



International

PILOT PLANT TO MAKE FERTILIZER FROM SEA WATER

A pilot plant for the extraction of potassium fertilizer from sea water was recently completed at IJmuiden, near Amsterdam, Holland, the Norwegian Information Service announced on February 4. A Norwegian electro-chemical concern and a Dutch company cooperated in the construction of the pilot plant.

Initial output of the pilot plant will be 1,600 metric tons a year. Eventually, separate plants will be built in Norway and the Netherlands. Other countries may also be licensed to use the patented process. By then the Norwegian firm will be able to produce all ingredients required for complete fertilizers, with the exception of phosphorus. Potassium nitrate, the chemical extracted from sea water under the new process, contains two key plant nutrients--potassium and nitrogen--and is thus superior to potassium chloride and potassium sulphate as raw material for fertilizers.

As an indication of the potential significance of the new venture, in 1952 Norway spent Kr. 32 million (US\$4.8 million) of foreign exchange to import 45,000 metric tons of potassium fertilizer, while the Netherlands imported 160,000 metric tons of the same product valued at Kr. 115 million (US\$16.1 million).

The Norwegian engineer, who pioneered the promising process, began to study methods of extracting potassium nitrate from sea water many years ago. To test his findings, the Norwegian firm built an experimental plant in Heroya in the late 1930's. However, this plant was blown up in a bombing raid during World War II.

Production will be based on a new process originated by the chief chemical engineer of the Norwegian firm and subsequently developed by Dutch and Norwegian industrial scientists. Further research and evaluation of the results are required before a decision can be reached on commercial exploitation of the invention. Meanwhile, patents on the revolutionary method have been filed in nearly all countries.

At the end of the war, independent research on the same problem was started by a Dutch nitrate firm. After a year or so the Dutch firm contacted the Norwegian company in an effort to seek a common approach. Eventually, a joint research organization was set up in Oslo to develop the process. The result of the combined efforts is called the Norduco process.

INDONESIAN-COMMUNIST CHINESE TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISHERY PRODUCTS

An Indonesian-Communist Chinese trade agreement was signed in Peking on November 30, 1953, by representatives of the two Governments.

List of items usually exported were exchanged. Schedule A--List of Exportable Commodities from China, includes the following fishery products: Squid, dried and salted fish, dried prawns and shrimp, beche-de-mer, compey, and awabi.

Schedule B, A List of Exportable Commodities from Indonesia, includes pearl and troca shells, fish and fish products, and fertilizer from shellfish and other mollusks.

The contracting parties will take all appropriate measures to promote trade between the two countries in all possible ways, a U. S. Embassy dispatch from Djakarta points out.

U. S. -CANADA COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

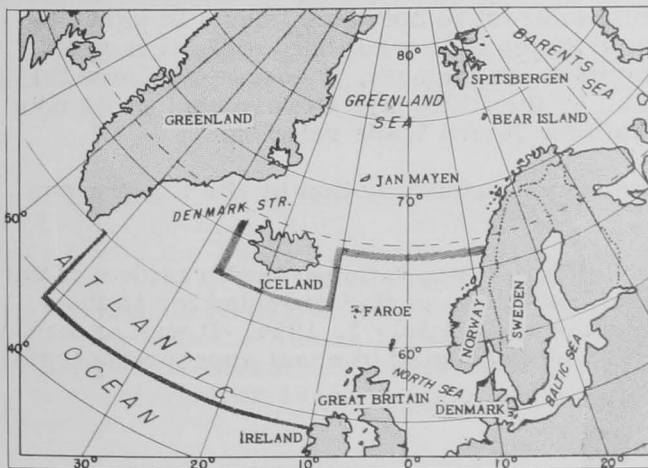
FIRST MEETING IN WASHINGTON: The Joint United States-Canada Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs held its first meeting in Washington, D. C., on March 16, the Department of State announced on February 26. Arrangements for the establishment of the Joint United States-Canada Committee were made in an exchange of notes on November 12, 1953. It will be recalled that the suggestion for a Joint Committee was originally made during the visit of Canadian Prime Minister St. Laurent to Washington on May 8, 1953.

The United States members are Secretary of State Dulles, Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, Secretary of Agriculture Benson, and Secretary of Commerce Weeks. The Canadian members of the Committee consist of C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Defense Production; J. G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture; D. C. Abbot, Minister of Finance; and L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The activities of the Joint Committee constitute one aspect of the efforts of both countries to promote satisfactory trade relations on a multilateral basis.

NORTH EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES CONVENTION

MESH REGULATIONS FOR NORTHWEST EUROPEAN FISHERIES: On April 15 this year the 12 countries which are signatories of the (North European) International Fisheries Convention of 1946 were expected to put into effect agreed measures for the protection of the white-fish stocks. The countries which are acting together are Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, the Irish Republic, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. It is hoped and expected that Western Germany will be joining these countries, points out *The Fishing News* (January 29), a British trade periodical.



North European International Fisheries Convention Area. Shaded lines show subareas covered by new minimum mesh regulations.

In the waters around Iceland, off Northern Norway, and at Bear Island and beyond, the minimum mesh sizes will be 100 mm. (3.9 inches) for seine nets and 110 mm. (4.3 inches) for trawls.

In the rest of the Convention area, including the waters around the British Isles, the North Sea, the English Channel, the Irish Sea, and the waters around the Faroes,

The fishermen of all these countries will be required to observe agreed minimum sizes for meshes of trawl and seine nets, and minimum size limits for fish retained on board and landed for sale.

In the waters around Iceland, off Northern Norway, and at Bear

the minimum size of mesh will be 70 mm. (2.8 inches) for seine nets and 75 mm. (3 inches) for trawl nets; but after a transitional period of two years the minimum size for trawl nets for these waters will be raised to 80 mm. (3.2 inches).

A joint press announcement concerning the new mesh regulations in effect after April 5, 1954, was issued late in January by the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Scottish Home Department, and the Home Office.

The British regulations provide that the minimum size is to be measured by means of a flat gauge 2 millimeters thick, and a net is stated to be of the appropriate minimum size if such a gauge of the specified breadth (70, 75, 80, 100, or 110 mm.) will pass easily through the net when it is wet and when the mesh is stretched diagonally lengthwise of the net. The mesh must be not less than the minimum size in all parts of the net. In addition, the regulations prohibit devices, such as covering the net with canvas, for the purpose of evading the restrictions. However, the minimum size mesh will not apply to nets used solely for the purpose of fishing for mackerel, clupeoid fishes (including herring, sprats, and pilchards), smelt, eels, great seevers (*Trachinus draco*), shrimp, prawn, nephrops, or mollusks.

The regulations contained in the British order--The Sea-Fishing Industry (Fishing Nets) Order, 1954--apply to all fishing vessels registered in the United Kingdom operating within the territorial waters of the United Kingdom or on the high seas.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, March 1954, pp. 34-35; June 1953, p. 42; April 1953, pp. 35-36.

U. S. AND PHILIPPINES AGREE TO CONSULT ON 1946 TRADE AGREEMENT

The U. S. Government is prepared to consult with the Philippine Government on possible modification of the 1946 Trade Agreement after reviewing the Philippine proposals relating to the provisions on trade, finance, treatment of investment, and immigration. The President of the Philippines was so advised by the U. S. Embassy in Manila, according to a March 22 announcement from the State Department.

The United States is also prepared to consider commercial matters not covered by this Agreement which may be of mutual interest to both countries. In agreeing to such consultations, however, the United States indicated that, while it is prepared to consider possible alternative tariff arrangements, it does not believe that the selective free trade proposal advanced by the Philippine Government in its note of May 5, 1953, offers a satisfactory basis for future trade relations.

Any change of the existing Agreement would require action by the Congresses of both Governments.

In conjunction with the decision to enter into consultations, the President of the Philippines requested that the reciprocal free-trade period provided for in the present Agreement be extended for 18 months beyond July 3, 1954. It was agreed that the Congresses of both countries would be requested to enact appropriate legislation implementing this request.



Australia

CANNED SALMON IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE RELAXED: The Australian Government is planning to relax its import restrictions on canned salmon, which means the partial reopening of the Australian market to Canadian canned salmon, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce stated in the House of Commons on

February 18. Canadian canned salmon has been excluded from Australia since 1947. Further details, including the amount involved, should be forthcoming from the Australian Government, a U. S. Embassy dispatch (dated February 19) from Ottawa declares.

In his statement the Minister said further:

"While the total quantities involved may not be large, this renewed opportunity for trade will undoubtedly be welcomed in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada as evidence of progress in returning to more normal conditions of world trade. Canned salmon is one of our major export products. Immediately before the war Canada had a market for canned salmon in Australia which amounted to C\$1½ million or C\$2 million per year. Since then these exports have been much reduced, until in recent years the quantities have become negligible. The Australian decision will, therefore, permit the Canadian industry to return once more to this traditional market."

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FIRM PURCHASES RUSSIAN CANNED FISH: A Melbourne (Australia) firm made a contract with the Soviet Union to import canned salmon and crab meat, valued at £A1,600,000 (US\$3,600,000), for the Australian market. This is reported to be the largest contract made for the importation of Russian canned sea foods and will cover the bulk of Russia's surplus pack in 1954, presumably after its exports to Great Britain, reports a U. S. consular dispatch from Sydney.

Although no quantity was announced, a local trade source estimates that some 65,000 cases of 48 8-ounce cans are involved. Canned salmon has been imported previously into Australia but, though a profitable business, has not been completely satisfactory. Russian canning allegedly does not meet the quality standards of Canada, the principal source of Australia's supply before the dollar shortage developed. Also Russian canned salmon is a high-cost, slow-moving item in retail stores. Previous imports have taken up to 1½ years to move; and the canned crab meat is reportedly especially slow moving.

In the fiscal year 1952/53 (July-June) Australia imported a total of 2,689,127 pounds of canned salmon from Russia, valued at £A534,360 (US\$1.2 million).

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JAPANESE-AUSTRALIAN PEARL-SHELL FISHING DISPUTE REFERRED TO INTERNATIONAL COURT: Australia has agreed that issues raised by Japan in connection with the Pearl Fisheries Act should be submitted to the International Court of Justice, subject to the Japanese Government's undertaking that pending the Court's decision Japanese pearling in waters within the scope of the Act will be conducted in conformity with the Australian Government's policy of regulation and conservation. The Japanese Government has pledged itself to abide by the Court's decision, according to the December 1953 Fisheries Newsletter, of the Commonwealth Director of Fisheries.

In September, Australia proclaimed her sovereign rights to explore and exploit the natural resources of the sea bed and subsoil of the continental shelf, and Parliament passed legislation for the licensing of pearling in proclaimed shelf waters irrespective of nationality. Japan contends that such measures are not applicable to Japanese vessels outside Australian territorial waters.

Announcing on November 2 Australia's conditional agreement to reference of the matter to the International Court, the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture

said the Australian Government did not accept the Japanese contentions but agreed that the issues did involve the interpretation of international law.

Since World War II the Japanese Government had not yet been accepted as a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice. Therefore, while Japan might be able to make an application to the Court, she could not, without Australia's consent, invoke with full effect the jurisdiction of the Court in this dispute.

The Australian Government had two alternatives: to prevent for as long as possible submission of the issue to the Court and meantime enforce its legislation by all means within its power; or to approve, subject to certain conditions, the Japanese Government's proposal to submit the matter to the Court.

The Australian Government was confident that its legislation as applied to Japanese pearling was in accord with the international law of the continental shelf as developed in recent years. In the wider aspect of international relations, there was much to be said for encouraging Japan and other countries to settle their international differences through the International Court. The Australian Government had always advocated that international legal issues of this kind should be settled by the recognized judicial bodies and not by resort to measures of enforcement which might disturb friendly international relations.

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SHORE-BASED WHALING SEASON, 1953: The 1953 Australian shore-based whaling season was the most successful since this type of whaling was resumed in 1949. Four stations operated at Point Cloates, Carnarvon, Albany, and Tangalooma, and for the first time all reached their quota as the season closed on September 18.

Australian Shore-Based Whaling, 1949-52						
	Unit	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949
Stations	Number	4	4	2	2 (1 part time)	1
Whales	Number	2,001	1,787	1,224	387	190
Whales lost	Number	-	7	4	1	-
Whales processed ...	Number	2,001	1,780	1,220	386	190
Oil production	Barrels	102,354	91,360	56,051	16,494	5,700
Oil yield/whale	Barrels	51.2	51.1	45.9	42.8	30.0

A total of 2,000 humpback whales and one finwhale were treated (see table). Production consisted of approximately 102,000 barrels of whale oil, virtually all of which was exported, 4,750 tons of whale meal, and 1,809 tons of solubles. The value of these products was approximately £1 $\frac{3}{4}$ million (US\$3.9 million), according to the January 1954 Fisheries Newsletter, an Australian fishery magazine.

The average length of the whales taken was slightly less than in 1952, although the average length of the females was slightly higher. The percentage of females in the catch also increased slightly.

The oil yield per whale in 1953 was maintained at practically the same level as in 1952.

During the season export permits were granted for quantities of whale meal surplus to local requirements. The meal was sold in the United Kingdom at a very satisfactory price and this increased the export earnings of the industry.



Burma

JAPANESE INTRODUCE DEEP-SEA FISHING: The first company to operate deep-sea fishing was organized in Burma in September 1953. The company is owned and managed jointly by Burmese (60 percent) and Japanese (40 percent), with the Japanese supplying the only deep-sea fishing vessel in operation in Burma. The vessel operates with an all-Japanese crew; however, the company hopes to replace non-officer personnel with Burmese as rapidly as feasible, a January 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Rangoon points out.

Commencing in November 1953 the vessel made regular trips to the Gulf of Martaban and catches were generally excellent. However, marketing problems have so far not been completely solved. As Burmese consumers are not familiar with deep-sea fish, they have been hesitant to buy the quantity offered, and the vessel has been forced to sell alternate trips at Singapore. Sale of the catch in Rangoon is also complicated by a shortage of refrigerated storage and transport as well as by an inadequate marketing organization.

This venture by the Japanese marks the first major investment of foreign capital in Burma since independence and early indications are that it will be a success in spite of the difficulties in recruiting satisfactory seamen in Burma.



Canada

NEW FRESH FISH SHIPPING CONTAINER TESTED: Fresh (unfrozen) fillets of haddock and cod arrived in Ottawa in top-quality condition after a 100-hour trip from Newfoundland by boat and rail recently. This is believed to be the first time that fresh Newfoundland groundfish fillets have arrived in such prime condition after being shipped for such a distance, states the January 1954 Trade News, a Canadian Department of Fisheries publication. The test shipment was made by the Canadian National Railways using the recently developed fish shipping container.

Fish from the inshore waters adjacent to Isle aux Mortes on the south coast of Newfoundland were landed at Port aux Basques. The fillets cut from these fish were plant-chilled prior to shipment, and held in the containers at a constant temperature of 29° F. in transit. Both the haddock and cod fillets were moist and firm and tests showed them to be perfect in condition, color, taste, and freshness when they arrived at Ottawa.

A test group of senior officials of the Department of Fisheries examined the fish and sampled it after it was cooked in the Department's Home Economics kitchen. Uncooked samples were also delivered to a selected number of people in Ottawa, who all reported that the quality was excellent and equal in freshness and flavor to fresh-caught fish.

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BASIC RAIL RATES CHANGED: Canadian equalization of freight rates between the Pacific Coast and New Brunswick go into effect March 1, 1955. An equalized scale of basic freight rates for Canada was issued by the Board of Transport Commissioners on March 2, 1954.

By the new scale Western rates are generally cut and those in Central Canada are raised to bring regional levels closer together. The Board's order directs equalization between the Pacific Coast and the Quebec-New Brunswick border of the railways' "class" rates. However, all traffic within the Atlantic Provinces is exempted from equalization.

The Board also ordered that effective on the same date (March 1, 1955), a Board-directed general reduction of 5 percent on previous ceiling rates within Western Canada will be wiped out. The reduction went into effect November 15, 1953, as an "interim" measure pending prospective reductions in the equalized scale. The railways had also received permission last November to boost Ontario-Quebec class rates by a compensating 10 percent, and this boost also will be rescinded March 1, 1955.

The new rates will have a sharper "rate of taper" on long-haul traffic. This means that the charge-per-mile will drop more as the haul lengthens, cutting down the spread in charges between short and long hauls. This is expected to be of particular benefit to Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia in the shipment of their products to the East Coast and in shipments from the East Coast to those Provinces.

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NEW ATLANTIC SALMON RESEARCH METHODS: New methods of research are being applied to the study of Atlantic salmon in Port-Daniel River, Quebec. A ten-year project is being carried out by the biologists of the Province of Quebec's Department of Game and Fisheries, which expressed a desire to participate actively in the general program approved by the Co-ordinating Committee on Atlantic Salmon. Studies will be made in Newfoundland, the Maritimes, and Quebec, according to Trade News (December 1953), a Canadian Department of Fisheries publication.



Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar)

A large barrier was erected across the Port-Daniel River. Upstream and downstream from this barrier special cages were built, the whole construction forming a fish trap to provide means of counting the smolts going down to sea in May and the adults traveling upstream during the summer to spawn in fresh water.

When the smolts enter the upper part of the fish trap, they are marked for future identification. In 1953, 4,039 six-inch smolts were thus marked. Next summer, a channel will be dug at the mouth of Port-Daniel River on Chaleur Bay. This channel will regulate the flow of water and eliminate every obstacle to the salmon moving upstream five miles to the fish trap. A circular has been sent to all salmon fishing clubs and commercial fishermen in the area, asking them to report the number of marked salmon taken by rod and net. With the help of this information, the biologists will establish the percentage of Atlantic salmon, born in Port-Daniel River, that returns to the river to spawn. It is hoped that the project will, in the course of a few years, provide an answer to the question as to whether Atlantic salmon always spawn in the river in which they were born.

The program also includes a detailed study of salmon behavior and the reproductive potential of a salmon river. The toll of young salmon taken by predatory birds such as kingfishers and mergansers is being carefully noted. The predatory habits of sea trout in relation to smolts will also be studied.

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FISHERMEN'S INDEMNITY FUND OPERATING: Since its introduction in mid-1953, a total of 1,369 fishing vessels, valued at C\$1,767,928, were insured as of January 15, 1954, under the Canadian Fishermen's Indemnity Fund. The Fund is administered by the Canadian Department of Fisheries, according to its January 1954 issue of Trade News.

Fifteen claims totaling C\$13,515 have been paid. Of these, 10 were for total loss and 5 were for partial damage. The largest of the claims paid to date was for the loss of the long-liner Edward Humby of Grand Bank, Newfoundland, which went ashore at High Beach, Lamaline, Newfoundland.

When a vessel covered by the Fund is declared a total loss, indemnity payment is 60 percent of its appraised value. In the case of the Edward Humby, the appraised value was C\$7,400, and the claim paid was C\$4,440. The vessel was covered by the Fund in November at a cost of only C\$74 to its owner.

The number and valuation by areas of the vessels covered by the Fund are as follows: Newfoundland, 809 vessels, valuation C\$588,688; Maritimes, 316 vessels, valuation C\$571,580; Quebec, 100 vessels, valuation C\$81,290, and British Columbia, 144 vessels, valuation C\$526,370.

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TRAWLING TESTED IN LAKE WINNIPEG: Canada's fisheries scientists are trying out a deep-sea fishing method in Lake Winnipeg to see if it can be adapted to inland fishing. A flounder otter trawl such as is used in the Atlantic Ocean was tested in August 1953 in Lake Winnipeg near Elk Island. This is believed to be the first time that an otter trawl has been used in fresh water in Canada, the Canadian Fisherman (February 1954) reports.

An official of the Central Fisheries Research Station at Winnipeg, Man., in February told the annual meeting of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada that although results so far do not indicate the flounder drag would be a successful way of taking commercial fish in Lake Winnipeg, the gear proved quite successful for getting specimens for experimental purposes.



Chile

U. S. FIRM TO INVEST IN FISH CANNERY: A San Diego, California, fish-canning firm is arranging to invest 117 million pesos (US\$1.1 million) in a Chilean fish cannery, a February 10 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Santiago states. The California firm has had a survey vessel operating in Chilean waters since December 1953.

This is the first large investment of United States capital in the Chilean fishing industry, and it is believed to be an indication of the success of the recent decree-law on foreign investment in attracting foreign capital.



Costa Rica

PUNTARENAS FISHING INDUSTRY DECLINES: In recent years Puntarenas was a reasonably active fishing port for tuna fishing boats, mostly foreign operated, a January 28 U. S. Embassy dispatch from San Jose points out. The catch landed was of such volume that a U. S. firm constructed a freezing plant. Now the industry has suffered a heavy decline (especially during the past two years) and the freezing plant operates greatly below capacity. Puntarenas was also a jumping-off place for shrimp fishing vessels.



Costa Rican sailboat for hook-and-line fishing

The causes of the industry's decline are: (1) lack of conservation; (2) disappearance of bait although the Government recently restocked the waters in the hopes of restoring the situation; (3) changes in areas of fish concentration.

Although some are about ready to write off fishing as a dead industry in the area, they are resentful that the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry has given permission for Japanese boats to fish in Costa Rican waters. A Japanese boat docked late in January in Puntarenas. It was fishing for shrimp and according to the skipper fishing was poor. They argue that the Japanese boats with larger nets offer unbeatable competition to the local fishermen. The Japanese, they say, will denude the waters of what small amount of fish remains and will exploit the resources without concern for the future. Further, they contend that the Japanese fishing boats give negligible return to Costa Rica. They are protesting to the Ministry of Agriculture and Industries.

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PUNTARENAS FISHERMEN SIGN CONTRACT WITH GOVERNMENT: A contract signed by the Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture and the principal fishermen of Puntarenas reveals that the Government has compromised very little on the question of Japanese fishermen. The contract, published in *La Gaceta* of January 24, calls for the licensing of all Costa Rican-manned boats, but excepts "foreign technicians who have their permanent base in Costa Rica." It also allows the Government to license "other persons or entities," should local fishermen fail to provide the desired volume of fish. The Japanese fishing boats at Puntarenas have discreetly retired, temporarily, to Panamanian waters. They will return to Costa Rican waters shortly, but for the first two months will confine their operations to waters off the extreme northwest coast.

The Japanese plan to establish a fish-reduction plant in Puntarenas, a January 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from San Jose reports.

The fundamental problem confronting the Ministry is that of providing the Central Plateau with regular supplies of sea food, and of educating its inhabitants, who constitute the majority of Costa Rica's population, in the proper preparation and appreciation of sea food. Refrigeration facilities of the National Production Council are being used, and the Pacific Railway recently announced plans to build a refrigerator car. The Ministry has published newspaper advertisements urging sea-food consumption and is printing recipes for the cooking of certain local fish.

Denmark

REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1953: The 1953 fishing season was characterized as satisfactory. Preliminary estimates point to a total catch of 328,000 metric tons, slightly above 1952 and more than 30 percent above the 1949 catch. The trend of recent years towards larger catches of fish for reduction at the expense of fish for human consumption was reported to have continued, a recent U. S. Embassy dispatch from Copenhagen states. Of the 1953 catch, 181,000 tons were utilized for reduction and 147,000 tons for food, as compared to 53,000 and 188,000 tons respectively in 1949.

Exports of fish for human consumption were estimated at 130,000 tons as compared to 122,000 tons in 1952, but because of slightly lower prices the value in 1953 was estimated at 202 million kroner (US\$29 million) as compared to 206 million kroner (US\$30 million) in 1952. The United Kingdom continued in 1953 to be Denmark's largest customer, taking 55 million kroner (US\$7.9 million) worth of fish. The United States ranked fifth with an estimated 16 million kroner (US\$2.3 million) as compared to 16.5 million kroner (US\$2.4 million) in 1952.

Production of fish oil and fish meal increased sharply in 1953 over 1952. The United States and Holland were the largest purchasers of Danish fish meal exports.

The Danish Minister of Fisheries stated that while he still hoped that the terms of the North Sea Convention, effective April 5, 1954, will speedily be changed so that Danish fishing will not be hampered, he cautioned the industry that in the long run the danger of overfishing in Danish waters calls for closer cooperation between the fishing industry and marine scientists.



Ecuador

FISHERY PATROL VESSELS AND PLANES: Two hydroplanes and six motor launches are scheduled to arrive in Ecuador for use in patrolling fishery operations in Ecuadoran territorial waters, according to a recent statement made by the Minister of Economy to the Quito press. One of the hydroplanes was due to arrive early in February and the six launches were scheduled for delivery in April. The Minister indicated that the launches would be German made, but he did not state where the aircraft would be purchased, or when the second hydroplane would be delivered, a U. S. Embassy dispatch (January 26) from Quito points out.

Financing for the purchase of this patrol equipment will be provided by reassigning fishing license revenues which have heretofore been dispersed among various Ecuadoran municipalities. A decree to effect this redistribution of revenues has now been approved by the National Council of Economy and is expected to be promulgated as law in the near future.



French Morocco

REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1953: Canning Industry: It was estimated that the production of canned fish in French Morocco during 1953 would total about 1.4 million cases, compared to the 1952 production of 1.7 million cases, a January 8 U. S. consular dispatch from Casablanca reports. It was predicted that the 1953 pack would

be marketed as follows: The French duty-free import contingent of 600,000 cases of sardines would be filled, and additional sardines sold in that country at prices



Fish canneries at Safi, French Morocco.



Removing a bluefin tuna from a fish trap.

advantageous to the local industry. Roughly 400,000 cases would be sold to the French Armed Forces and to other markets in the French Union, including Indo-China and French West and Equatorial Africa, at lower prices decidedly less favorable than those obtained on the metropolitan market. Finally, there would remain some 400,000 cases to be sold on markets outside the franc zone at world market prices which would not be profitable to many Moroccan producers still in operation; particularly those who have not joined one of the several producer combines that have been artificially created to cut costs through the closing of the less efficient factories in each group. At the insistence of the combines, the entire industry accepted the principle of a ceiling price level for this last category of exports, which, while preventing acceptance of occasional higher price offers, nevertheless has the advantage of insuring that Moroccan products are everywhere competitive.

Byproducts Industry: The continuing uncertainty in the fish canning industry has led to the increasing use of fish in byproducts for feeds and fertilizers. The growth of this relatively new industry has been rapid, and its products have found a ready market abroad, particularly in the United States. However, the use of catches for byproducts only increases the difficulties of the fishing boat owners, since the price paid for such catches is one-quarter to one-third of that paid by the canneries. Even the latter prices are far from encouraging to the fishermen.



Unloading sardines at a dock in Safi.

The progress of the byproducts industry is illustrated at Agadir ("first port of the fishing industry"). From the beginning of the fishing season in May through November 15 a total of 40,236 metric tons of sardines were delivered and only 239,000 cases of canned fish were produced. At Safi ("first city of the fish canning industry") some 853,000 cases of fish were produced from 38,000 tons of sardines de-

livered during the same period. The emphasis on the production of byproducts at Agadir promises to become a permanent feature of the economy of that city.

Canned Sardine Exports: Exports of canned sardines from French Morocco in 1953 were less than in more prosperous years, notably 1951, but continued at a steady pace and appeared to have become established in many markets. These outlets can be expected to widen gradually in the future. Unofficial reports indicated that total canned fish exports during the first half of 1953 totaled 799,000 cases, compared to 807,000 cases in 1952.



German Federal Republic

TARIFF REDUCED FOR NORWEGIAN CANNED FISH: German tariff reductions on imports from Norway of canned sprats and small herring (brisling and sild) are provided in a German-Norwegian Tariff Agreement signed at Bonn, Germany, on December 30, 1953. This was reported in the January 4 issue of the German newspaper, Die Welt, according to a recent consular dispatch from Bonn. The ad-valorem duty reductions are from 20 percent for sild and 25 percent for brisling to 15 percent, respectively.

The agreement is the result of bilateral negotiations recommended to the German Federal Republic and Norway by the Court of Arbitration of GATT, as the result of a Norwegian complaint filed at the Seventh Session at Geneva in October 1952. This complaint charged discriminatory treatment of Norwegian canned fish imported into Germany in view of the fact that the tariff rates levied on Norwegian sprats and small herring were higher than those levied on like Portuguese sardines. It had further been alleged that the Norwegian products were subjected to an increased turnover-compensation tax rate of 6 percent as compared with the 4-percent rate levied on Portuguese sardines. In this connection, it is noted that as of June 1, 1953, a turnover-compensation tax rate of 6 percent is applicable to the Norwegian and Portuguese products alike.



Hong Kong

FISHERIES EXHIBITION: The second annual Hong Kong fisheries exhibition was held from February 2 to 4 at the Wholesale Fisheries Market, Aberdeen. Attendance by the public, particularly fishermen, was very good (about 60,000 as compared to last year's 15,000), and exhibition authorities considered that the show made considerable progress over the past year both in the scope of the exhibition and in giving impetus to the mechanization-of-fishing-junks program.

Strong Government backing for this program was noted by the Colonial Secretary when he revealed that a loan of HK\$800,000 (US\$140,000) had been secured from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for modernization. The Secretary also promised that Hong Kong Government authorities would continue exploring means of introducing more modern fishing methods, including newly designed vessels particularly suited to local fishing conditions, reports a February 23 U. S. consular dispatch from Hong Kong.

Practically all aspects of the fishing industry were covered at the Exhibition. Authorities expressed gratification that a very high percentage of equipment on exhibit was sold to interested fishermen. Among the displays were those devoted to marine engines, fuel injection equipment, storm lanterns, fishing gear of all kinds

(nets, hooks, marine varnishes and paints), scientific equipment (echo sounders and nautical equipment), ropes, pumps, electric hoists, radios, and specimens of marine products and machinery used in fish processing.



India

FISHERY PRODUCTS IN REVISED LIST OF FREELY EXPORTABLE ITEMS:

A revised list of items that are "decontrolled" and require no license from the Indian export trade control authorities was released December 29, 1953, by the Indian Deputy Chief Controller of Exports. Many fishery products are included in the schedule of "decontrolled" items that require no export license to all "permissible" destinations, the U. S. Consulate at Bombay reports in a January 14 dispatch. Domestic fishery products listed in the schedule are:

- Agar-agar
- Fish, all sorts other than fish spawns
- Marine glue
- Oil, animal (including whale oil, fish oil, and seal oil)
- Prawns



Indo-China

STATUS OF THE FISHERIES: While fish is next to rice as the most important component of the diet of the average people of the States of Cambodia and Vietnam, it has only been very recently that significant steps have been taken in both states to bring fish production back to prewar levels, and to encourage private fishing companies to undertake this enormous task. In Vietnam alone production of all types of fish (salt water and fresh water) dropped from a high of 180,000 metric tons in 1940 to a low of 30,000 tons in 1953.

Cambodian fisheries have been somewhat more successful, and last year produced an estimated 120,000 to 130,000 tons of fresh-water fish, mainly from the Grand Lac du Tonle Sap. No figures are available for Laos, a January 25 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Saigon reports.

In both Vietnam and Cambodia, a serious lack of adequate fishing equipment and trained personnel has been the main deterrent to progress, aside from the insecure condition of certain fishing areas, particularly along the coast of Vietnam.

United States economic aid and Japanese technical assistance--sponsored by the U. S. Operations Mission (STEM)--have aided greatly in remedying these deficiencies. STEM aid has furnished the following to the Vietnamese Government: 12 fishing patrol boats used by the Service des Peches Maritime du Vietnam; 2 purse seiners with Japanese training crews; and 6 small (55-foot) sloops.

The introduction of the Tilapia "miracle fish" into the fish culture of the Associated States with STEM aid may prove to be one of the turning points in increasing fish production in both Cambodia and Vietnam. Three plantings of these fast breeding fish in Vietnam and one in Cambodia last August have already produced encouraging results.

The inauguration last October on the Saigon-Cap St. Jacques route of a refrigerated van of 10-ton capacity to bring in fish from the coastal fishing center of Baria to

Saigon has opened a new possibility for furnishing an adequate supply of fresh fish to the Saigon-Cholon area at lower cost. This area alone consumes an estimated 880,000 pounds of fish daily, valued at 1.2 million piasters (US\$34,000). Spoilage from usual trucking and junk transportation cut the fish dealers' margin of profit, and substantially increase the cost. This refrigerated van, imported from the United States under the STEM Commercial Import Program at a cost of 300,000 piasters (US\$8,600), has already justified its use, and it is understood that several of the larger Saigon-Cholon fish importers have made requests for import authority to the American Aid Committee for this type of equipment.

The Regie de Chemins de Fer of Vietnam is also now using isothermic cars to transport fresh fish under intense refrigeration, principally from Phantiet to Saigon. Recent figures indicate that 480 metric tons of all types of fish have been transported by rail every month over this railway route, with 15 tons carried in each isothermic car.

A most important development in increasing fish production in Vietnam was the opening on December 22, 1953, of the first hatchery in South Vietnam. It is located at Thuduc (Giadinh), about 6 miles from Saigon. It is expected that this station will be ready to begin distribution of fingerlings about June 1954.

During the period two important new private fishing companies were organized: a Vietnamese firm, capitalized at one million piasters (US\$29,000), will confine its activity to the rivers and lakes of South Vietnam and the China Sea, and engage in producing certain fish byproducts, and a French firm which will engage in fresh-water and deep-sea fishing in all the Associated States and the French Union, and prepare fish and fish products for export.

Note: Currency exchange rate: 35 piasters = US\$1.00.



Iran

STURGEON EXPORTS TO U. S. : A shipment of 30 tons of frozen sturgeon arrived at New York on January 15 from Iran in perfect condition, a January 26 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tehran points out. A previous shipment of 40 tons arrived in New York some two weeks earlier. The New York importer is enthusiastic over the potential market in the United States for fisheries products from the Caspian Sea, according to reports.

Further interest in the Caspian fisheries is being shown by a Clifton, New Jersey, firm, which is interested in a 5-year contract for 500,000 pounds of frozen sturgeon at the rate of 100,000 pounds per year. They are also interested in caviar when it becomes available, presumedly sometime after the Caspian Fisheries Company's indebtedness to the Soviets has been liquidated. This latter company plans to invest in refrigerated trucks because of the inadequacy of transport by railroad and the shortage of refrigerator cars.

During its first year of operation, ending January 31, 1954, the Government-owned Iranian Fisheries Company paid off 77 percent of its indebtedness to Soviet Russia.

It was pointed out in the annual report of the Iranian Fisheries Company that the better quality caviar was being sold to U. S. S. R. at 672.45 rials per kilo (about US \$3.20 per pound), whereas domestic sales were being made at 450 rials per kilo (about US \$2.13 per pound). As there was no accurate information on prices for fishery products in foreign markets, advertisements were published asking for bids on three separate occasions. Each time one ton of caviar (whole egg) and one ton of pressed

caviar were offered. On the basis of the independent bids received, the sale price to U.S.S.R. and on the local market was increased 138 percent and 253 percent, respectively.

Prices of other fishery products also were increased in the same proportion and these prices were then fixed for both deliveries to the U.S.S.R. against the account for their former properties and for exports to other countries as well. Since the Fisheries Company had no export division, a part of the caviar production and fish were exported by private Iranian exporters. Through their activities the Company was able to introduce some Iranian products into foreign markets. For the domestic sale of fish, however, the Company was unable to put increased prices into effect as was true for caviar. Under the Government regulations the Company was obliged to sell fish costing 10.50 rials per kilo (about 5 U.S. cents per pound) to the public at 10 rials (about 10 U.S. cents) a piece. The Company had also to absorb the transportation costs.

Note: Rials converted to U. S. currency on the basis of 96.50 rials equal US\$1.



Japan

CANNED-TUNA-IN-BRINE PRICES INCREASED AGAIN: Another increase in the price of canned white-meat tuna in brine, f.o.b. Japan, effective February 20, was announced by the Tokyo Canned Tuna Sales Company, according to a dispatch (March 5) from the U. S. Embassy at Tokyo. Increases range from 30 to 50 U. S. cents per case above the prices which became effective on January 26. New prices are as follows: 48 7-oz. cans, \$12.20 per case; 24 13-oz. cans, \$11.10; 6 2-kg. (4.4 pounds) cans, \$13.00; 48 3½-oz. cans, \$6.75.

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EXPORTERS SELL CANNED TUNA BELOW "FLOOR" PRICES: Japanese tuna exporters have been selling canned tuna at prices lower than the check ("floor") prices established by the Japanese Government, a January 28 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports. It is believed that Japanese exporters have been rebating the difference between the Japanese "floor" or invoice prices and the actual selling prices to United States importers of canned tuna.

Reports indicate that a situation has arisen whereby United States importers of Japanese canned tuna into California have become liable to penalties for violation of Section 592 of the United States Tariff Act of 1930 by buying tuna at prices lower than those shown on consular invoices and receiving rebates for the difference.

The Embassy at Tokyo pointed out that the Japanese Government, in its concern to keep and increase its tuna market in the United States, is most anxious to avoid any implication of "dumping" canned tuna in that market. To this end it has voluntarily imposed both quota and floor-price limitations on its tuna exporters. The floor prices, which are normally intended to be slightly under the prevailing market prices, must be shown on the consular invoices in order to secure export licenses.

It would appear that the Japanese Government's export system is not sufficiently flexible to permit quick adjustment to market fluctuations and that on occasion the floor price has been higher than the going market price. In such cases the exporters were obliged to refund the difference to the importer and the consular invoice became a "false statement" within the language of Section 592, even though the revenues suffered no loss.

The establishment of floor prices was a voluntary act on the part of the Japanese Government, intended to preclude "dumping" of Japanese canned tuna at prices out of line with United States prices for domestic tuna. However, in its administration, through lack of flexibility, it has involved the importer in violations of the United States' tariff laws under circumstances beyond his control and without intent on his part to deceive or defraud. The Embassy is discussing this with the appropriate officials of the Japanese Government in an effort to obviate future difficulties of a similar nature.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has requested the U. S. Secretary of the Treasury to refrain from enforcing Section 592 in these cases.

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SPECIAL LOANS PROPOSED FOR FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY KOREA: A special bill has been introduced in the Diet authorizing the Japanese Government to loan up to 90 million yen (US\$250,000) to replace fishing vessels seized by the Republic of Korea for violation of the Rhee Line. The loans, which will bear interest at 5½ percent, are expected to provide for the construction of 50 fishing vessels, a February 12 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo states.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT



Republic of Korea

STATUS OF THE FISHERIES: The Korean fishing industry is in poor condition, according to a February 1 dispatch from the U. S. Embassy at Seoul. Exports are low, catches are small, and the standard of living of most fishermen is very low and still declining. Domestic demand for fish, which supplies 80 percent of the protein in the Korean diet and is therefore essential from a nutritional point of view, is falling because of high prices. Yet the return to the fisherman on his catch is small.

The current fishing season (from October 1953 to April 1954) has been poor. The catch consists primarily of sea bream, croaker, and halibut. The total catch during the last quarter of 1953 amounted to 4,500 metric tons, compared to a normal catch of about 6,400 tons for the same period.

Approximately US\$3 million worth of fish products are now exported annually, compared to an estimated potential export figure of US\$7 million. The chief reason for the low export total is that Korean prices are higher than those generally prevailing in Far Eastern markets. Therefore, Korean exports are largely confined to special items, such as agar-agar, laver, and sea bream. The high cost of transportation, labor, and fishing supplies resulting from the inflation is responsible for high costs in hwan. The Government's foreign exchange policies, based on official exchange rates substantially overvaluing the hwan, have been a further handicap to exports. Also, methods and techniques used by the fisheries industry, particularly with regard to the handling and processing of fish for export, are markedly inferior to those in use in Japan.

In the domestic market the cost of fish to the consumer is about twice the price which the fisherman receives. This distribution spread is an important cause of low demand, and low return to the fisherman. Most plans for rehabilitating the Korean fishing industry have concentrated on raising production. It is now being pointed out, especially by foreign observers, that adequate facilities for landing, storing, transporting, processing, and marketing fish must also be provided in order to improve internal distribution and thus gain access to a domestic market capable of consuming the increased catch.

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UNKRA AID FOR FISHERMEN: Small-boat fisherman in Korea can now receive direct financial aid from a 50-million hwan (about US\$270,000) fund established by the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA) to improve equipment. From this fund, the only one of its kind in Korea, fishermen can borrow money to obtain part of the price of a new boat on repayment terms extending over periods of from 6 months to 3 years; and can get credit for up to 6 months on part of the cost of equipment, such as nets, ropes, and other items of fishing gear.

Already 23 fishermen have been granted loans to build medium-sized wooden fishing boats, and more than 200 requests have been received for aid in replacing various types of equipment, a February 24 United Nations release announces.

The fund is controlled by the Special Fisheries Control Committee, which was set up by agreement between UNKRA and the ROK Government in May 1953. This is part of UNKRA's US\$1,400,000 current program to rehabilitate the fishing industry, which is so vital to both Korea's internal and export markets. To obtain the necessary hwan without inflationary result, UNKRA has imported supplies of oakum, linseed oil, wire rope, abaca, cans for fish preserving, calcium chloride, ammonia gas, fibre, fish nets, and other materials essential to the industry.

Another phase of the program is a loan of 5,300,000 hwan (US\$29,000) to enable a start to be made on the rebuilding of the war-damaged fish markets at Seoul and Inchon.



Malaya

FISHERY PRODUCTS CONSUMPTION, JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1953: Next to rice, fish is certainly the most important food in Malaya, states a U. S. consular report from Singapore. Fish is also the chief source of protein. Except possibly for a few vegetarian Hindus, fish is consumed by all racial groups in Malaya. The rate of consumption among the Chinese inhabitants probably averages somewhat higher than for the other racial groups. However, this seems to be due mainly to the fact that marketing facilities favor urban inhabitants, where most of the Chinese live.

Fresh and dried fish make up the bulk of the quantity consumed. Frozen fish is still not generally acceptable by local consumers. This dietary problem has posed somewhat of a difficulty to local officials in their efforts to expand offshore fisheries. Canned fish are normally consumed by the higher income groups, located in the more important urban centers.

The estimated fishery products supply position for the first nine months of 1953 was about as follows:

	<u>Long tons</u>
Estimated stocks, January 1, 1953	2,000
Estimated production (Jan. -Sept. 1953) ..	117,000
Net imports	8,165
Estimated supply	<u>127,165</u>
Estimated stocks, October 1, 1953	2,000
Estimated Disappearance	<u>125,165</u>

Disappearance during the first nine months of 1953 approximated 14,000 tons monthly. This indicates an annual total of about 168,000 tons, of which about 156,000 tons will consist of domestic output. Per-capita daily availability in 1953 should

average about 2.4 ounces per day, which is equivalent to 85 calories and roughly 12 grams of available protein.

Malayan commercial fish supplies are likely to improve during the next few years. Considerable attention is being given to offshore operations, which the local governments are actively supporting. There is also a good extension program operating within the Fisheries Department, which involves the training of fishermen in modern techniques. As a further inducement, the Rural and Industrial Development Authority (RIDA) is providing loans to fishermen with which to purchase fishing equipment.



Mexico

SINALOA SHRIMP EXPORTS TO U. S., OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1953: Total exports of shrimp to the United States from the Sinaloa district of the west coast of

Sinaloa (Mexico) Shrimp Exports to the United States, October-December 1953 and 1952		
Port	October-December	
	1953	1952
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Mazatlan	3,591,074	2,741,795
Topolobampo ^{1/}	3,039,455	1,814,770
La Reforma ^{2/}	725,088	-
Culiacan ^{2/}	655,994	-
Escuinapa	255,000	-
Total	8,266,611	4,556,565

^{1/}September 1 to December 22. Also includes shrimp caught in the State of Sonora but processed in Topolobampo. Shrimp season opened September 1 instead of October 1, 1953.

^{2/}September 1 to December 22. Shrimp season opened September 1 instead of October 1, 1953.

Mexico in the period October-December 1953 amounted to 8,266,611 pounds (see table), compared to 4,556,565 pounds in the same period in 1952, reports a January 4 U. S. consular dispatch from Mazatlan. The shrimp season on the west coast of Mexico generally opens October 1.

The shrimp catch in Sinaloa was considerably greater in 1953 than a year earlier. Although freezing plants in Mazatlan reported that the December 1953 shrimp catch was

50 percent less than in November, the plant operators and fishermen are not concerned because they claim such a decline usually occurs at that time.



Netherlands

FISHERIES PROSPECTS FOR 1954: All possible Government assistance will be given to the Netherlands fishing industry, according to the Netherlands Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in his explanatory notes to the 1954 budget. The Central Laboratory for Fisheries Research at Ymuiden, construction of which was started in 1953, will be of great value. In addition to the present vessel for biological and technical experiments, a second vessel will be put into service for this purpose on May 1, 1954.

The regulations guaranteeing the fishermen certain minimum prices, which had a favorable effect during the past year, will continue in 1954. Fishing conditions in inland waters will be improved.



Sorting fish prior to icing aboard a Dutch vessel.

In general, prospects for the Netherlands fishing industry for 1954 are not unfavorable, although exporters will have to make every effort to maintain their present sales, according to the March 6 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication.



Norway

CANNED SARDINE PROMOTION PROGRAM IN U.S.: The Norwegian Cannery Association has effected a tie-in with four major United States cracker companies to promote the sale in the United States of Norwegian canned sardines and crackers during the Lenten season, the Norwegian Information Service advises in a February 25 release.

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WINTER HERRING FISHERY SETS NEW RECORD CATCH: The Norwegian winter (large) herring fishery ended on February 14 with a new record catch of 960,000 metric tons, valued at 177.7 million kroner (US\$24.9 million), a February 19 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Oslo reports. This catch was about 10,000 metric tons greater than the combined winter and spring herring fisheries of the record year 1951.

This year's spring herring season began on February 15. Good results were anticipated as the weather was fine in the Alesund fishing districts.

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EX-VESSEL PRICES SET FOR 1954: Norwegian ex-vessel fish prices for 1954 have been agreed upon after lengthy negotiations, according to the February 10 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian trade paper. A new regulation provides that large cod, which are easiest to sell on the world market, will bring a higher price than small cod and certain other varieties. The price for large cod, which includes Lofoten fish, has been established at 61 øre per kilogram (3.9 U.S. cents per pound) to the fisherman as compared with 58 øre (3.7 U.S. cents) last year. The price for smaller fish has been adjusted downwards; for example, the haddock price will be 55 øre per kilogram (3.5 U. S. cents per pound).

Subsidies on fishing gear will continue. However, the production bonus to factories will be removed, but the bonus on raw material will remain in effect. There will be an increase of about six percent in fishing-gear prices. Funds for subsidizing will be taken from the price regulation funds for fish.



Pakistan

FIRST QUICK-FREEZING FISH PLANT: Pakistan's first modern quick-freezing plant for fishery products was to start production at Karachi in January, reports a December 28 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Karachi. Operating with both Pakistani and U. S. capital, the processing and quick-freezing plant at West Wharf in Karachi was constructed with the most up-to-date equipment. Principal products will be shrimp, lobster, and turtle meat; and freezing capacity is 5 metric tons per 20-hour day.

An American fisheries technician attached to the Foreign Operations Administration has already arrived in Pakistan, and one or two more may come in 1954, who will assist in the training of Pakistani technicians, all of whom have studied fisheries

in the United States under the U. S. Government-sponsored trainee program. The firm operating the plant is now negotiating the purchase of three 50-foot trawlers which will be commanded by United States or Danish fishing masters until Pakistani nationals are qualified to take over.

At the outset, at least, the greatest part of the plant's output of shrimp, spiny lobster tails, and turtle meat will be exported, by far the largest market being the United States. No doubt most of the frozen shrimp will be shipped to the United States. With the great wealth of fish life abounding in the waters off West Pakistan, competent authorities estimate that the export of frozen fishery products to the United States and other countries may well exceed several million dollars within three years, thus providing a completely new and important source of dollar foreign exchange for Pakistan.



Panama

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA CONVENTION RATIFIED: At a session of the National Assembly on February 16, Panama ratified the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention, a February 17 dispatch from the U. S. Embassy at Panama states. The President of Panama probably will sign the act of adherence in the near future, and the Government can be expected soon to designate the Panamanian members of the Tuna Commission.

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FISHERY LEGISLATION: The Panamanian National Assembly has granted extraordinary powers to the Executive Organ and the Permanent Legislative Commission to enact certain legislative measures while the Assembly is in adjournment. The authorization covers the bill to revise and codify all fisheries legislation and to extend Panamanian territorial waters to the outer edge of the continental shelf, a February 12 dispatch from the U. S. Embassy in Panama points out. Reports indicate that the legislative matters referred to will not be enacted by the present session of the Assembly, but that they probably will be considered by the Legislative Commission between February 18 and October 1 (when the Assembly reconvenes).

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WHALING CONVENTION RATIFIED: Panama's adherence to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whale Fishing was approved by the National Assembly, a U. S. Embassy dispatch of January 29 from Panama reports. The ratification was signed by the President of Panama on December 10, 1953, and published in Gaceta Oficial of January 20, 1954, as Law No. 34. The Convention was signed in London during 1953.



Portugal

NEW OYSTER PURIFICATION STATION: A new oyster purification depot has been completed across the Tagus River from Lisbon by the Portuguese Ministry of Marine at Rosário. The new depot is designed to purify Tagus and Sade River oysters, which have been outlawed since 1939 as polluted. It is the culmination of a six-year study of purification methods by the Office of Fish Studies of the Ministry of Marine. The project cost about 2,000 contos (US\$70,000); funds were obtained from the recently established Fund for the Reconstitution of the Fishing Fleet and from the

Ministry of Economy. It will be run, at least for the first several months, by the Office of Fish Studies with advice from the Direction General of Health, but it may be turned over to an oyster-producers association if one should be formed at a later date.

The depot will confine its activities to the actual purification of the oysters. The collection of the oysters and their disposition after purification will be in the hands of private concessionnaires.

Purification will be by the following process. Water will be drawn from the river within 2 hours of high tide into a large tank. As the water enters the tank, it is blended with a quantity of calcium hypochlorite more than sufficient to purify the oysters. Sodium hyposulphite is then added to neutralize the chlorine to a point where it will not kill the oysters. The solution is then drained into five smaller tanks with a joint capacity of 5,000 oysters, and the live oysters are kept in the solution for about three days. An official of the Direction General of Health then examines the oysters to insure that they are under the fixed maximum bacteria content.

Most of the oysters will be consumed fresh in Portugal or possibly in nearby Spain and France. A French health official has already visited the depot and expressed some interest in possible French imports. It is probable, however, that some of the oysters will also be canned for export with the United States market in view. Canned oysters from Portimac and Vila Real de Santo Antonio in Southern Portugal are already being shipped to the U. S. in some quantity. With this in mind, the Office of Fish Studies has inquired as to the legal requirements in the United States for canned oysters, a February 23 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lisbon states.



Saudi Arabia

NATIONAL FISHING COMPANY ORGANIZED: A national Saudi Fishing Company was established under the presidency of Prince Mita'ab Ibn Abdul Aziz, according to a press statement December 18. The company has been organized as a national corporation, with a capital of 12 million riyals (US\$2,500,000), in order to make available to the Saudi Arabian consumers more fish at lower prices and to accumulate necessary surpluses for export to neighboring countries.

The announcement of the formation of the company is the culmination of survey work by the Food and Agriculture Organization. A former FAO employee has been making detailed surveys of the coastal waters along the Hejaz shore and has visited Rabegh, Yenbo, Wedj, and smaller ports along the coast south of Jidda to inspect present facilities and determine what will be needed for an expanded fishing program. FAO had earlier undertaken an experiment in which a shipload of fish was transported to Egypt using only ordinary ice refrigeration with approximately 20 percent loss during the ten-day voyage.

Saudi fishermen will be permitted to buy shares in the new company at half price, provided they submit a written acknowledgement they will discontinue fishing as an occupation. Fishermen who do not wish to join the company may continue their activities, provided that they do not use modern fishing equipment.

These latter provisions appear to be an attempt to minimize the hardship which small fishermen may be liable to through the disruption of their present small-scale activities by a large-scale fishing program which would force prices down and would make large quantities of fish available to the Saudi consumer. The attempt to make the company a national corporation seems aimed at maximizing the interest in the

success of the company by publicizing its activities throughout the Kingdom. This is the first attempt to form a Saudi corporation in Saudi Arabia on a national scale, a December 28 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Jidda announced.

The company, before embarking on any large-scale export activities, will attempt to improve distribution of fish to the populated areas of the Kingdom, i. e., establish markets where the fish can be kept under refrigeration, improve sanitary facilities for the handling of the catch, build open-air markets where the catch can be attractively displayed, and in general attempt to encourage the domestic consumption of fish. It was believed that establishment of a cannery and a subsequent drive for the export of surplus fish would not be considered until the domestic market is expanded to its maximum.



Spain

FISH CANNING TRENDS IN VIGO DISTRICT, JANUARY 1954: Fish-canning plants in the Vigo area of Spain purchased during January 280,000 pounds of fish, about 4 percent of the total catch landed at Vigo. This compares to 1,300,000 pounds in December 1953 and 395,000 pounds in January a year ago. The decline was due to smaller catches of varieties suitable for canning.

GOVERNMENT LOANS FOR FISHING EQUIPMENT AND VESSEL REPAIRS: A second loan--amounting to 25 million pesetas (US\$640,000)--was recently allotted by the Government to the Fishing Syndicate of the Province of Pontevedra. This amount is to be made available immediately to all fishermen for new equipment and vessel repairs. Further loans have been announced.



Union of South Africa

DRIED FISH TO BE PRODUCED FOR EXPORT: The production of dried fish for export and the sale of quick-frozen fish in household and hotel packages are two relatively recent developments in the South African fisheries. Construction of two fish dehydration plants at Cape Town was begun in 1953, one to cost about £90,000 (US \$252,000) and the other £60,000 (US\$168,000).

One factory, expected to come into production soon, will dry hake in closed chambers in four days by a process said to be new to South Africa, reports the March 6 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication. The main production will be unsalted dried fish which will resemble the Norwegian unsalted cod. The capacity of the plant will be about 500 metric tons of wet fish a month, with an expected yield of approximately 100 tons of the unsalted dried fish. All the output will be exported, mainly to Nigeria, the Gold Coast, and the Belgian Congo. The other factory should be completed in June and will replace one of the four existing plants.



United Kingdom

FIRST FISH SHIPMENT BEHIND IRON CURTAIN: The first export shipment of British processed fish to be sent behind the Iron Curtain was shipped from Grimsby and Hull recently, and it is hoped by British shippers that future contracts would be negotiated on a large scale. Almost 200 metric tons have already been sent in spe-

cial insulated railway cars brought from France for the purpose, according to the Fishing News (January 8), a British trade periodical. The country of destination was not revealed, but it is a Russian-dominated satellite.

The first shipment (made before Christmas 1953) consisted of quick-frozen cod fillets, smoked fish, and herring, and was a combined shipment made up by two large firms in Grimsby and Hull. Special precautions were taken to make sure that the order arrived in excellent condition in packages with the names of the firms and "Product of Britain" stamped on them.

In an interview with the press, the manager of one of the British firms stated: "We have been trying to get into these markets for a considerable time and we have every hope that other orders will follow. It is terribly important that we should find new export markets and some outlet for good-quality fish which is landed during periods of heavy fishing and which must be quick frozen. This has been the first venture of this kind and we have had very great help from all concerned in it."

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CONTROLS ON CANNED SARDINES END: British controls over price and distribution of canned sardines and sild, which have been in effect for 12 years, were removed at the end of December 1953, reports the December 12 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine. The announcement was made by the Minister of Food early in December. Private traders will now be allowed to import sardines and sild after December 28, 1953.

There are now ample supplies of canned sardines and sild and all other varieties of canned fish, except salmon and crab, says the Ministry. The last named will be the only two varieties of canned fish to be imported and controlled by the Ministry of Food.

Canned sild are imported from Norway; sardines from Portugal, Spain, French Morocco, Yugoslavia, and Brittany.

The Board of Trade also announced that arrangements have been made for private imports of canned sardines and sild under Open General Licence, on and after December 28, if consigned from and originating in one of the permitted countries. Preserved fish, not packed in airtight metal containers, are admissible under Open General Licence if taken by vessels registered in any of the permitted countries. Fish roe, other than canned, is included in the description "preserved fish."

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ICELAND STOPS SUPPLYING FISH TO LONDON BUSINESSMAN: The Icelandic Trawler Owners' Association announced on December 18 that no more fish would be supplied and no negotiations undertaken with the London businessman until he had fulfilled this contract, reports the British trade magazine The Fishing News (December 19). The Icelandic Vice-consul in Grimsby said: "The position is that he has repudiated his contract entered into with the Icelandic Trawler Owners' Association last May, and until he fulfills the terms of the agreement there will be no discussions of a new contract or any variation in the old one."

The London businessman's office in London issued this statement: the "contract with the Icelanders contained a clause that all matters in dispute should be settled by arbitration." The arbitration clause has been invoked, continued the statement, and "as the matter is therefore sub-judice it would not be proper to make any further comment at this stage." The staff of the London businessman's Pyewipe plant were dismissed--only a skeleton staff remains.

The President of the British Trawlers' Federation said he hoped that the exit of the London businessman from the fishing industry would result in a friendly settlement of the Icelandic dispute.

In a later statement to the press (Fish Trades Gazette, January 23), the London businessman stated that he had finished with the fish business. "I do not want any more to do with the Icelanders," he said, "not even if the arbitration proceedings I have invoked concerning my contracts with them go in my favor."

The London businessman has not yet decided what to do with his Pyewipe processing plant now that he has decided to quit the fish business. There is little doubt that he would sell if he could find a customer at a reasonable price. He also said that he had not been definitely approached about his plant by the Icelanders, but he understood that they had put out feelers with the object of purchasing it.

Rumors have been prevalent at Grimsby for some time that it was likely that the Icelanders would carry on where the London businessman left off in the fight against the British fishing industry ban on Icelandic-caught fish; and that they were considering the purchase of the Pyewipe processing plant.

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LONDON BUSINESSMAN QUILTS FISH BUSINESS: The Pyewipe fish plant equipped by a London businessman to handle the "beat-the-ban" Icelandic fish was offered for sale on January 4, 1954. This marked the end of the London businessman's endeavors to enter the fish business by trying to market fish landed by Icelandic trawlers in Great Britain. The plant set up to handle Icelandic-caught fish boycotted earlier by Hull and Grimsby fish dealers was equipped with ice-making facilities and filleting and freezing equipment.

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ICELANDIC FISHING INTERESTS SEEK TO AGAIN LAND FISH IN BRITAIN: Icelandic fishing interests have approached the Grimsby (England) Dock Authority for a site to build a modern processing plant in their latest attempt to beat the British fishing industry ban on Icelandic-caught fish. A meeting was due to be held between Icelandic interests and the Humber Ports Authority in Hull when fuller discussions will take place, states the January 22 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine.

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SHRIMP SHIPPED BY AIR: For the past few months a Fleetwood, England, frozen foods firm has been flying shrimp (prawn) from Ireland and the Isle of Man to Fleetwood, the British fishery magazine The Fishing News (December 19) reports. The dealer claims this has improved the quality of his product 50 percent and the additional cost has been offset by the absence of loss of weight by shrinkage and the time saved in processing. The firm reports it also shipped consignments by air for export to points as far as the United States.

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U. S. CANNED SALMON PURCHASE: Great Britain recently purchased 31,750 cases (about 1,500,000 pounds) of canned salmon, valued at \$800,000, in the United States, the British Embassy recently reported in Washington, D. C. This purchase was the result of the recent visit of Sir Andrew Jones to Seattle, Washington, in order to obtain offers of United States canned salmon for the British Ministry of Food.

While the total quantity involved is not large, this sale of canned salmon probably will be the last British Government purchase before resumption of prewar trade in this commodity between the United States and Great Britain. Prior to World War II Great Britain was a very important market for United States canned salmon.

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CONTRACT FOR LARGE ORDER OF CANADIAN CANNED SALMON: The United Kingdom has agreed to purchase C\$5 million worth of canned salmon in Canada. According to the British press, the contract calls for delivery of 220,000 cases of unspecified types, 15,000 cases more than the 1953 contract. The total British Columbia salmon pack for 1953 was 1,820,000 cases.

This contract for bulk purchase of salmon by the British Government is believed to be the final one of this type, since it is expected that future trading will be done on a private basis. According to reports, the British decision to buy canned salmon was largely a result of a concerted effort by the British Columbia fishing industry to buy fishing gear and canning equipment from the United Kingdom under a gentlemen's agreement that the dollars earned from such purchases would be used to buy British Columbia salmon.

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HERRING TRAWLING TESTS SUCCESSFUL: Experiments in trawling for herring, carried out by the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have now been successfully concluded. Three vessels were used in the tests, reports the February 5 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine.

Results show that British fishermen should be able to catch herring in commercial quantities by this method, using vessels of 90 to 175 feet in length.

Although Continental fishermen have trawled herring with great success in recent years, British fishermen have made little headway with the method. It was with the purpose of solving problems connected with the method and to encourage British fishermen to enter this new field that the Ministry undertook the experiments.

The Ministry's press statement on the experiments is as follows: "Trawling for herring has become increasingly important in Germany, Holland, and France in the last few years. Not only has the total amount of herring caught by this method increased but the length of the season, because of the exploitation of new grounds, has also increased.

"Vessels which had been used in the past for herring trawling were mainly of the "distant water" type, of 175 feet B.P. or even larger. More recently smaller vessels of about 90 feet and 240 horsepower have been used throughout most of the season with considerable success, but not on all grounds.

"Since the war many attempts have been made to extend herring trawling but so far little success has been achieved by British fishermen in southern areas. It was with the intention of trying to solve some of the problems in herring trawling that the Ernest Holt, one of the Ministry's research vessels, was fitted out with a Dutch herring trawl in January 1953. Later in the year, trials with the herring trawl were repeated from smaller vessels to see whether the success achieved with the Ernest Holt could be repeated and herring trawling be carried out from the size of vessel normally carrying out demersal trawling in the southern North Sea. Three trips were made with the Platessa, a 90-foot M.F.V., and one with the Sir Lancelot, a 125-foot trawler. In addition, in order to see that the gear was working properly, photographs of the net were made while it was being towed by using an underwater frogman as observer.

"The combined results of these experiments show that it is possible to catch herring in commercial quantities from vessels of 90 feet to 175 feet in length.

"During the experiments two nets on the Dutch rig were used, one being a scaled-down version of the other. The larger net had a 63-foot headline and was worked from the Ernest Holt, while the smaller had a 54-foot headline and was used by the Sir Lancelot and Platessa. The nets were rigged in various ways and the specifications are available at the Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft.

"The gear as used by the Ministry's vessels might not be the most efficient net nor rigged in the best way but commercial quantities of herring have been caught with the trawl as used by the research ships and it is suggested that this rigging should be used as a start."

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NOVEL METHOD OF DETERMINING FRESHNESS OF FISH DEVELOPED: Experiments on judging the freshness of fish by the glaze in its eyes are being carried out at the Torry research station, Aberdeen, Scotland, reports the December 1953 Fish Industry, a British fishery magazine. The eyes of the fish are compared with a series of glass eyes, and it is claimed that this method is an accurate guide in determining how long a fish has been out of the water.

The glass eyes are filled with liquids of different cloudiness, each corresponding to the "eye-glaze" of fish for which accurate records have been kept on the length of time out of the water. The "eye-glaze" which matches the eye of the fish being examined reveals how long that fish has been out of water.

These experiments are being made to enable scientists to compare the efficiency of different methods of storing fish, and to check on the age of fish landed by fishing vessels.

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LOANS FOR FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVES: A new plan of financial assistance to encourage cooperatives (especially among inshore fishermen) for the marketing of white fish was announced by the White Fish Authority. The plan has been drawn up after consultation with the White Fish Advisory Council, the Fisheries Organization Society, and the Scottish Agricultural Organization.

Financial assistance by way of grant will be available for the formation of new cooperatives; these grants will be given towards (1) the expenses of formation, and (2) certain costs of administration (including the services of staff) during an initial period.

Loans will be made to new cooperatives towards capital expenditures on activities to which Section 4 (1) (b) of the 1951 Act applies; that is, the selling of white fish or the buying of materials and other requisites for the industry (including gear, fuel, and stores for fishing vessels). Loans will also be made to existing cooperatives towards expenditure on developments embracing the same activities. Loans will be granted only on expenditure approved by the Authority.

The amount of the loans will not exceed 80 percent of the expenditure. The rates of interest until further notice will be 2-7/8 percent for loans for not more than 5 years, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ percent for loans for more than 5 years but not more than 15 years, and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ percent for loans for more than 15 years and not more than 20 years.

Loans made for the purpose of acquiring capital assets will be secured on those assets or by other equivalent security. Applications for loans for other purposes will be considered on their merits.

Although these arrangements are open to all persons engaged in the white fish industry, the Authority expects that they will principally be of interest to inshore fishermen. The Authority is most anxious to encourage voluntary cooperative organizations of inshore fishermen, and trusts that these offers of assistance will lead to the formation of more of them.

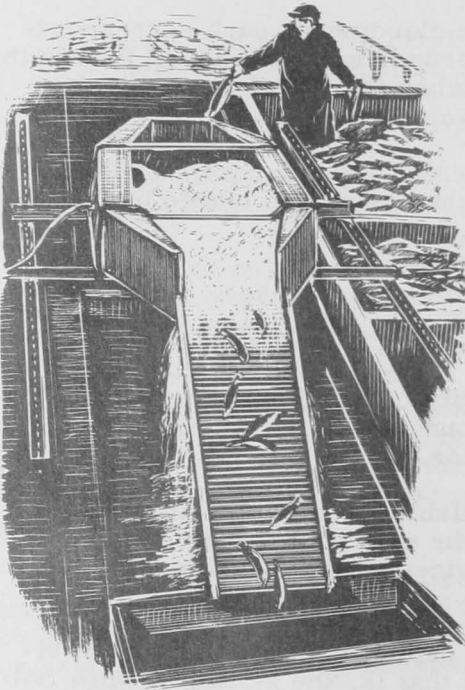
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FISH CONSUMPTION, 1952/53: The United Kingdom per-capita fish and fillet consumption in 1952/53 (July-June) amounted to 10.4 pounds edible weight, according to a February 25 report from the U. S. Embassy at London. This was a decrease of 11 percent from the prewar (1934-38) average of 11.7 pounds. The consumption for the next fiscal year, 1953/54, is forecast to drop to 10.0 pounds per person.

The per-capita consumption of whale meat in the United Kingdom during 1952/53 was 0.1 pound and the forecast for the next year is estimated at 0.05 pound.

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REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1952: Sea-Fishery Landings: The total ex-vessel value of all sea-fishery landings of British-caught fish and shellfish in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland amounted to £45,050,697 in 1952 (US\$126.1 million) against £46,672,743 (US\$130.7 million) in 1951.



Fish-washing device for British trawlers.

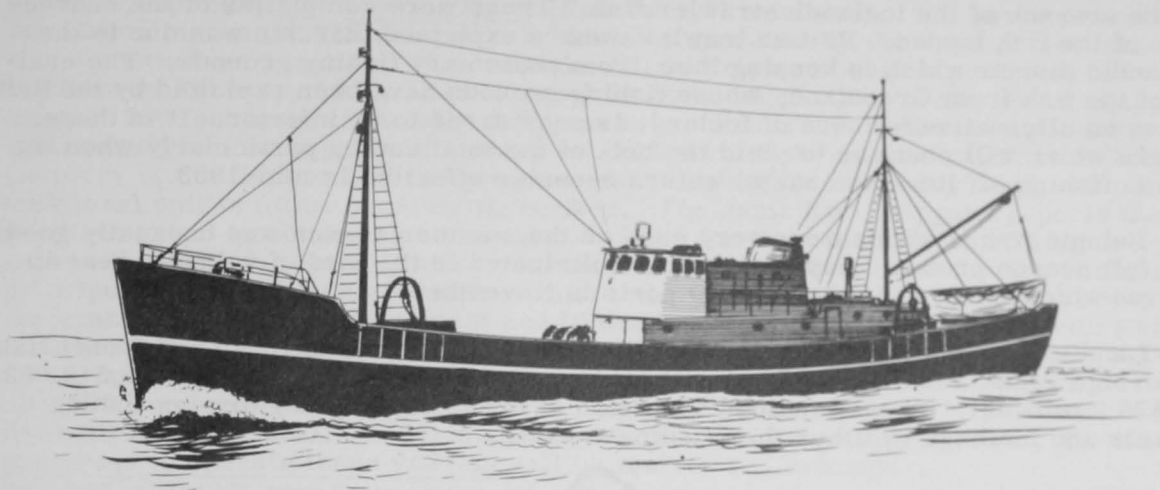
Sea-fishery landings of wet fish in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1952 totaled 2,230 million pounds, valued at £43,863,321 (US\$122.8 million) ex-vessel, compared with 2,127 million pounds, valued at £45,492,286 (US\$127.4 million), in 1951. The ex-vessel value of shellfish landed amounted to £1,187,376 (US\$3.3 million) in 1952--about the same as in 1951.

The sea-fishery landings by distant, near- and middle-water British vessels in England, Scotland, and Wales (excluding Northern Ireland) in 1952 totaled 2,219 million pounds of wet fish, valued at over £43,714,409 (US\$122.2 million) ex-vessel, according to a report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (table 1). This is an increase of 5 percent in quantity, but 4 percent less in value when compared with the 1951 landings of 2,115 million pounds, valued at £45,333,661 (US\$126.9), reports a March 2 U. S. Embassy dispatch from London. In addition, 42.1 million pounds plus 19.8 million pieces of shellfish (valued at US\$3.3 million ex-vessel)

were landed in 1952, compared with 44.8 million pounds plus 20.5 million pieces (valued at US\$3.3 million) in 1951.

Demersal species comprised 77 percent of the catch in England, Scotland, and Wales. Cod was the leading variety landed and comprised 38 percent of the wet-fish catch; followed by haddock, 11 percent; and whiting, 5 percent. Livers and roe accounted for 3 percent of the wet-fish total.

The drop in the ex-vessel value of fishery landings--in spite of the increased landings--was attributed to the Government decontrol of other food items which adversely affected the demand for fish.



Modern British distant-water trawler.

With Icelandic landings out of the picture since October 1952, it was expected that supplies of fish would be short and prices very high. However, supplies have

Table 1 - United Kingdom^{1/} Sea Fisheries Landings by British Vessels, 1952 & 1951
(Includes England, Scotland, and Wales)

Species	1952			1951		
	Quantity Lbs.	Ex-vessel Value £	Ex-vessel Value US\$	Quantity Lbs.	Ex-vessel Value £	Ex-vessel Value US\$
Demersal Fish:						
Catfish.....	15,293,040	277,445	776,800	14,526,848	209,182	585,700
Cod.....	847,454,048	16,211,185	45,391,300	833,353,584	16,751,539	46,904,300
Dogfish.....	28,225,008	436,812	1,223,000	28,474,880	453,253	1,269,100
Haddock.....	243,042,464	6,301,100	17,643,100	263,764,928	7,339,411	20,550,400
Hake.....	51,098,096	3,091,462	8,656,100	54,174,736	3,338,674	9,348,300
Ling.....	20,641,264	253,289	709,200	22,747,872	302,606	847,300
Plaice.....	65,446,416	3,257,630	9,121,400	63,116,816	3,502,558	9,807,200
Redfish.....	31,390,464	353,359	989,400	32,973,136	408,378	1,143,500
Saithe (coalfish)...	76,095,824	877,251	2,456,300	71,585,696	749,102	2,097,500
Skates & Rays.....	39,690,448	1,077,361	3,016,600	43,349,152	1,215,278	3,402,800
Whiting.....	118,336,288	2,145,083	6,006,200	106,059,744	1,935,458	5,419,300
Other Species.....	92,081,808	3,849,724	10,779,200	99,044,848	4,189,065	11,729,400
Livers & roe.....	74,828,432	797,389	2,232,700	77,342,048	943,350	2,641,400
Total Demersal Fish	1,703,623,600	38,929,090	109,001,300	1,710,514,288	41,337,854	115,746,200
Pelagic Fish:						
Herring.....	462,516,880	4,359,523	12,206,700	367,695,888	3,628,433	10,159,600
Mackerel.....	14,648,592	170,656	477,800	13,938,064	179,359	502,200
Pilchard.....	10,588,816	145,517	407,400	12,793,536	131,116	367,100
Sprats.....	26,872,272	105,434	295,200	9,795,296	51,218	143,400
Total Pelagic Fish	514,626,560	4,781,130	13,387,100	404,222,784	3,990,126	11,172,300
Other Wet Fish.....	270,704	4,189	11,700	366,464	5,681	15,900
Total Wet Fish.....	2,218,520,864	43,714,409	122,400,100	2,115,103,536	45,333,661	126,934,400
Shellfish:						
Crabs.....	No. of Pieces 10,598,968	345,161	966,500	No. of Pieces 9,994,180	299,422	838,400
Crawfish (crayfish)	24,400	9,555	26,700	34,700	12,654	35,400
Lobsters.....	1,605,231	299,597	838,900	1,646,949	304,572	852,800
Oysters.....	7,630,101	140,624	393,700	8,881,000	165,342	463,000
Other Shellfish...	Lbs. 42,112,000	388,500	1,087,800	Lbs. 44,873,000	394,174	1,103,700
Total Shellfish...		1,183,437	3,313,600		1,176,164	3,293,300
Grand Total.....		44,897,846	125,713,700		46,509,825	130,227,700

^{1/}EXCLUDES NORTHERN IRELAND.

been more than adequate and large quantities have found their way to the fish-meal factories and oil-reduction plants. Prices fluctuated between very high and very low, but these fluctuations followed abnormally stormy weather and were not caused by the absence of the Icelandic-trawler fish. There were complaints of the coarseness of the fish landed. British trawler owners explained that this was due to the Icelandic dispute which is keeping them from customary fishing grounds. The quality of the fish from Greenland, whose fishing grounds have been exploited by the British as an alternative to those of Iceland, is considered to be inferior. It is these waters which will continue to yield the bulk of the total catch, particularly when the ban on fishing off Russian coastal waters becomes effective in mid-1953.

Pelagic fish landings were very good as the summer season was unusually good. The fall season proved disappointing and culminated in the loss of valuable gear in storms which swept over the herring ports in November.

Landings by Foreign Vessels: Landings at British ports of fresh and frozen fish by foreign vessels during 1952 amounted to 278.4 million pounds, valued at £9,343,082 (US\$26.2 million). These landings consisted of direct landings by foreign fishing vessels and landings by other than fishing vessels.



U. S. S. R.

NEGOTIATING FOR NEW FISHERY VESSELS: A group of British shipbuilders are negotiating with the Russian Foreign Trade Ministry on an order for new fishery vessels. Negotiations had reached the contractual stage. The order is likely to be for 20 trawlers and 7 factoryships, valued at between £10 million and £13 million (US\$28-36.4 million). Earlier reports had indicated that the order might involve a total of 40 vessels, valued at £8 million (US\$22.4 million). A spokesman for the British shipbuilders said: "As far as I am aware this is likely to be one of the biggest single orders for merchant ships ever placed, if not the biggest."

The vessels will be built at Lowestoft. Deliveries would have to be spaced over a considerable period and the final decision on delivery dates may be the most difficult part of the contract to settle, the January 29 issue of The Fishing News (a British fishery magazine) points out.

It was announced in the House of Commons in November 1953 that the British Admiralty had agreed to the sale of 30 fishing vessels to the Soviet Union.

Another group of British shipbuilders, headed by the general manager of an Aberdeen shipyard has also been seeking orders in Moscow. For 10 days they have held preliminary discussions with Russian leaders and hope eventually to negotiate orders for a number of fishing vessels.

A report from Copenhagen says that Denmark may offer to build five more refrigerated vessels for Russia during coming trade negotiations. Danish shipyards recently concluded an order for five refrigerated vessels, mainly for Soviet fisheries.

Refrigerating equipment for these last five new fish carriers built for the Soviet Union by a Copenhagen firm have been supplied by a Danish firm in Aarhus. The owners of the vessels specified that 50 tons of "uncut" salmon, cod, or flounder must be frozen daily in waters of 20° C. (68° F.) at an outside temperature of 30° C. (86° F.), and that the temperature in the center of the fish after it had been submerged for glazing should be no higher than -15° C. (5° F.). Other requirements were for a cargo-hold refrigerating plant to keep a temperature of -18° C. (0.4° F.) sufficient to maintain the frozen fish at between -15° C. and -18° C.

A German shipyard at Kiel has secured an order from a Soviet trade delegation in Berlin to build 10 fish factory vessels for the U. S. S. R., according to the West German economics news agency. The vessels will have an aggregate tonnage of about 30,000 tons, The Fishing News (February 5) points out. The order is worth 80 million marks (US\$19 million). It has been approved by the appropriate international control commission. The vessels will be delivered over a period of two years, the first in February 1955. Each vessel is to be about 3,000 gross tons and approximately 260 feet long. Specially designed to process frozen and canned fish at sea, each vessel will be capable of turning out 30 tons of fish--canned or frozen--daily. Delivery of the first unit of the program has been set for February 1955, with an additional unit to follow monthly thereafter. The same Kiel shipyard reports that it has been asked to obtain the necessary licenses for the construction of 15 more vessels of this type for Russia. The vessels will be equipped with modern machinery, principally for the filleting of salmon and cod. Russia probably intends to operate the vessels near the Asiatic coast and in the Arctic. The vessels, each with a crew of 90 men, will not only prepare their own catches, but will be able to serve as processing and canning plants for the catches delivered by other fishing vessels. In addition to processing canning equipment, the vessels are equipped to produce cod-liver oil and fish meal. Under a stipulation of the construction contract, Russian personnel to operate these vessels will be trained in Germany.

Note: See Commercial Fisheries Review, October 1953, p. 62.



International

INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

HEINTZLEMAN APPOINTED U. S. COMMISSIONER: B. Frank Heintzleman, Governor of Alaska, was appointed as the fourth United States Commissioner to the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission. The Commission (established pursuant to a Convention between Canada, Japan, and the United States) opened its first meeting in Washington on February 1, 1954. Mr. Heintzleman was appointed a few days after the appointment of the other three United States Commissioners was announced: E. W. Allen, Seattle, Wash.; M. E. Brooding, San Francisco, Calif.; and J. L. Farley, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

Note: See Commercial Fisheries Review, April 1954, p. 34.



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