



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of Commerce

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

NEW IMPORT CLASSIFICATIONS FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS: A revised Schedule A - Statistical Classification of Commodities Imported into the United States, issued by the Bureau of the Census, went into effect on January 1, 1954. Some changes were made in the statistical classifications of fishery products; the most important were for fillets and canned fish. The purpose of the revision is to bring the classification for statistical purposes up to date to meet the current needs of industry. Some items were broken down into additional classifications while others were combined into one group. A list of the new classifications of the principal fishery products involved together with the old classifications follows:

New Classification	Former Classification
Fish:	
Fresh or Frozen: Filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, or divided, n. s. p. f.:	
Ocean perch (rosefish)	Cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish.
Cod	
Haddock, hake, pollock, and cusk	
Swordfish	
Halibut and salmon	Halibut, salmon, mackerel, swordfish, eels, shad, sturgeon, white sea bass or totoaba, and fresh-water fish.
Fresh-water fish	
Flounder	
Wolfish (sea catfish)	
Other (incl. mackerel, eels, shad, sturgeon, white sea bass or totoaba)	Other
Fish in Oil or in Oil and other substances:	
Canned tuna fish:	
White meat	Tuna fish
Other tuna	
Fish not in oil, or in oil and other substances:	
Canned tuna in brine:	
Albacore	Tuna, antipasto, and smoked pollock
Other tuna	
Bonito in brine	Other (incl. unsmoked pollock)
Other (incl. antipasto, and smoked and unsmoked pollock)	
Fish:	
Fresh or Frozen: Whole, or beheaded, or eviscerated, or both:	
Tuna fish:	
Albacore	Tuna fish (incl. albacore, bluefin, horse mackerel, yellowfin, and skipjack)
Other tuna (incl. bluefin, horse mackerel, yellowfin, and skipjack)	

New Classification	Former Classification
Fish:	
Fresh or Frozen: Whole, or beheaded, or eviscerated, or both (Cont.):	
Fresh-water fish, n. e. s.:	
Fresh-water trout, except lake trout (incl. rainbow, brook, and brown trout, etc.)	Included with miscellaneous fresh-water fish
Lake herring, ciscoes, and chubs	
Shellfish and Products:	
Crabs	Crabs: Fresh or frozen (not crabmeat) Prepared or preserved, n. s. p. f.
Clams, quahaugs, not in airtight containers	Clams, quahaugs, not in airtight containers: Fresh or frozen Prepared or preserved, n. s. p. f.
Fish scrap and fish meal	Fish scrap and fish meal for feeding
Fish solubles	
Fish scrap and fish meal (fertilizer)	Fish scrap and fish meal for fertilizer.
Drugs, herbs, leaves, roots, etc.:	
Drugs of animal origin not edible, crude, not containing alcohol, n. e. s.:	
Shark oil and shark-liver oil, including dogfish oil and dogfish liver oil	Shark oil, including dogfish oil Shark-liver oil including dogfish liver oil
Fish oils, n. e. s. (except cod oil and herring oil, and not including whale oil), and fish-liver oils, n. e. s. (except cod-liver oil)	Fish oils, n. e. s. (except cod oil and herring oil, and not including whale oil) Fish-liver oils n. e. s. (except cod-liver oil).
Advanced in value or condition:	
Shark-liver oil, including dogfish-liver oil	Advanced in value or condition: Shark-liver oil, including dogfish-liver oil Animal and fish oils, fats, and greases, n. e. s.:
	Shark-liver oil, including oil produced from dogfish livers, n. s. p. f.

The revised Schedule A also lists the commodity numbers and the present rate of duty for each product. Copies of Schedule A may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Gov-

ernment Printing Office, or from field offices of the Department of Commerce and Collectors of Customs. Annual subscription \$3.50 to domestic subscribers and \$4.50 to foreign subscribers. These rates include the supplemental bulletins and pages for a period of at least one year.

STATISTICS OF LOW-VALUE IMPORT SHIPMENTS NOW HANDLED DIFFERENTLY: Effective with the January 1954 statistics on imports reported by the Bureau of the Census, all items for immediate consumption valued at \$250 or less, reported on formal or on informal entries, will be included in the statistics on the basis of estimates based on a 5 percent probability sample of the items. These estimates will be presented in the monthly statistics in terms of commodity subgroups and in terms of countries, Customs Districts, and economic classes.

No information on imports reported on informal entries has been included in statistics for months prior to January 1954. Until September 7, 1953, the value limit for informal entries was \$100. Under the Customs Simplification Act, effective on that date, the value limit for informal entries was raised to \$250. Because of this, the continued omission of informal entries was considered undesirable due to the impact of the omission of an in-

creased number of items on the statistics for individual commodities. The exclusion of informal entries continued through December 1953 even though the change in the value limit occurred in September. For certain fishery products, principally those imported from neighboring countries, it is believed that informal entry items frequently accounted for a larger volume than reported through formal entry. On most fishery products, however, the quantity imported on informal entry was believed to be relatively small. The increase in the valuation from \$100 to \$250 would tend to increase the quantity of items so reported and previously omitted from statistics.

For formal entries, fully compiled information for items of all values was included in the statistics through the month of June 1953. Effective in July 1953, full compilation was discontinued for items valued at less than \$100 reported on formal immediate consumption entries, and information for these items was included in statistics on the basis of estimates made from a 10 percent random sample. This procedure was in effect for the months of July-December 1953.

The studies were based on imports for the month of October 1953. The results on fishery products sampled are shown in the following tables:

TABLE 1 - OCTOBER 1953 FISHERY PRODUCTS IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION--TOTAL SHIPMENTS AND SHIPMENTS OF \$250 OR LESS BY SUBGROUPS

(Formal entry shipments of \$1-\$99 based on 10% sample. Formal entry shipments of \$100-\$250 based on complete tabulation of unreviewed detail cards. Informal entry shipments based on 5% sample.)

Sub-group code no.	Group and subgroup description and Schedule A commodity code numbers	Total imports Value (1,000 dollars)	Imports of formal entry items under \$100 (1,000 dollars)	Imports of formal entry items \$100-\$250 (1,000 dollars)	Imports of formal entry items of \$250 or less (1,000 dollars)	Imports of informal entry items ¹ (1,000 dollars)	Total imports in shipments of \$250 or less ¹ (1,000 dollars)	Percent of total in shipments of \$250 or less ¹	Shipments on informal entries not distributed	
			B; subgroup (1,000 dollars)	By four digit classifications (1,000 dollars)						
05	Fish and fish products, except shellfish (0047000-0079590).....	11,352	147	265	412	95	507	4	5
06	Shellfish and products (0080100-0037900).....	5,066	59	60	119	12	136	3

TABLE 2 - OCTOBER 1953 FISHERY PRODUCTS IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION--TOTAL SHIPMENTS AND SHIPMENTS OF \$250 OR LESS FOR SCHEDULE A FOUR-DIGIT CLASSIFICATIONS WHICH HAD IMPORTS IN SHIPMENTS OF \$250 OR LESS WHICH AMOUNTED TO (A) \$10,000 OR MORE AND (B) 10% OR MORE OF TOTAL IMPORTS FOR THE FOUR-DIGIT CLASSIFICATION

(All figures include both formal and informal entries. Formal entry shipments of \$1-\$99 based on 10% sample. Formal entry shipments of \$100-\$250 based on complete tabulation of unreviewed detail cards. Informal entry shipments based on 5% sample.) NOTE: See Table 1 for information on dollar value reported on informal entries which could not be distributed by four-digit classifications.

Schedule A number	Description	Total imports (1000 dollars)	Imports in shipments of \$250 or less (1000 dollars)	Percent of total in shipments of \$250 or less	Schedule A number	Description	Total imports (1000 dollars)	Imports in shipments of \$250 or less (1000 dollars)	Percent of total in shipments of \$250 or less
0047	Whitefish, pike, lake trout, and yellow perch.....	633	221	35	0057	Smelts.....	119	27	23
0048	Other fresh water fish and eels...	426	58	14	0059	Sea herring.....	34	6	17
0052	Cod, haddock, hake, pollock, and cusk.....	36	16	43	0078	Other prepared fish, fish pastes, and sauces.....	66	9	13
0056	Other fresh fish.....	100	14	14	0086	Turtles and crabs.....	31	R	25

The commodity by country detail in the annual statistics for 1953 will include formal entry immediate consumption items under \$100 for only the months of January-June. The annual statistics will include no information on imports covered by informal entries. Presumably the value of informal entries excluded each month is greater during the last four months of the year than during the first eight months due to the increase in the value limit for informal entries.

In any use which is made of the calendar year import statistics in comparing 1953 with other years in terms of over-all totals, country totals, district totals, and economic class totals, it is believed that the difference in the handling of low-value shipments will have very little significance because of the small proportion of these totals which is made up of low-value shipments. For year-to-year use of the statistics on a commodity basis, the following comparison of handling of low-value shipments should be considered:

1952: Includes all formal entry items in full 7-digit commodity code by country detail, with no exclusion on a value basis and no sampling or estimating. Excludes all informal entry items. The value limit for informal entries was \$100.

1953: Includes all formal entry items in full detail for first six months. Includes an estimate, only, for under \$100 immediate consumption items on formal entries for last 6 months (under commodity numbers 999100 and 9999200). Estimated is not distributed by commodity and is based on 10 percent sample. Excludes all informal entry items. Up to September 7, 1953, the value limit for informal entries was \$100. After that date, the limit was \$250.

1954: Includes both formal and informal entry items, but informal entry items and formal entry immediate consumption items valued \$250 or less are included in the form of estimates based on a 5-percent sample. Estimates are distributed to show some 4-digit commodity detail, and possibly some breakdown of these figures by country.

A detailed statement on the methods and procedures of handling of low-value import shipments in 1953, and effective with January 1954 import statistics, is published in the February 1954 Foreign Trade Statistics Notes, prepared by the Foreign Trade Division, Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce.



Department of Defense

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

PROPOSED LICENSE FEES APPLY ONLY WHERE PERMITS WERE REQUIRED IN THE PAST: The proposed license fees for gill nets, traps, and pound nets, published by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Federal Register of January 29, were not intended to apply except in cases where permits have been required in the past.

On February 24 the following notice of explanation was issued by the Army Corps of Engineers:

"In connection with the Public Notice issued by this department of February 3, 1954, concerning the proposed schedule of fees to be collected for Department of the Army navigation permits, the following is a clarification of a misinterpretation that has arisen concerning the proposed schedule of fees to be charged for Group 5, fish traps and pounds:

"The proposed schedule of fees for this group has apparently been misinterpreted by some parties as meaning that a \$25.00 fee would be charged for each gill net and a \$50.00 fee for each fish trap or pound. The actual intent of the proposed schedule is that the specified fees would be charged only for each permit issued, regardless of the number of gill nets, traps, or pounds that might be authorized by the permit. In cases where fishing areas have been established, within which Department of the Army permits are not required for gill nets, traps, or pounds, it is not proposed to collect any fee for such structures. Also, other types of net fishing, such as with drag nets or purse seines, do not require Department of the Army permits and therefore are not affected by the proposed schedule of fees."

The original notice, however, does apply in cases where permits have been required in the past, and the Corps of Engineers is anxious to receive written comment on the proposed license fees (where permits have heretofore been issued) for traps and pounds.

The proposed fees are intended to recover the administrative costs of issuing permits. When a permit is issued, a single fee, determined from the proposed table as it may finally be approved and issued, will be assessed. There will be no recurring fee.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, March 1954, p. 57.



Foreign Operations Administration

ISRAEL AUTHORIZED TO BUY FISH MEAL:

Israel has been authorized by the Foreign Operations Administration to spend \$205,000 for the purchase of fish and meat meals, according to a February 26 bulletin from that agency. The contract period covering this purchase is from February 24, 1954, to May 31, 1954. The terminal delivery date is August 31, 1954. Israel is authorized to make these FAO-financed purchases in the United States and possessions.



General Services Administration

REVISED FEDERAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PROPOSED:

The General Services Administration (GSA) has just released Interim Federal Specification, Fish; Fresh (Chilled) and Frozen, PP-F-00381c, dated February 27, 1954. This Interim Federal Specification is based upon currently available technical information, but has not been approved for promulgation as a regular Federal Specification. It is subject to modification, and pending its promulgation as a

regular Federal Specification, it is for optional use by all Federal agencies. For bid purposes, single copies of this specification are available without charge at the GSA Regional offices in Boston, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Kansas City, Mo.; Dallas, Denver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Washington, D. C.



Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SWIFT NAMED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: The appointment of Ernest F. Swift, of Madison, Wis., as Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, was announced on February 11 by Secretary of the Interior McKay. Swift, who has been Conservation Director of the Wisconsin Conservation Department since November 1947, took over his new post in Washington on March 15. He will be concerned primarily with the wildlife activities of the Service.

Assistant Director Suomela, who was appointed in November 1953, will deal principally with the Service's fishery activities.



Treasury Department

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

GROUND FISH FILLET IMPORT TARIFF-RATE QUOTA FOR 1954: The reduced-tariff-rate import quota on fresh and frozen groundfish (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and ocean perch) fillets for calendar year 1954 is 33,950,386 pounds, the Bureau of Customs announced on January 27, 1954. Divided into quarterly quotas, this means that 8,487,597 pounds of groundfish fillets during each quarter may be imported at the 1-7/8 cents-per-pound rate of duty. During each quarter, groundfish fillet imports over the quarterly quota will be dutiable at the rate of 2½ cents per pound.

The reduced-rate import quota for 1954 is 0.2 percent higher than the 1953 quota of 33,866,287 pounds, 7.9 percent over the 1952 quota of 31,472,108 pounds, and 16.1 percent above the quota of 29,239,808 pounds established for 1951.

Average aggregate apparent annual consumption in the United States of fresh or frozen groundfish fillets and steaks for the three years preceding 1954 was 226,335,907 pounds, calculated in accordance with the proviso to item 717 (b) of Part I, Schedule XX, of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (T. D. 51802). The proviso states that the import quota for any current calendar year shall be 15,000,000 pounds or 15 percent of the average aggregate apparent annual consumption in the three years preceding the current year, whichever is greater. The tariff item in summarized form is: "Fish, fresh, or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, or divided into portions, not specially provided for: Cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish."

The full text of the announcement as it appeared in the Federal Register (February 5) follows:

CERTAIN FISH TARIFF-RATE QUOTA

JANUARY 27, 1954.

The tariff-rate quota for the calendar year 1954 on certain fish dutiable under paragraph 717 (b), Tariff Act of 1930, as modified pursuant to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (T. D. 51802).

In accordance with the proviso to item 717 (b) of Part I, Schedule XX, of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (T. D. 51802), it has been ascertained that the average aggregate apparent annual consumption in the United States of fish, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, or divided into portions, not specially provided for: Cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish, in the three years preceding 1954, calculated in the manner provided for in the cited agreement, was 226,335,907 pounds. The quantity of such fish that may be imported for consumption during the calendar year 1954 at the reduced rate of duty established pursuant to that agreement is, therefore, 33,950,386 pounds. (343.3)

[SEAL] D. B. STRUBINGER,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.

The Bureau of Customs announced on February 10, 1954, that the reduced-tariff-rate import quota for the first quarter of 1954 of 8,487,597 pounds for fresh and frozen groundfish (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and ocean perch) fillets and steaks was filled on January 30, 1954, according to preliminary statistics on imports for consumption. Any fresh and frozen groundfish fillets and steaks imported for consumption between January 31 through March 31, 1954, are dutiable at the rate of duty of 2½ cents per pound.

COAST GUARD

FEES PROPOSED FOR LICENSING AND OTHER SERVICES: The U. S. Coast Guard is considering the establishment of a schedule of fees for processing applications or requests for certain permits, certificates, or other documents issued in accordance with navigation and vessel inspection laws, rules, and regulations which are administered or enforced by the Coast Guard.

Comments on the proposed schedule of fees were requested, but no hearing was held to consider this matter.

Notice of the proposals was published in the March 2 Federal Register. Paragraphs of possible interest to fisheries are as follows:

8. Merchant marine certificates or documents. The fee to obtain certain documents is to be as follows:

... c. Duplicate merchant mariner's document (46 CFR 12.02-23 (b)): \$1.50. . . .

e. Transcript of service (46 CFR 154.07): \$0.25 for each entry. . . .

13. Certificate of award of number for an undocumented vessel (46 CFR Part 172). The fee is to be \$5.00 for each certificate, for each duplicate certificate issued in lieu of lost original certificate, and for each certificate reissued because of change in address of owner or change of name, service, or engine number. . . .

15. It is contemplated that the schedule of fees will be revised biennially, and adjustments made where necessary to conform the fees charged to actual experience in the light of new or changed circumstances.

To implement this Act the Bureau of the Budget has stated that "it shall be the policy of the Federal agencies engaged in licensing activities to provide a system of fair and equitable fees which, taking account of the value to the recipient and the public policy or interest served, shall recover to the fullest extent possible, the aggregate cost incurred in the conduct of these activities."

The fees now being considered would apply only to processing future permits for private aids to navigation, explosive loading permits, certain duplicate mariner's documents, certifications of articles of ships' stores, approvals of equipment and materials for use on vessels, and certificates of award of numbers to undocumented vessels.

Generally speaking it is believed the rule will not apply to fishing vessels. However, Section 13 would apply to all small boats where numbers are issued.



Eighty-Third Congress (Second Session)

MARCH 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: The Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on February 24 reported out S. 50, to provide for the admission of Alaska into the Union, and recommended that the bill as amended be passed. The Committee's Report (No. 1028, Providing for the Admission of Alaska into the Union) discusses the purpose of the bill, primary reasons for state-

hood, readiness for statehood, and other factors regarding the admission of Alaska into the Union. In its conclusion the Committee in part states: "It, therefore, earnestly recommends that the Senate take affirmative action on this measure which is a major plank in the platforms of both major parties." The Committee in its sectional analysis of the bill pointed out: Subsection (f) of the bill turns over to the new State all of the Federal property, both real and personal, in the Territory which is used for the conservation and protection of the fisheries and wildlife of Alaska. The fisheries have been Alaska's greatest source of revenue up to the present time, with the catch having an average annual value in excess of \$100 million or more. Under Supreme Court decisions control over the fisheries and wildlife within its borders passes to a new State upon its admission as an incident of statehood. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior has many valuable installations which have been effectively furthering the long-range interests of this great natural asset of the Territory and under this section the Territory gets the equipment that will be necessary for the State to carry on the work for which the Federal Government has been responsible. Specifically excepted from the grant are wildlife refuges. As is the case with the existing States, the new State will not have control over those fish and wildlife resources that are the subject of international treaties, such as fur seals and sea otters. Another provision of subsection (f) provides that Alaska will receive 50 percent of the net proceeds each year from sales of seal skins and sea otter skins taken within the Territorial limits of the new State.

BUY-AMERICAN PRINCIPLE: H.R. 8355 (Smith) - a bill to provide for the suspension by the President under certain circumstances of certain provisions of law embodying the Buy-American Principle; introduced in the House on March 11; referred to the Committee on Public Works.

HAWAII AND ALASKA STATEHOOD: The Senate on March 11 considered S. 49, providing statehood for Hawaii, adopting Anderson amendment to add a new title to the bill so as to grant statehood to Alaska as well (motion to reconsider this vote was tabled).

MARKETING FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT ACT: H. R. 8226 (Cooley) - a bill to encourage the improvement and development of marketing facilities for handling perishable agricultural (including sea food) commodities was introduced in the House on March 4; referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The purpose of this bill is to facilitate, encourage, and assist municipalities and political subdivisions of States, public agencies, and instrumentalities of one or more States or municipalities, public corporations and boards, and private enterprise in the creation and development of modern and efficient public wholesale markets for the handling of perishable agricultural (including sea food) commodities in areas where such markets are found to be needed and where Federal assistance is requested and authorized. A \$25 million "marketing facility mortgage insurance fund" would be set up to make insurance payments and to meet the expenses incurred in connection with the acquisition, operation, and disposal of market facilities acquired.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL: H. R. 8302 (Donder) - a bill to extend the duration of the Water Pollution Control Act was introduced in the House on March 9; referred to the Committee on Public Works.



REFRIGERATION MACHINE FOR FISHING VESSELS

A manufacturer in Lubeck-Schlutup, Germany, is manufacturing a small hydraulically-driven refrigeration machine, which operates independently of its relative position to the main drive and is so small that it can be installed in any wooden fishing cutter.

--World Fisheries Abstracts, March-April 1953