that the lack of herring was not due to overfishing but was related to survival of the various year-classes comprising the stocks of this area. The entering year-class in 1954 is expected to be larger than in any recent year.

To permit continuity in sampling operations, the 1954 regulations place a quota of 50,000 barrels on the take of herring. This is about half the annual take of recent years and only slightly more than last year's take for the bait fishery alone. This small quota will permit a safe operation and continued study until the herring stocks increase.

"As in the case of the pink salmon curtailments," Fish and Wildlife Service Director Farley said, "the herring operators and fishermen are cooperating admirably in the restoration effort upon which the new herring regulation is based."

Major changes in last year's regulations are as follows:

1. In Bristol Bay, the size of the fishing districts has been drastically reduced so that fishing within each district will be confined to local runs and thus can be more properly controlled by weir count. In addition, any migration of fishing boats from one district of Bristol Bay to another will require a 48-hour waiting period. This has been incorporated in the regulations in order to discourage indiscriminate migration from district to district. In addition, all fishing, except in Port Heiden, has been prohibited in the eastern portion of the Peninsula district on the approach routes of the runs to Bristol Bay.

2. In the Alaska Peninsula area, it has been necessary to close the eastern portion of the southside of the Peninsula because of the extremely poor condition of the pink salmon runs there.

3. In the Kodiak area, it has been possible to reduce the two-week midseason closed period to one week in anticipation of much improved runs of pinks.

4. In the Cook Inlet area, no changes of major importance have been made. Fishing will again be on the basis of two days per week.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has explored the possibility of reducing the effort in Cook Inlet to one-half in order to provide for a longer fishing week and better distribution to the spawning grounds. In attempting to implement this objective, however, no means of reducing the fishing effort equally among the various forms of gear could be found, and the matter was accordingly deferred for at least another year until it can be studied at greater length.

5. The pink salmon runs in Prince William Sound are in a very depleted condition and it is proposed by the Service to close fishing in that area for the next two years, except in the Eshamy section. The small red salmon run in that section is in good condition and since the catch is controlled by weir count, this district is left open.

6. In the Copper River area, a continuous season from May 1 to September 18 has been provided. This should help in small measure to compensate to Cordova fishermen for closure of the pink salmon fishery in Prince William Sound during the next two years.

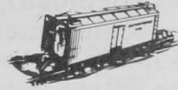
7. In Southeastern Alaska the fishing effort will be reduced about 50 percent for a two-year period to rehabilitate the seriously depleted pink salmon runs in that area. During 1954, 148 of the 266 trap sites in the region will be closed, and the number of bays closed to purse-seine fishing will be greatly increased.

Seasons in this area have been adjusted to open and close earlier and extend over a longer period, permitting a greater take of early-run red and chum salmon and thus compensate the fishing industry in some degree for the closure of traps and seining grounds. At the same time, the Service will step up its stream-guard program so that catches sacrificed by the trap operators and seiners will not be lost to poachers.

8. It has been necessary for the Service to restrict the use of so-called "drum seines" in southeastern Alaska. Experience in British Columbia and Puget Sound indicates that the use of mechanical drums increase the effectiveness of purse-seine gear, particularly at times when salmon are relatively scarce, because of the greatly increased number of sets which may be made per day. It is believed that the use of drums should not be permitted while the pink salmon restoration program is under way.

Interstate Commerce Commission

LOWER FREIGHT RATES FOR CANNED GOODS: Railroads will be permitted to cut their rates on transcontinental carload shipments of canned goods by 10 cents per 100 pounds, effective February 4, 1954, the Interstate Commerce Commission announced recently. The reductions will apply to both east-bound and west-bound traffic moving between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts and intermediate points



Treasury Department

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

CONTROLS ON U. S. IMPORTS OF CHINESE-TYPE FISHERY PRODUCTS: The United States and five other countries during the past year have worked out procedures to facilitate United States imports of more than 80 kinds of Chinese-type merchandise (including fishery products) certified as having been produced in those countries.

The new procedures supplant the individual license requirements for imports of these Chinese-type items which had been in effect for most areas as a necessary adjunct to the restrictive controls on imports of goods originating in Communist China and North Korea under the U. S. Treasury Department's Foreign Assets Control Regulations.

These control regulations were inaugurated by the Treasury Department in December 1950 under the Trading With the Enemy Act.

The regulations were brought into effect to prevent Communist China and North Korea from obtaining foreign exchange with which to further their aggression in Korea. They are an essential part of the U. S. program to control all economic relations with Communist China in order to deny Chinese communists access to U. S. supplies or assets in the United States.

Under the Foreign Assets Control Regulations licenses generally have been required for import of merchandise of Chinese-type even when the goods are alleged to have been produced in a country other than Communist China or North Korea.

There are two broad exceptions to this general rule. First, exceptions are made for Chinese-type goods imported directly from specified countries which in the past have been large suppliers of such goods to the United States. The other involves the certification procedure already mentioned.

Agar-agar is included in the list of Chinese-type merchandise subject to license if located in or transported from or through Hong Kong, Macao, or any country not in authorized trade territory. A U. S. import license, under section 500,204 of the regulations, is required.

The geography and trade pattern of some countries, principally those adjacent to the China mainland, have posed special problems in enforcement of types of controls stringent enough to accomplish the desired objectives and at the same time flexible enough to permit a flow of trade between friendly areas, such as the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong and the United States.

To facilitate import of goods actually the product of friendly countries principally affected by the control regulations, while at the same time preventing Communist

China goods from entering the United States, arrangements were concluded for issuance by the governments of these areas of certificates of origin which would permit importation into the United States of specified goods.

The certification procedure now is being operated by the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of Hong Kong, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of the Government of Japan, the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Government of China in Taiwan (Formosa), and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Korea. A recent amendment extends the procedure to Western Germany, certification to be made by the Federal Ministry of Economics of that country. The procedure for the latter country relates to merchandise exported after November 20, 1953.

The certification procedure does not yet apply to all Chinese-type commodities produced in the specified areas and in demand in the United States.

Fishery commodities for which certifications by the governments of the specified countries may now be obtained and the dates, all in 1953, on which such certifications first became available are as follows:

From Hong Kong:

Oysters and oyster sauce, August 15; salt fish in oil, January 9; shrimp noodles, October 27; shrimp sauce and paste, August 15; shrimp slices, dried, October 27.

From Japan:

Abalone, canned or dried, August 25; cuttlefish, dried, August 25; fish, sea bream, canned and prepared, August 25; oysters, dried, August 25; sardines, dried, August 25; scallops, dried, August 25; seaweed, dried, August 25; shark fins, July 30.

In a further effort to assist importers, the Treasury Department has amended the import-control regulations by establishing a general license system, which authorizes the purchase, importation, and clearance through Customs of merchandise that has been properly certified to be not of Communist China origin by the appropriate governmental agencies of the countries covered by the certification procedure. Thus for goods properly certified the importer need not apply for specific import licenses, but he may present to collectors of customs properly issued certificates of origin. Collectors of customs have been notified of this provision.

To insure that their operations proceed smoothly under the general license provision, importers should present to collectors of customs original certificates of origin, not copies, which must specifically and fully describe the particular merchandise for which clearance through customs is sought.

Furthermore, a certificate must bear a statement by the issuing agency referring to the Foreign Assets Control Regulations and stating that it has been issued under procedures agreed upon with the United States Government.

No merchandise may be imported under a certificate of origin except that shipped direct or on a through bill of lading to the United States from the country issuing the certificate.

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CUSTOMS COURT DECISION ON DUTY FOR FROZEN CUBAN FROG LEGS: A United States Customs Court decision on January 7, 1954, held that imported frozen frog legs from Cuba continue to be properly dutiable at 8 percent ad valorem under the provisions of paragraph 1558 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as modified by the exclu-

sive trade agreement with Cuba (T. D. 51819). This affirmation was the outcome of an appeal by a New York importer against the decision of the New York Collector of Customs to assess a duty of 8 percent ad valorem. The importer believed that frozen frog legs should be dutiable at $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound as fish (fresh or frozen, filleted, etc.) under paragraph 717 (b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as modified by GATT, (T. D. 51802) or at 3 cents per pound as game (other game, n. s. p. f.) under paragraph 704, as modified by GATT (T. D. 51802).



Eighty-Third Congress

(2nd Session)

FEBRUARY 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.

ALASKA STATEHOOD: Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on February 24 formally approved final language of a committee amendment (in the nature of a substitute) to the bill S. 50, and favorably reported this bill which provides for Alaska statehood. (S. Rept. 1028.)

A petition (No. 7) requesting the House to consider H.R. 2982, the Alaska statehood bill, is now at the Speaker's desk.

DISTRIBUTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS: H. R. 7641 (Bates) - a bill to further encourage the distribution of fishery products, and for other purposes; introduced in the House on February 2 and referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; similar to S. 2802, introduced in Senate January 22.

H. R. 7671 (O'Neil) - introduced in the House on February 2 and referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; similar to H. R. 7641.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS AMENDMENTS OF 1954: S. 2914 (Murray) - a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, and for other purposes; introduced in the Senate on February 8 and referred to the Committee

on Labor and Public Welfare. This bill would increase the statutory minimum wage from 75¢ to \$1.25 an hour; decrease the maximum work week from 40 to 37-1/2 hours during the first two years and then to 35 hours. The bill would also modify the blanket exemption of certain agricultural and seafood processing workers.

POINT 4 PROGRAM INVESTIGATION: S. Res. 214 (Mansfield) - a resolution calling for a full and complete study of the technical assistance and related programs authorized by Public Law 535, 81st Congress; introduced in the Senate on February 23 and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SHRIMP RESOURCES STUDY: Congressman Brooks of Louisiana on January 18 extended his remarks in the House by submitting a resolution passed by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in mid-January. This resolution asks that a thorough study be made of shrimp resources in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commission's resolution adopted at a special meeting held January 21-22 at Edgewater Park, Miss., as printed in the February 2 Congressional Record reads:

"Whereas the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is deeply concerned about the future of the shrimp resources in the Gulf of Mexico and recognizes the need for a major shrimp-research program; and . . .

"Whereas the shrimp of the Gulf of Mexico is one of the most valuable fishery resources in America; and

"Whereas the number of vessels and men engaged in shrimp fisheries has vastly increased in recent years and the area of fishing has spread to far-distant grounds and although the catch has grown to an all-time high, the catch per unit of fishing effort has become reduced; and

"Whereas the distribution of the various kinds of shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico and the species composition of the catch have changed strikingly in recent years; and

"Whereas the member States are carrying out individual research programs which are inadequate; and

"Whereas the commission will serve as a coordinating agency for development of a

major shrimp-research program in the Gulf of Mexico; and

"Whereas assistance of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is desirable and necessary in the development of such a program; and

"Whereas the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission named a committee of scientists representing State and Federal conservation agencies and universities and requested them to draw up a plan of biological research on the shrimp resources of the Gulf of Mexico; and

"Whereas, according to such committee and in the opinion of the commission, there is needed over and above the sums available for such research in the member States \$554,000, based on an estimate as follows:

"1. Establish useful and adequate statistics: Cost, \$80,000 annually; length of time, permanent.

"2. Sampling the catch for size and species composition: Cost, \$50,000 annually; length of time, permanent.

"3. Development of marking techniques: Cost, \$50,000 annually; estimated length of time, 3 years.

"4. Differentiation of species and stocks at all ages: Cost, \$50,000 annually; estimated length of time, 3 years.

"5. An ecological study, including the following: (a) Mechanisms which transport larvae into inside waters; (b) general ecology of nursery grounds; cost, \$190,000 first year; \$90,000 after first year; estimated length of time, 5 years.

"6. Maintain a record of man-made and natural changes in the physical environment: Cost, \$35,000 annually; length of time, permanent.

"7. Purchase and maintain laboratory equipment: Cost, \$40,000 annually.

"8. Administration and publication of results: Cost, \$50,000 annually, length of time, permanent.

"Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the commission, That the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be

requested to join in such a program and make funds in the amount of \$554,000 available as above set out; and be it

Resolved, That the chairman of the commission appoint a committee composed of at

least one marine biologist from each member State to coordinate this program and report to the commission the findings resulting therefrom in order that they might be published by it; and be it further

Resolved, That the commission hereby pledges its help and support to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in whatever action may be necessary in Congress or otherwise to make these funds available."

WATER POLLUTION: H. R. 7644 (Buchanan) - a bill to extend the duration of the Water Pollution Control Act, to authorize additional amounts for construction loans thereunder, and for other purposes; introduced in the House on February 2 and referred to the Committee on Public Works.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROJECTS: H. R. 7764 (Angell) - a bill to provide that the United States shall aid the states in wildlife restoration projects and for other pur-

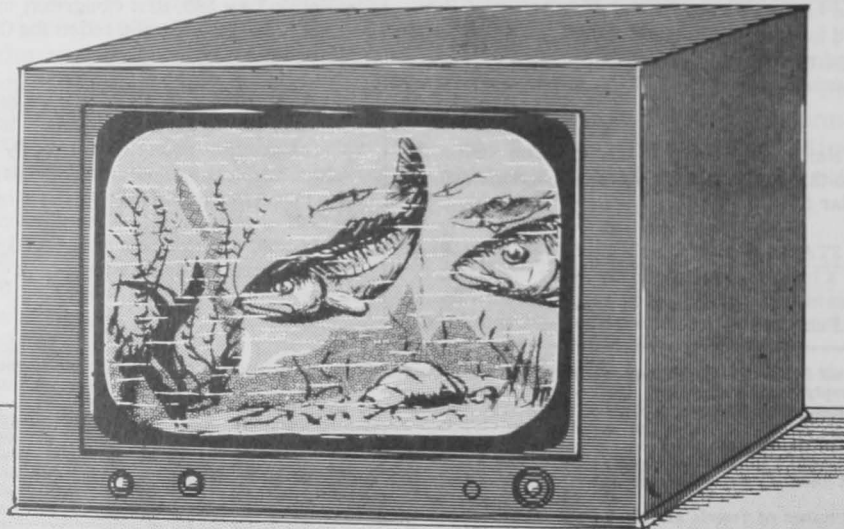
poses; introduced in the House on February 8 and referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Provides for the spending of an unexpended balance in the Treasury of \$13,467,468.71 of Pittman-Robertson funds under the provisions of the Act of September 2, 1937. These funds would be made available to the States and Territories for wildlife restoration projects. Commercial fisheries projects not included.



FISHERIES ON TELEVISION

A series of one-half hour TV lessons on the fisheries of Chesapeake Bay was scheduled for presentation by the Baltimore (Maryland) Department of Education. This is part of an experiment to determine the value of TV in the classroom, according to the Maryland Tidewater News. Twenty-three television sets were provided to the Baltimore schools, but the programs were also for the general public as well as for the school pupils.

Four topics were included in the series: (1) The Oyster; (2) Fishes of Chesapeake Bay; (3) The Bay Country; and (4) The Blue Crab. Much illustrative material was assembled for the television program, together with a comprehensive working story of the respective topics.



Numerous city and state education departments are conducting or planning TV programs as a part of the curricula in geography, history, economics, and citizenship. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries has available, on request, copies of three educational fishery films for television showing. These are on the Maine sardine industry, menhaden fishery, and the use of fish in school lunchrooms. In addition, Service home economists and marketing specialists are available for TV demonstrations on the proper handling and cookery of fish and shellfish. A number of these demonstrations have already been given.