International

UNITED STATES-JAPANESE FISHING OPERATION CATCHES TUNA FOR AMERICAN SAMOA CANNERY

A U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service observer returned early in May from American Samoa, where he has been since January observing the progress of an experimental venture in American-Japanese cooperative tuna fishing. The Service is interested in this fishing operation because of its own extensive program for the development of tuna fisheries in the central Pacific area. This Samoan operation involves the use of the U. S. Government-owned tuna cannery at Pago Pago, which had been idle since 1950.

The observer reported that the initial stage of the venture, which involved 7 Japanese fishing boats and 2 United States freezerships, produced a total of about 590 tons of tuna, one-fourth of it albacore and the rest yellowfin, over the period from January 15 to April 15. Catches of tuna declined sharply during the latter part of March and April, indicating that the abundance of tuna in Samoan waters may be subject to considerable seasonal fluctuations. This is a matter which only the experience of year-round fishing can clarify.

The enterprise was financed and managed by the California cannery which leased the tuna cannery at Pago Pago from the U. S. Government. The fishing fleet was under contract to a Japanese company which bought the fish from the boats and sold them to the California firm. A large part of the tuna catch was frozen and shipped to the firm's canneries in California aboard the chartered freezership North Star, while the marlin were frozen and shipped to Japan in the freezership Washington Star, a U. S. vessel chartered by the Japanese company.

Enough tuna was processed at the cannery, however, to give it its first trial of full-scale operation since its construction in 1949. Although numerous minor problems remain to be solved, the feasibility of producing canned tuna in American Samoa has been demonstrated. The high demand for tuna, combined with the obvious advantages of less expensive fish, availability of Samoan labor, and proximity to new tuna grounds make it almost certain that every effort will be made to get the Pago Pago plant into steady production.

VESSEL OWNERS OF THREE EUROPEAN NATIONS SEEK MESH STANDARDIZATION FOR TRAWL NETS

A conference of French, Spanish, and Portuguese fishing fleet owners held recently at San Sebastian, Spain, petitioned their respective governments for a standard minimum mesh for trawl nets. They seek a standard mesh size for trawl nets used off the coasts of these countries between Brest and Gibraltar (48° N. and 36° N.). Except for hake and sole, the minimum sizes for fish would be the same as those adopted by the North European Overfishing Convention.

The delegates of French, Spanish, and Portuguese fishing-fleet owners agreed to ask their governments to standardize on an 80 mm. (3.15 inches) minimum mesh for trawl nets.

The conference was held to prepare for the international fishing conference scheduled to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on May 4, 1954. The present minimum mesh for nets permitted by the Portuguese Government is 65 mm. (2.5 inches), a March 18 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lisbon points out.

JAPAN-AUSTRALIA REACH INTERIM AGREEMENT ON PEARL FISHING IN ARAFURA SEA

An interim agreement between the Japanese and Australian Governments has been reached to allow limited Japanese pearl fishing in the Arafura Sea, pending the outcome of an appeal to the International Court of Justice. The agreement permits a fleet of one mothership and 25 diving luggers to operate, and a total harvest of 957 metric tons of shell, the equivalent of last year's production. The crew members of the fleet are not to land in Australian territory except in emergency and with prior approval from the Australian Government. A Japanese Fisheries Agency inspector shall accompany the fleet to see that the terms of the agreement are adhered to, states a May 14 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo.

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

REPORT ON FIRST MEETING IN WASHINGTON: The first meeting of the Joint United States-Canadian Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs was held in Washington on March 16, 1954. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for United States and Canadian Ministers to examine the trade and economic problems that are common to both oountries. A second meeting to continue consideration by the Joint Committee was arranged for Ottawa at a later date, a U. S. Department of State March 17 news release announces.

The Ministers noted that the trade between Canada and the United States is greater than that between any other two countries. They discussed various aspects of present trade relations and agreed on the desirability of avoiding any action which would interfere with this trade.

Consideration was given throughout the discussions to the need for action towards freer trade and payments on a broad front. It was agreed that recovery to economic health has not progressed equally for all countries. What is needed, it was concluded, is the creation of a more flexible system of trade and payments throughout the world. It was agreed that much of the necessary preparation for such advance has been accomplished by the work of the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy in the United States, by proposals of the Commonwealth Economic Conference, and by discussions within the Organization for European Economic Cooperation. In advancing toward a freer system of world trade and payments, it was further agreed that international organizations, such as the Contracting Parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Bank, would continue to play an important roll. It was realized that enlightened economic policies on the part of the United States and Canada will materially contribute to establishing and maintaining broader freedom of trade and payments throughout the world.

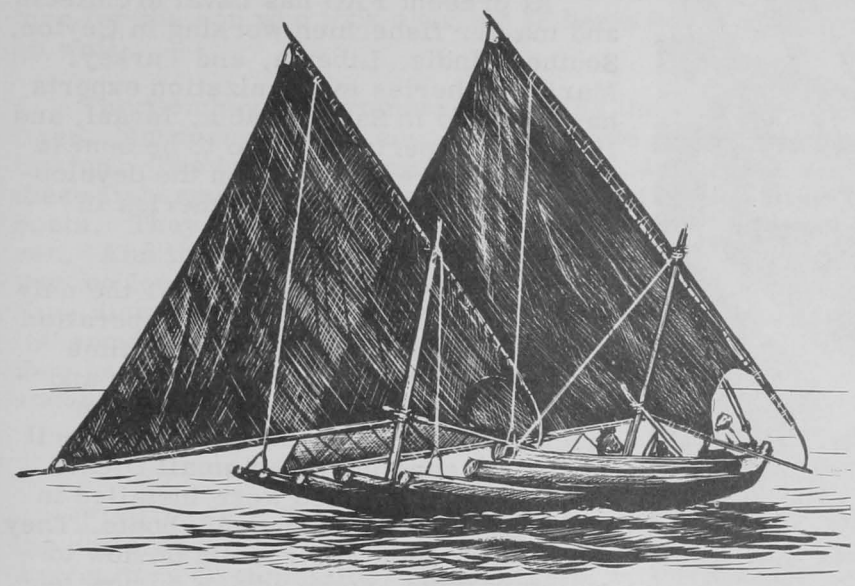
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

WORLD'S FISHERMEN USING MORE POWERED VESSELS: More than half of the surface of the earth is covered by the sea. But from this huge area of water comes only about one percent of the food of the earth's 2.5 billion people, states a March 26 release from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Part of the reason for the low total food yield of the sea is the low potential productivity of much of the world's salt-water surfaces. But an important reason is the

low efficiency with which the great majority of the world's fishermen carry on their work, with only wind and muscle to drive their boats and haul their nets and lines.

In tropical areas the fishermen often rely on the wind that blows from the land in the morning to take their simple sailing boats to the fishing grounds, and on the breeze that blows from the sea in the afternoon to bring them home again. But the winds are weak and inconsistent. The trip to the fishing grounds is slow and so is the return in the afternoon. And when there is no wind, the schools of fish must be found and chased by muscle power. So the work is hard and the yields are low.



Typical fishing vessel (Catamaran) Coromandal Coast of India.

In Ceylon, for instance, there are about 60,000 people whose main occupation is fishing. Between them they take a total of about 30,000 metric tons of fish per year--an average of half a ton per year, or about 20 pounds per week per fisherman.

Farther north, on the Coromandal Coast in India, about 140,000 fishermen take only about half a ton per man per year. These yields are deplorably low compared with yields per man in the more advanced fishing areas of the world and compared with Iceland's average annual take per fisherman of about 38 tons, for instance.

All the blame cannot, of course, be thrown on the differences in fishing techniques in the developed and underdeveloped countries. The tropical seas are not the rich treasure houses of fish that popular fancy believes they are; they will never support such highly-concentrated fishing industries as those of the great shallow banks of the North Atlantic. But they will certainly give many times their present yield without danger of exhaustion.

Much of the answer lies in mechanization. It is a common belief that a mechanized fishing industry is the prerogative of the advanced community; that the fisherman of the underdeveloped country can't afford to run a powered craft. But the experience of FAO in mechanization of underdeveloped fishing industries is that no fisherman can afford to be without the help of the engine. The poorer the fishing in an area, the greater the need for power to go farther to sea in search of fish and to move swiftly and easily with the schools when they are found. And if an area is just a little too poor to support a powered fisherman it is usually a lot too poor to support an unpowered fisherman.

FAO believes that even in very poor fishing communities engines can be put into boats and more than pay for themselves in extra catches. It is a belief that already has been tested and proved valid several times.

Strong efforts are therefore being made by FAO, especially through its Expanded Technical Assistance Program, to increase fisheries production in underdeveloped parts of the world through improvements in fishing craft and gear, and most

of all through mechanization. In so many of the less developed countries, the particular importance of fisheries industries lies in the contributions of animal protein they can make to the food supply of people whose diets are dangerously low in all types of protein.

Ceylonese fishermen unloading nets at a fish dock.

At present FAO has naval architects and master fishermen working in Ceylon, Southern India, Liberia, and Turkey. Marine fisheries mechanization experts have worked in Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Iraq, and experts are also to be sent in the near future to advise on the development of powered marine fisheries in Chile, Brazil, and Iran.

In Ceylon at the end of 1951 the only motor-powered fishing boat in operation was one steam trawler. At that time FAO provided a master fisherman and later a marine engineer to advise on mechanization of the industry. In April 1953 FAO supplied three small Diesel marine engines which were installed in three Ceylonese fishermen's boats. They were given some instruction on how to maintain them, some advice on how to use their new equipment, and then left to their own devices. At the end of six months they were asked if they wanted to buy the motors. If they didn't think the motors were worth the money, FAO would take them out and restore the boats to their original condition. They all jumped at the chance of buying the motors and other fishermen in the area clamoured for motors too. So on FAO's recommendation another 40 small Diesel marine engines are being provided under the Colombo Plan and will be sold to Ceylonese fishermen on easy terms. And more engines will be provided later.

In Ceylon the fishermen are just learning the first advantages of powered fishing: the ability to go out more often and farther in search of fish, and the ability to keep moving with the fish when they are found, without depending on the wind. The second advantage still to be appreciated fully is the use of the motors in actual fishing operations--for hauling more nets and lines at greater speed and ease than is possible when only human muscles are available.

Another of FAO's demonstrations of the advantages of mechanized fishing was carried out in Saudi Arabia where not a single powered fishing vessel was in service before FAO came on the scene at the end of 1952. A fisheries biologist was provided to explore the fisheries possibilities of Saudi Arabia, a master fisherman to advise on their exploitation, and a trawler and crew to demonstrate modern fishing methods. The experts' survey showed that the Red Sea off Saudi Arabia, although not a really rich fishing ground, was in some areas capable of yielding commercially profitable catches. Now Saudi Arabian authorities are sponsoring a fishing company with a capital of more than £1 million (US$2.8 million). Ice plants are to be installed, small powered boats have been ordered, and operation of modern power trawlers is planned in the near future. And the fisheries biologist whom FAO sent to the country on a six-month appointment has been given a senior post with the new company.

The pioneer modern demonstration of the capacity of a poor fishing community to make powered fishing pay has been carried out on the Indian coast north of Bombay under the guidance of the Bombay State Directorate of Fisheries. Until 4 or 5 years ago fishermen in this area were abjectly poor and perpetually in debt to the fish merchants who advanced them money in the lean seasons and then fixed their own price for the catches they bought when the fishing was good. It was not uncommon for the son who took over his father's boat to take over his grandfather's debts as well.

The Bombay Government sponsored the formation of dozens of fishing cooperatives, lent money to the cooperatives, and gave advice on the switchover to power fishing. The handful of years since then has worked a revolution in the lives of these fishermen. They have nearly paid off all the money it cost to equip their boats. They have rebuilt their villages. They have set up schools for their children. And they have formed their own cooperative marketing organizations so that they no longer need accept whatever prices the fish dealers will pay them. They have disproved the predictions of the prophets of doom who said that to give a poor fisherman expensive equipment was merely to help him go bankrupt faster. And they have shown what a little time, a little money, and a little advice can do to an underdeveloped fishing industry almost anywhere in the world.

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FISH FLOUR TESTS IN CHILE SUCCESSFUL: Progress has been made in feeding children with bread made of high-protein "fish flour," reports the Food and Agriculture Organization. Bread made with fish flour "was found acceptable by all who took part" in a 50-day test among 140 Santiago, Chile, school children, according to a recent report published in The Fishing News (March 19, 1954), a British fishery trade periodical.

Each child received with his daily school lunch a piece of bread made with 9 parts of white wheat flour and 1 part of South African fish flour. The children, unaware of the experiment, ate all the bread, the report says, "and made no remarks whatsoever showing that they disliked it in any way."

Fish flour was also tried out in a number of dishes, such as soups, stews, vegetables, and baked products, which were prepared and served to a few people in Santiago. "Although some of the participants found an abnormal odor or flavor in some of the dishes," the report states, "all of them accepted a number of others, including beef-leaf pie, beans, cocktail crackers, and coffee cake."

In view of the satisfactory results achieved in Chile, FAO proposes to conduct similar "acceptability tests" in other countries.

Other recent FAO experiments included one using specially-processed fish meal and other high-protein substances as substitutes for cow's milk in countries lacking dairy industries.

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ISRAELI CARP USED TO STOCK MEXICAN INLAND WATERS: A total of 100 offspring of Israeli carp sent by FAO to stock Haiti's streams and ponds have continued the travels of their families by a move to Mexico, where they are to be used to stock the waters of the country's central highlands, an April 19 news release from the Food and Agriculture Organization announces.

They were taken to Mexico in March by the head of Mexico's Fish Culture Commission, who had just completed a three weeks' study of FAO's fish culture program in Haiti under a fellowship granted him by the Inter-American program of technical

cooperation. He carried out his studies of fish culture in Haiti with Shimon Tal, the Israeli fish culturist whom FAO sent to Haiti under its expanded technical assistance program.

Haiti's livestock industry does not supply the protein food needs of the population, so development of the fish farming industry is of great importance in raising nutritional levels of the people. It is hoped to raise Haitian pond and stream fish production to at least 15,000 tons per year.

The carp fingerlings which were taken to Mexico with him were the first offspring of Israeli carp taken to Haiti in September last year. When they arrived in Haiti they weighed less than four ounces each. At the beginning of February, when they spawned for the first time, they had reached an average weight of eight pounds. All of the commercial ponds in Haiti are to be stocked with Israeli carp.

WHALING

SMALLER MINIMUM LENGTH FOR FINBACK WHALES PROPOSED BY NORWAY: Norway has proposed that the minimum length of finback whales that may be caught in the Antarctic be reduced from 60 to 55 feet, reports Norway's permanent representative on the International Whaling Commission. He says that the proposal will be considered by the Commission at its next meeting in Tokyo about July 20.

The Norwegian proposal is completely in accord with the nearly unanimous demands voiced by harpooners on their return from last winter's whaling season in the Antarctic, a Norwegian Information Service bulletin of May 20 states. The viewpoint is scientifically supported by the statistical material presented by a professor of the Norwegian Institute for Whaling Research. The data show, for one thing, that after the minimum measure for finbacks was raised in 1951 from 55 to 60 feet, the catch of substandard whales of both sexes was approximately doubled.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

ICELAND TO SHIP FISHERY PRODUCTS TO POLAND: A trade agreement between Iceland and Poland requires that during 1954 Iceland deliver to Poland 3,000 metric tons of frozen herring, 1,000 tons of salt herring, 2,000 tons of fish meal, 1,300 tons of medicinal cod-liver oil, and a not yet stipulated quantity of quick-frozen fillets, according to Dansk Fiskeritidende (May 14), a Danish trade magazine.

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SWEDEN-U.S.S.R TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISHERY PRODUCTS AND FISHING VESSELS: Sweden and the U.S.S.R. have provided for an exchange of commodities in 1954 under the terms of their trade and payments agreement of September 7, 1940, and protocol of October 7, 1946, and signed on February 2, 1954.

Swedish exports to Russia, according to the March 29 Foreign Commerce Weekly of the Department of Commerce, are to include 20 steel fishing trawlers to be delivered during 1954-56, and 5 Diesel refrigeration ships to be delivered during 1955-56. Quotas are established for certain Swedish exports including herring--2,000 metric tons.

Russian shipments to Sweden will include crab and fish conserves.

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NETHERLANDS-CZECHOSLOVAKIA TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISH: A mutual exchange of goods between the Netherlands and Czechoslovakia for one year ending January 31, 1955, is provided for in a new trade agreement signed on

February 13 at The Hague. Netherlands exports to Czechoslovakia are to include 3,000 metric tons of fish. This agreement does not include any Czech exports of fishery products, according to the March 29 Foreign Commerce Weekly, a Department of Commerce publication.

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VENEZUELA-COLOMBIA TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES CANNED FISH: Arrangements have been made between Venezuela and Colombia whereby Venezuela will ship 5,000 cases of canned fish in exchange for cotton cloth, a May 12 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas reports. This trade was announced by the Venezuela Minister of Development in connection with the Tenth Congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry meeting in Maracaibo, Venezuela, on May 11.

Angola

STATUS OF THE FISHERIES: It appears that the Angolan fishing industry is developing at a fairly rapid pace. The fish products industry associations have apparently enjoyed competent and aggressive administration, and even considering the fact that 1953 catches were good, the results shown have been decidedly encouraging. The Government will undoubtedly have a continuing interest in the development of this industry which is playing an ever more important part in the Angolan economy.

Fishing: Most Angolan fishing boats are propelled by oars or sails, but some progress is being made in motorizing the fishing fleet. However, this is necessarily slow as owners must continually contend with high fuel prices and unreliable supplies. Some of the newer boats have recently been equipped with electronic sounding equipment but use of equipment of this type is not yet general, a February 11 U. S. consular dispatch from Luanda states.

Pulling a fish trap off Equimina, Angola. This gear is used for catching tuna.

Fish Processing: The fish processing industry is divided into three principal types: (a) salting and drying, (b) fish meal and oil, and (c) canned fish. Drying establishments are usually found in conjunction with small fisheries located at river mouths or in small bays. These fisheries are generally under the supervision of a European who has had some experience in the Portuguese fisheries, and who employs a crew of 20 to 30 natives operating a fleet of dugout canoes or rowboats. Fish are seined from nearby waters and when the catch is brought ashore the fish are beheaded and eviscerated by women and children. They are then washed, split, and rubbed with coarse salt, after which they are placed on racks made of rough wood and left to dry in the sun. Dried fish in Angola is presently produced by this method, although the Government is investigating means of mechanizing certain operations, particularly the actual drying process in order to improve the quality of the product.

The manufacture of fish meal and fish oil is becoming modernized at a more rapid rate. Natural drying is being replaced by mechanical drying, and centrifugal extractors are replacing presses for the extraction of the oil.

Fish canneries generally have modern equipment, but the Government believes that there is a great need for additional refrigeration equipment.

The Government states that there has been no new processing equipment installed by fish canneries since the beginning of 1952. Some new equipment has been acquired by fish-meal and fish-oil plants, and more than $1,000,000 has been spent for the acquisition of new boats, principally trawlers and motorized whale boats. In addition, unloading docks, equipped with mechanical unloading devices, have been constructed by some firms to alleviate the chronic shortage of labor which is particularly critical in the southern part of the Province.

Government Role: The Portuguese Government has initiated studies in oceanography and marine biology to find and develop areas frequented by nonmigratory species of fish. It has also undertaken a study of modern fishing methods, particularly those involving trawling. As part of the oceanographic project, the Government, through the Ministry of Overseas Territories, maintained an oceanographic mission in Angola from 1951 to 1952. This mission returned to Portugal in 1953 to study the data it had accumulated, but is scheduled to return to Angolan waters for further investigation in 1954.

The Portuguese Government has sponsored improved industrial organization through the creation of "Gremios" or associations, which supervise the activities of member firms and help them solve processing problems.

The Angolan Government supervises the activities of the associations of firms engaged in the fishing industry. Through its regional laboratories and technicians, it directs and controls the manufacture of fish products with a view to their constant improvement. Through the Services of Economy, the Animal Industry and Veterinary Services, and the Maritime Department, it prescribes methods of factory construction and operation. It has undertaken a project to relieve the chronic water shortage which effects the principal centers of the fishing industry. The Angolan Government supervises labor conditions in the industry.

British Guiana

SHRIMP FISHERY: Approximately 2,000 pounds of shrimp can be caught daily off British Guiana's Atlantic coast, according to the June 1953 Caribbean Commission Bulletin. However, the shrimp fishery is apparently in need of organization and supervision, the British Guiana Acting Fisheries Officer reported in a recent radio broadcast. According to the press (Daily Argosy, January 18), he further stated:

"Previously large quantities of shrimps were thrown away during the glut season. We therefore fostered the dried shrimp industry which incidentally has resulted in the registration of a shrimp factory. This factory takes care of all surplus shrimp. Thus, all dried shrimp used in the Colony are produced locally instead of being imported as before, and small quantities are even exported, especially to Trinidad.

"I guess that housewives will now be blaming us for the increase of the price of shrimp, but I can assure them that the development of the shrimping industry on the lines that we visualize will not only benefit the fishermen, but the Colony as a whole.

"With the organization of the dried shrimp industry, a byproduct industry was also started in the form of a shrimp-meal industry. The shrimp meal is made from the heads, fragments of flesh and shell, which are the residue of dried shrimp. Large quantities of this product are purchased by the Government Produce Depot, commercial agencies, and several stock farms. This meal is used for mixing in feeds, as it has a very high protein content."

Canada

DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF 15 LARGE U. S. "DEEP-SEA" FISHING VESSELS PERMITTED: The Canadian Government has approved the importation of not more than 15 U. S. vessels of over 65 feet registered length, according to a recent letter from the Canadian Fisheries Minister to a British Columbia fisheries workers union. This action was taken to encourage deep-sea fishing off the coast of British Columbia, according to the May 4 issue of The Fisherman, a Canadian trade periodical. Excerpts from the letter follow:

"...Most of the fishing nations of the world have substantial deep-sea fishing fleets which range the oceans of the world seeking fish. Canada has been fortunate in having two of the greatest fisheries in the world close to her shores, and so our fishing fleets have never had to range far from shore.

"On the East Coast we have a substantial deep-sea fleet fishing the Grand Banks. On the West Coast, our fishing has always been close to shore, largely in sheltered waters. As a consequence, very few of these boats are suitable for extensive deep-sea fishing.

"Two International events have made it imperative that we begin to develop a deep-sea fleet in the Pacific....

"...Because of the decline in the American tuna fishery and the Alaskan salmon fishery there are a considerable number of good deep-sea vessels now available on the American side at greatly reduced prices. The B. C. fishing industry feels that exploratory deep-sea fishing would be worth a trial with these boats at their present prices.

"Such importation would normally be subject to a 25 percent Customs duty and special permission from the Canadian Maritime Commission to import any of the boats over five years in age. However, the general policy of the present Government has been to remove duties on equipment used in primary industries--farming, fishing, logging, and mining. Almost everything used by a farmer is now duty-free--and almost everything used by the fisherman, too except his most important item--his boat.

"Because of the situation outlined, I, as Minister of Fisheries...made certain proposals to the Government in this connection.

"The Government has now approved the importation of not more than 15 of these American vessels of over 65 feet registered length. Only bona fide fishermen or fishing companies will be given permits by the Maritime Commission to import such boats, and the boats must be fished by those who imported them. Boats over five years in age, if in good condition, can be imported under special permit from the Maritime Commission. All boats will, of course, have to be refitted in Canadian yards to meet inspection requirements under the Canada Shipping Act.

"Full duty will be paid on importation. As an incentive, however, half this duty will be remitted after one year's deep-sea fishing, and the other half of this duty will be remitted after the second year's deep-sea fishing.

"No more than 15 vessels will be permitted entry under this program for exploratory fishing. It is felt that this will provide a large enough fleet to show whether or not deep-sea fishing off the B. C. Coast is economic. If this is established, it will be expected that all future boats for this type of fishing will be built in B. C. yards."

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1953 CANNED SALMON PACK ALL SOLD: There is no carryover from the Canadian 1953 canned salmon pack and the future for sales looks bright, according to the Canadian Minister of Fisheries in a recent report to Commons, in which he also reviewed several aspects of the fishing industry on the Pacific coast.

The Minister reported that a carryover of one million cases of salmon from 1953 had been disposed of by the British Columbia fishing industry, with the outlook excellent for the coming year, according to the May 11 issue of The Fisherman, a Canadian fishermen's and shoreworkers' paper.

Besides sales to Britain, British Columbia expects to sell C$600,000 worth of salmon to New Zealand, C$500,000 worth to Australia, and "there is a likelihood" that another Commonwealth country will buy salmon also.

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RECORD BRITISH COLUMBIA HERRING CATCH IN 1953/54: The greatest herring fishing season in British Columbia's history ended at midnight on March 16, according to the Canadian Department of Fisheries Trade News (March 1954). When the 20 purse seiners operating in the Queen Charlotte Island area made their final hauls, a grand total of over 210,000 tons of herring had been taken from coastal waters in the 1953/54 season that opened last summer. It was the first time that the final herring catch season's total ever reached the 200,000-ton mark, although fishermen came close to it in 1951/52 with approximately 198,000 tons.

This year the end came suddenly when the Federal Department of Fisheries called a halt three days before the time limit which had been extended on March 8. The herring fishing fleet had moved into the Queen Charlotte area after catch quotas had been taken or areas closed for conservation in other parts of the coast. They found herring almost immediately. By early March a considerable catch had been taken and the condition of the herring indicated that a good fishery was probable. Normally this fishing would have closed on March 10 under ordinary fishing regulations, but such was the quantity and condition of herring in the area that the Department of Fisheries on March 8 issued a fishing extension to March 19. However, the "easy" catches came to an end on March 15 and the stop order was issued for the following day.

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO HAVE JURISDICTION OVER NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES: The Canadian Federal Government will have exclusive jurisdiction over the Newfoundland fisheries commencing March 31, 1954, it was decided at a recent two-day discussion between representatives of both governments, reports a March 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Ottawa. But, since the fisheries have such paramount importance in Newfoundland, the Federal Government would always wish to consult the Provincial Government on important policy matters; however, the final responsibility for all decisions would be up to the Federal Government, according to an announcement by the Canadian Government on March 21.

The announcement further stated: "The governmental responsibility for marketing will, from April 1, 1954, be exercised by the Minister of Trade and Commerce and all other governmental responsibility in fishery matters will be exercised by the Minister of Fisheries.

"It was decided that NAFEL should no longer be the exclusive marketing agency for Newfoundland salt fish but that recognized mainland fish merchants should be licensed to buy fish in Newfoundland for processing. NAFEL, in a reorganized form and under more direct governmental supervision with primary producer representation in its direction, will continue, as undertaken by the Minister of Fisheries in his letter of March 27th, 1953, to be the exclusive agency for the direct export to other countries of salt fish from Newfoundland, on the understanding that the merchants selling through NAFEL undertake at the beginning of the season to pay minimum prices to the fishermen to be agreed on with the government of Canada and to a system of profit sharing similar to that agreed on in September 1953.

"The Federal Government for its part undertakes to have the Fisheries Prices Support Board review the operations of NAFEL in the spring of 1955 with a view to determining whether the prices actually realized are adequate or whether action is required to supplement them with deficiency payments.

"The Fisheries Prices Support Board is completing a review of the operations of NAFEL for the present season."

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COMBINATION SEALER-TRAWLER BUILT: The world's first combined sealer and trawler has been built in Scotland for a Canadian firm located in Halifax, N. S., the Trade News (February 1954) of the Canadian Department of Fisheries announced. The Theta, which arrived in Halifax on her maiden voyage in December last year, is registered in Canada and is now in regular operation.

Specially constructed for navigation in ice, the vessel has an all-welded reinforced steel hull. Deckhouses from boat deck and above are of aluminum.

Fitted with a variable-pitch propeller with electric maneuvering transmissions from the bridge and crow's-nest, it is possible for the officer on watch to maneuver the vessel at various speeds forward or backward without reducing engine speed or reversing the engine.

The Theta which is 155 feet in length and 28 feet in breadth, carries a crew of 19 men when trawling and 40 men when sealing. The crew members are berthed in comfortable accommodations forward and aft with washing facilities and showers, as well as clothes-drying facilities close by. There are separate cabins for the captain, mate, engineers, steward, and radio operators. All accommodations are ventilated by a mechanical type of trunked ventilation and are electrically heated.

The hold of the vessel is insulated and refrigeration machinery will permit temperatures in the hold to be maintained at 30° F.

Powered by a 5-cylinder Diesel engine, which develops 800 Bhp. at 250 r.p.m., the Theta is also fitted with the latest type radio, ship-to-shore telephone, direction finder, radar, and echo-sounding gear.

One of the most modern types of vessel afloat, the Theta also carries a German-designed electronic fish finder which permits detection of schools of fish and even determination of the type of fish.

A cod-liver boiling plant and two cod-liver oil tanks have been installed on the vessel aft of crew accommodations.

Colombia

U. S. REFRIGERATED VESSEL TO BUY FISH FROM FISHERMEN OFF COLOMBIA: The refrigerated fishing vessel Tropic Trader, owned by a U. S. citizen, will begin collecting fish from individual fishermen off the Island of San Andres, Colombia, for sale in Cartagena and Barranquilla. Operations were expected to begin late in May on a small scale as an exploratory measure to see if it is feasible and profitable. The fish will be sold to food wholesalers for freezing in Cartagena and to a Barranquilla fish-canning factory, states a May 17 U. S. consular dispatch from Barranquilla.

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FISH CANNERY TO CLOSE DOWN: The Colombian fishing industry suffered a setback with the announcement by the second largest fish cannery on the northern coast that it was to discontinue operations in April. Since the firm's organization three years ago, its operations have been unprofitable. Because of an insufficient supply of fish and the lack of automatic canning machinery, the firm was unable to maintain a large volume of production, reports the U. S. Embassy at Bogota.

Costa Rica

FISHERY PRODUCTS IMPORT TARIFFS RAISED: A new Costa Rican customs tariff went into effect on April 1, 1954, and provides higher duties for fishery products, according to the May 3 Foreign Commerce Weekly of the U. S. Department of Commerce. This group under "Alimentary Products" is of interest to exporters of fishery products to Costa Rica:

Fish, crustacea, mollusks, and their preparations: Old rates from 0.20 to 2.50 colones per gross kilogram ($1\frac{1}{2}$-20 U. S. cents per pound), and 4 percent ad valorem (c.i.f. value); new rates from 1.00 to 40.00 colones per gross kilogram (8 U. S. cents to US$3.20 per pound), and 4 percent ad valorem.

Denmark

NEW FAROES ISLAND FISH PLANT: A fish refrigeration and salting plant is to be erected at Thorshaven, capital of the Faroe Islands, according to the May 1 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication. This will be the first plant of its kind in the Islands and it will be equipped with modern equipment. The total cost is estimated at 700,000 kroner (US$101,000), and Danish Government funds will be used to defray the cost.

German Federal Republic

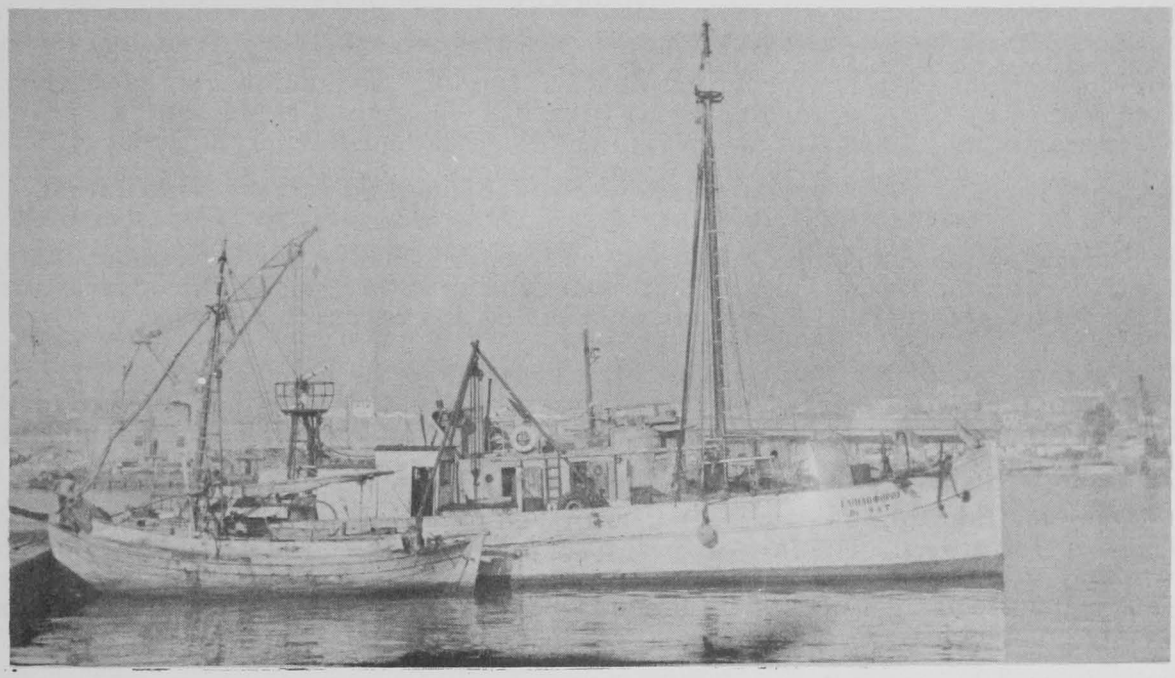
WHALING FLEET NOT GERMAN-OWNED: The whaling fleet (operating under the Panamanian flag) comprised of the factoryship Olympic Challenger and 16 catcher boats that was reported in the April 1954 (p. 45) issue of Commercial Fisheries Review as being unable to participate in this past season's Antarctic expedition, is not German-owned. There are no German owners or financial interests, connected with this whaling fleet, according to the German Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and

Forestry. A company located in Hamburg is the sole agency in Germany for the company that operates the fleet. The company that operates the fleet also has an office in New York City.

Greece

FISHING INDUSTRY, 1953: The total production of the Greek fishing industry in 1953 was estimated at approximately 42,500 metric tons, valued at about 198 billion drachmas (US$6.6 million), reports the January 1954 Aleia, a Greek fishery magazine.

A total of 5,083 vessels operated in the Greek fishery during 1953: 377 trawlers, 246 seiners, 895 trawler-seiners, 3,562 miscellaneous powered fishing vessels,



Greek fishing vessels at Pireaus, landing port for City of Athens.

and 3 vessels that operated in Atlantic waters. Of these 3, only one was successful because the other 2 were hampered by frequent machinery breakdowns.

Greek fishing activity during the year was extended to African waters where 23 to 44 trawlers operated with a monthly catch of 200 metric tons. Unfortunately this endeavor remained essentially disorganized due to the lack of funds to modernize the trawlers.

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SPONGE FISHERY, 1953 AND 1954: The Greek 1953 sponge production amounted to 141,317 pounds as compared to 282,185 pounds in 1952. The decrease was due to the fact that Greek sponge-fishing boats did not work in the Cyrenaica and Egyptian waters in 1953, according to Aleia (January 1954), a Greek fishery magazine. There were 131 groups operating in 1953; 128 of these in Greek and Cyprus areas where they produced 127,677 pounds, and the remaining 3 groups in Lambedussa and North Africa where they caught sponges totaling 13,640 pounds.

There were large stocks of unsold sponges on hand at the beginning of the season. However, the stocks started to move in April immediately after the new prices of the pound sterling and the dollar went into effect.

For the 1954 season, sponge fishing shall take place in Cyrenaica, Tripoli, Cyprus, and Greek waters, but not in Egypt. The Greek Government has decided the sponge-fishing season shall be for 7 months instead of the usual 6 months on condition that all sponge vessels commence operations in April.

Sponge-fishing vessels bound for Cyrenaica shall be financed by the Government as follows: Boats of 5 divers, 294 million drachmas (US$9,800); 8 divers, 401 million drachmas (US$13,300); 14 divers, 568 million drachmas (US$18,900).

Hungary

INLAND FISHERY PROGRAM TO TRIPLE CATCH: The Hungarian fishing industry is working on a new program aimed at tripling the commercial catch from inland waters by 1957, according to the Fish Trades Gazette (April 24), a British fishery magazine. State fish hatcheries are to be extended from the present 25,000 acres to 65,000 acres by 1956, and those of various cooperative enterprises from 700 to 9,000 acres.

Since 1945 the Hungarian inland waters fishery industry has been under State direction, with the fishing done by State enterprises and fishermen's cooperatives; and the future safeguarded by a chain of breeding and research stations.

The most important fishing rivers in Hungary are the Danube and the Tisza, both of which provide about 250 miles of water. Lake Balaton--the "Hungarian Sea"-- abounds with fish, and there are many small rivers and ponds where commercial fishing is carried out.

Many artificial ponds have been established for breeding, varying in size from 7 acres to 700 acres. The largest in the country is one of over 4,000 acres on the Hortobagy Plain, a formerly arid area now being transformed into fertile country by an elaborate irrigation system stemming from the Tiszalok hydroelectric dam recently completed.

At present the main concern of the fishing authorities is to assure adequate spawning stock, not only for ponds but also to restock natural waters. For this purpose a special enterprise is being set up with the main task of artificial breeding and transportation of stock.

Many farming cooperatives and State farms, especially in Eastern Hungary, along the Tisza River, the Koros Rivers, and in the chief rice-growing regions, are gradually introducing fish breeding in their rice fields. Fish breeding in rice fields is becoming widespread in Hungary, for in this way the fields yield a double harvest. The rich plant and animal life in the flood waters on the rice fields is excellent nutriment for fish and they develop without special feeding.

Besides quantity increase, great stress is laid on quality breeding. Among the numerous choice breeds, the pike perch of Lake Balaton is being bred extensively. The pike perch is a voracious fish which often grows as big as 8 to 10 pounds. Its meat is considered delicious in Hungary.

Work is being conducted in the Research Institute for Fish Hatching to compile information on the habits and feeding of the pike perch and to make use of the facts

in breeding. Work is also going on in carp breeding. The most favorable results have been obtained at the Tata Fish Hatchery on the Danube, where carp with a small head and a high broad back have been bred. On the experimental farm of Szarvas, near the Sebes-Koros River, large-scale breeding experiments are carried on with sheatfish.

Continuing experiments are carried on in the improvement of fishing gear. In most places fishing is still done with nets, but there are already a few places where electric fish-catching apparatus is used.

India

FISHING INDUSTRY TO BE MODERNIZED AT COST OF $2 MILLION: The Deputy Food Minister of India announced recently that the procurement of equipment and technicians worth $2,014,699 had been authorized under a Technical Cooperation Aid Scheme (TCA) for the expansion and modernization of sea fisheries. The services of fisheries experts from the TCA and FAO had been secured, The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical, announced on March 26.

Orders have been placed for 144 marine Diesel engines, 11 insulated road vans, 3 bull trawlers, 7 reef gill-net boats, 5 wooden fishing vessels for shrimp trawling, 2 motor craft, 8 ice and cold-storage plants, 2 marine Diesel electric generating sets of 20 kw., and fishing hooks, nylon twine, etc.

In the House of the People at New Delhi, the Deputy Food Minister, stated that a private company, which proposed to undertake deep-sea fishing on a commercial basis on the west coast of India, had approached the Government of India for help in the form of technicians and equipment under the Technical Cooperation Aid scheme.

The company which had made the proposal through the Travancore-Cochin State had also asked for a loan from the "Grow More Food" funds. The proposal was under consideration by the Government.

Iran

U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR FISHERIES CONTINUES: Efforts were being made by the U. S. Industrial Assistance Division in Iran to charter a fishing vessel for exploratory operations during the 1954/55 fishing season, reports a U.S. Embassy dispatch (March 15) from Tehran. Tinplate and cottonseed oil for the Bandar Abbas fish cannery are being supplied from the United States. Export of frozen Caspian Sea sturgeon by private interests continues.

Japan

TUNA VESSELS FISHING FOR AMERICAN SAMOAN CANNERY HAVE FAIR SUCCESS: Tuna fishing has been only fair for the Japanese long-line vessels fishing for the American Samoan tuna cannery freezership, according to recent reports from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service observer on the freezership. The yellowfin tuna caught have been large and a considerable proportion has been rejected at the cannery and on the freezership as being too dark for canning.

The cannery has been operating regularly. At the end of February it appeared that the freezership would not have a full load of tuna (about 1,000 tons) by the time the Japanese fleet of catcher boats leave for Japan. It was also reported that considerable quantities of large albacore are being caught by the Japanese catcher boats around Samoa, especially to the south.

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NORTH PACIFIC SALMON EXPEDITION SAILS: The Japanese 1954 salmon expedition of 7 motherships and 160 catcher boats sailed from Hakodate early in May for North Pacific waters between Kamchatka and the Aleutian Islands, a May 14 U.S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo states. The target goal of the expedition is (in number of fish): 6,073,500 pink, 3,310,000 sockeye, 4,812,200 chum, and 548,100 silver--a total of 14,743,800 salmon as compared with 7,700,000 in the 1953 season.

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CRAB FISHING FLEETS HAVING SUCCESSFUL SEASON: The Japanese crab fleets fishing in Nemuro waters are having a highly successful season, according to reports from Hokkaido. More crabs are being caught and the individual crabs are running larger in size. The target goal for the season is 2,000 metric tons as against 1,500 tons last year. A total of 62,000 cases of canned crab meat will be produced if the target goal is reached. The present export price is $27.50 per case f.o.b., according to a U. S. Embassy dispatch (May 14) from Tokyo.

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RESTORATION OF NORTH SEA FISHING RIGHTS FROM RUSSIA SOUGHT: The Japanese fishing industry plans to start negotiations with the Soviet authorities for restoration of Japan's prewar north sea fishery, according to The Fishing News (April 30), a British fishery publication. A representative of a Japanese fishery company expects to visit Russia for a month to negotiate.

His plan is backed by a resolution passed by the House of Representatives Fishery Committee that the Government should pay special consideration to visits by Japanese fishery leaders to Russia.

The projected negotiations would cover the following points:

(1) Japan will seek Soviet permission to Japanese salmon and trout fishing off Kamchatka Peninsula. However, Japanese fishing circles fear the U.S.S.R. might oppose the operation on the ground that salmon and trout in the fishing area are on their way to rivers of Kamchatka.

(2) Japanese fishermen want to go nearer the peninsula since fish runs are more dense along the coast.

(3) Japan will seek resumption of salmon, trout, and crab fishing on Okhotsk Sea.

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ANTARCTIC WHALING FLEET TO BE INCREASED: Japan will send three whaling expeditions to the Antarctic next season instead of two as in the past, the Japanese Fisheries Board announced recently. The third fleet will be organized by the Taiyo Fisheries Company with the 11,803-ton Kinje Maru as mothership. This vessel was previously known as the Nisshin Maru No. 1, reports the April 30 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade paper.

The new fleet will be smaller in size than the Taiyo Fisheries Company's present fleet headed by the 16,810-ton Nisshin Maru. The other present fleet is operated by the Nippon Suisan Company with the 19,210-ton Tonan Maru as the factory-ship.

A spokesman for the Taiyo Fisheries Company said projected organization of the new whaling fleet was in conformity with the Japanese Government's policy of encouraging whale-oil consumption in Japan in view of Japan's growing foreign exchange shortage which was restricting imports of oilseeds and tallow.

Republic of Korea

FISH-CANNING CAPACITY TO BE DOUBLED BY NEW MACHINERY: Three modern fish-canning machines, expected to double the Korean fish-canning capacity, have been landed in Korea by the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency (UNKRA), a report received from UNKRA headquarters announced March 26.

The high-speed vacuum canners, complete with line assemblies, were purchased in the United States for about $13,000 each. They have been turned over to the Fisheries Control Committee, a joint UNKRA-Republic of Korea body, and will be turned over to canneries in Pusan, Tong Yong, and Kampo.

The processing units can each handle up to 200 cans per minute, compared with the 50-can rate of the best units now used in Korea. National production last year was approximately 100,000 cases of 32 cans each.

As further assistance to the canning industry, UNKRA has brought in more than 600,000 cans, which will be packed with selected, high-quality sea foods for the domestic market and for export trade.

Mexico

SINALOA SHRIMP EXPORTS TO U. S., OCTOBER 1953-MARCH 1954: Shrimp exports to the United States October 1953-March 1954 for freezers in the Mazatlan area were 98 cars with a total of 4,312,000 pounds. Exports from Topolobampo September 1953-March 1954 were 91 cars with a total of 3,935,750 pounds. In spite of the fact that exports have increased by some 25 percent, profits remain about the same as last year. This is chiefly due to the slightly lower prices prevailing, and to the scarcity of the jumbo shrimp which commands premium prices, a U. S. consular dispatch (April 5, 1954) from Mazatlan, Sinaloa, points out.

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MERIDA SHRIMP EXPORTS TO U. S., JANUARY-MARCH 1954: A total of 1,086 tons of frozen shrimp was shipped from the Merida District of Mexico during the first three months of 1954; all to the United States. This was a decrease of 3 percent from the 1,116 tons exported in the corresponding quarter in 1953, according to a May 12 U. S. consular dispatch from Merida.

Netherlands

FISH MEAL FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION INVESTIGATED: The Netherlands Centraal Instituut voor Industrieontwikkeling (Central Institute for Industrial Development) in its annual report for 1953 indicates that at present it is investigating a new process for the preparation of fish meal for human consumption. Should technical difficulties be solved, this project offers many possibilities as there is still a world shortage of protein, points out the Institute. The inventor of the process has been brought into contact with a group of interested businessmen. Negotiations to set up an experimental industry on a semi-technical scale are under way, an April 5 United States Embassy dispatch from The Hague reports. The Institute, an official agency for the promotion of industrialization through research and advisory activities, is sponsored by the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs.

New Zealand

MAY BUY U. S. CANNED SALMON: The New Zealand Government may be willing to purchase canned salmon from the United States if the price is competitive with Canadian salmon, according to a recent U. S. Embassy dispatch from Wellington. No details as to quantity are available, but it is understood that the New Zealand Government plans to issue import licenses for canned fish in 1954 to a value of US$560,000.

Norway

U. S. AID FOR FISHERIES: As a result of the Foreign Operations Administration (formerly the Mutual Security Administration) program of the United States, Norway has available 2.2 million kroner (US$308,000) in Norwegian currency for modernization of the Norwegian fishing industry. Plans for spending the money were outlined recently by the Norwegian Fisheries Ministry in a report to Parliament, according to the Norwegian Information Service in a May 13 bulletin. This money is part of the 28.5 million kroner (US$4 million) which represents the local currency proceeds set aside in accordance with Section 115 (k) of the Mutual Security Act of 1951 for improving Norwegian industrial productivity. Local currencies are the funds paid by the receivers of goods in Norway originally paid for by dollars under the Mutual Security Act of 1953.

Under the plan, 500,000 kroner (US$70,000) will be earmarked for loans to aid the modernization of retail fish stores, principally by facilitating the acquisition of refrigerated counters. Five-year loans, bearing low or no interest, will cover up to 70 percent of the total modernization cost. About 800 of Norway's fish stores fail to meet modern requirements.

The acquisition or installation of fish-mobiles will be aided by a 300,000 kroner (US$42,000) loan fund. Yearly sales of fish-mobiles run about 10 million kroner (US$1.4 million), and experience shows that modernization of the material results in increased sales. A total of 400,000 kroner (US$56,000) will be used to subsidize technological research in fish processing, mainly by developing new methods of freezing fillets and whole fish.

The activities of the Committee for Fisheries Education will be subsidized in the amount of 700,000 kroner (US$98,000). This money will pay for consultants to the retail trade, production of educational films, printing of more promotion pamphlets,

and expansion of personnel. The final 400,000 kroner (US$56,000) will be set aside for scholarships to selected workers in the Norwegian fishing industry.

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NEW FISH-FREEZING PLANT DEDICATED: The 12,000-ton capacity cold-storage and freezing plant, which Bergen Fiskeriindustri has built in Bontelabo, Bergen, was recently dedicated, an April 15 news release from the Norwegian Information Service announced. Largest in Northern Europe, the 27.7 million kroner (US$3.9 million) plant has a total area of 70,200 square feet, of which 20,250 square feet are covered by a 6-story two-level building, with 225,000 square feet of floor space. In normal operation, the staff will comprise about 250 warehousemen and engineers. However, during the winter herring fisheries the number of employees will be much higher.

Providing offices and freezing facilities for about 20 companies and organizations engaged in fisheries, the Bergen plant has a 1,100-foot long dock. Operation is based mainly on freezing herring and herring products. Tuna, salmon, and several other kinds of fish, as well as whale meat, will be received for "dry-freezing." A special section has been equipped for cold storage of agricultural products, such as meat, butter, eggs, fruits and berries, and for imported citrus fruits and other perishable foods.

With storage for 3,000 tons of ice blocks, the artificial ice plant can produce about 325 tons of chipped ice a day. The daily capacity for freezing herring is 2,500 to 3,000 cases. There is storage for about 40,000 cases of frozen herring. The dry-freezing capacity is up to 150 tons a day.

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RECORD CATCH OF WHALES FOR 1953/54 SEASON: The 1953/54 Antarctic whaling season closed on March 18 with a record catch for the Norwegian expeditions, reports the U. S. Embassy at Oslo. The 9 Norwegian factoryships rendered a total of 960,000 barrels[1/] of oil which was approximately 200,000 barrels more than processed in the 1952/53 season. To these figures must be added the production of the land-based station at Husvik Harbour, South Georgia, which amounted to 173,000 barrels. The season's total, therefore, is about 1,133,000 barrels.

Factoryship production of whale oil totaled 929,077 barrels, an increase of one-fourth from last year's output. Sperm-oil production at 31,135 barrels was also greater than last year when the output was 27,387 barrels.

The technological progress in the hunting, killing, and processing of the whales is responsible for the increase in the production of oils. The very careful studies made of the migration and feeding habits of these mammals by international scientists, mostly Norwegian, have greatly aided the expeditions in locating the whales in the prime of their development. Although the international quota was reduced from 16,000 blue-whale units to 15,500 units this season, the actual "take" of oil was considerably more than last year. The days of hunting were also less this year than last year but the average weight and quantities of fat of the individual animals were greater than previous years.

Modern electronic devices are now employed to locate the schools and low-flying helicopters are widely used to spot the singletons. The latest gunnery methods reduce the possibility of missing the shot to almost nil, and the fast up-to-date killer boats permit ranging and hunting over huge areas. The factoryships of today carry aboard the finest and most modern equipment and the efficiency is of a remarkably high standard.

1/One barrel contains 373.3 pounds of oil. Six barrels contain one long ton (2,240 pounds) of oil, whereas 5.357 barrels contain one short ton (2,000 pounds).

There is another factor which contributes greatly to the advantages of the Norwegian expeditions, the manning of the ships. Whaling has long been a traditional occupation of the men from Tonsberg, Sandefjord, and Larvik and great pride is taken by these sailors in their profession. They are all thoroughly experienced and combine the best of seamanship with enterprise and ingenuity. The wages are high (all members of the crew participate in the proceeds of the catch), living conditions are good, and morale is very high. Although the work is extremely hard and frequently very dangerous there exists among whalers an esprit de corps probably not evident in any other industry in Norway.

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FISHING GEAR IMPORT AGENCY ESTABLISHED: A Norwegian Government agency empowered to control importations of all commercial fishing gear into Norway was scheduled to begin operating on May 15. The agency--State Fishing Tackle Import Agency (Statens Fiskeredskapsimport)--was established by the Storting law of February 13, 1953, and promulgated by Norwegian Royal Decree. The Ministry of Fisheries has delegated to the agency authority to grant private firms permission to continue importations of certain gear, especially nylon products, for the time being.

The agency has been conceived with a three-fold purpose: (1) to obtain more fair and favorable prices from foreign exporters; (2) to stabilize supply; and (3) to facilitate administration of state subsidies on fishing-gear imports, according to a U. S. Embassy dispatch (May 14) from Oslo.

Spain

VIGO FISH CANNING TRENDS, MARCH 1954: The fish canneries in the Vigo area of Spain purchased 165,959 pounds of fish during March--about 2.3 percent of the total catch landed in that area. This compares to 202,400 pounds during the previous month, and 220,940 pounds during March 1953. The decline was principally due to scarcity of fish. Tuna comprised the bulk of the purchases by the canners.

MODERNIZATION OF FISHERY FLEET DISCUSSED: In an effort to solve the multiple and serious problems confronting Spanish fishing interests, the National Fishing Syndicate called for a national assembly of fishing-vessel operators and fish canners in Madrid the first part of April. During the meetings many important points affecting the industry were discussed; among them the advisability of dismantling all ships over 30 years old, especially those equipped with coal burning equipment; the establishment of closed fishing seasons in the different fishing sections of the country; the organization of a close government control over fishing methods and practices in territorial waters; and the size of the net meshes.

The Government has apparently offered to support the Syndicate's suggestions and has further promised to subsidize the dismantling of old ships at different rates in accordance with their age and construction, as well as to give priority in the granting of loans for the construction of new ships to those operators who agree to dismantle the old expensive craft. While drastic measures that might be agreed upon at the Assembly might cause temporary difficulties in the fishing industry, informed members of the trade agree that some measure must be taken at once to avoid the complete collapse of the whole industry. Spain, they claim, has too large a fleet, most of it outmoded and uneconomical to operate under present high cost of supplies and equipment, reports a U. S. consular dispatch (April 9) from Vigo.

During the Assembly the fish canning associations were to again try to interest the Government in revising export exchange rates. This is claimed to be one of the principal objectives of the industry to regain former markets, since under present circumstances competition with other exporting countries is alleged to be practically impossible.

Union of South Africa - South-West Africa

REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1952/53: Fisheries production in the Union of South Africa and South-West Africa reached new high levels during the year ending September 30, 1953, due to the expansion at Walvis Bay, according to the annual report of the Fisheries Development Corporation. However, the very high rate of development which had been maintained over the past six years showed signs of slackening.

Fish Meal and Oil: Fish-meal production at Walvis Bay, South-West Africa, totaled 66,165 metric tons this past fiscal year as compared with 37,748 tons the previous year; fish-oil production amounted to 10,048 long tons, an increase over the 6,950 long tons in 1951/52.

In the Union of South Africa fish meal totaled 39,752 metric tons, a small decrease from the 40,634 tons produced in the previous year; while fish oil totaled 11,810 long tons in 1952/53 as compared to 11,831 long tons in 1951/52. The drop in production in the Union of South Africa, in spite of increased landings of pilchards and maasbankers, was due to increased canning of these species, according to the March South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review.

The market for fish meal on both the domestic and foreign markets remained favorable, and the expanded output of the industry as a whole was readily absorbed. Fish oil, on the other hand, did not enjoy the same favorable conditions as the price dropped due to competition from other oils.

The recovery of fish solubles and residual oil from the stickwater attracted considerable attention after being neglected in the past. Arrangements were completed for the erection of a number of recovery plants on a trial basis at different factories along the coast. These plants will be supervised by the Fishing Industry Research Institute and results compared to discover the type of plant best suited to local conditions. It is hoped that the industry will benefit by this action.

Canned Fish: Certain difficulties were encountered in the marketing of canned pilchards and maasbankers. To dispose of the increased output, it was necessary to enter markets where substantial duties are levied, and where retail prices were lower than in markets previously supplied. In addition, competition was encountered from the reorganized industries of the Far East and Europe.

Producers of canned and frozen spiny lobster continued to enjoy a favorable demand. During the year prices hardened and the outlook for the new season was bright.

The South African Bureau of Standards imposed quality control on the fish canning industry.

U. S. S. R.

JAPANESE FIRM MAY BUILD TUNA FISHING VESSELS: A Japanese shipbuilding company has concluded a tentative contract with the unrecognized Soviet Mission in Tokyo for the construction of nine small vessels at a cost equalling US$2 million. The contract, which the Japanese Government has yet to approve, calls for 5 tuna boats of 330 tons each and 4 tugs of 90 tons each, a U. S. consular dispatch (March 8) from Kobe reports. Press reports indicate that the contract involves a barter arrangement.

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SWEDEN TO BUILD TRAWLERS: Orders for 20 new fishing trawlers have been placed with Swedish shipyards, according to The Fishing News (March 12), a British fishery magazine. This work has been passed to Sweden under the new trade agreement between the two countries. Six of the vessels will be built at Gefle, 6 at Gotheburg, and 8 at Stockholm. The delivered value of each vessel will be approximately 3,250,000 kroner (US$627,000).

The trawlers will be similar to 30 others already supplied under an earlier credit agreement with Russa. They will have a displacement of 1,200 tons, a theoretical carrying capacity of 700 tons, which is, however, considerably reduced because of the large crew accommodations and the equipment for processing and liver-oil production. All the vessels will be steam driven with 800 induced horsepower.

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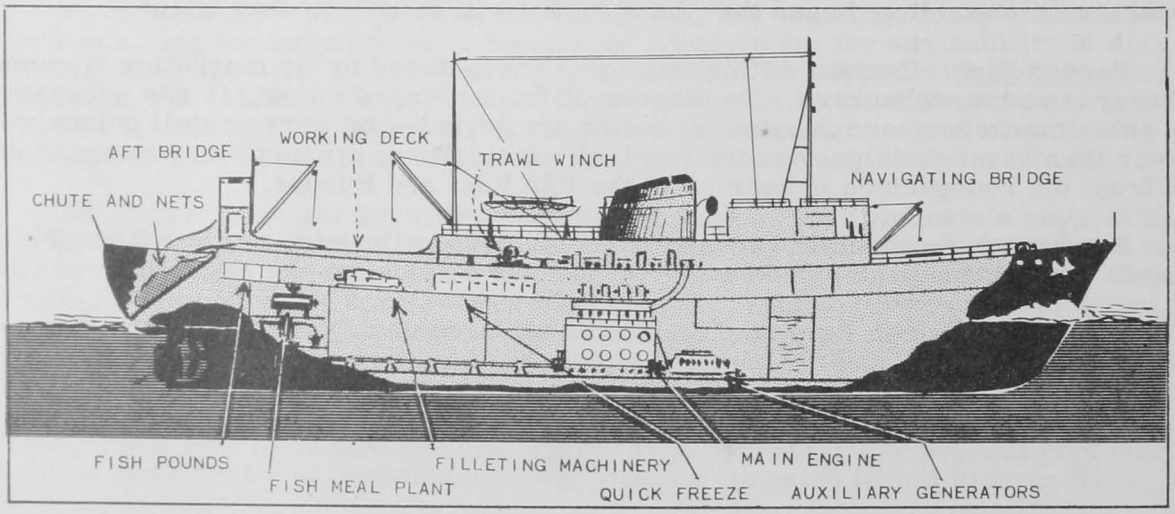
FISHERIES MINISTRY FORMED: The formation of a new Ministry responsible for the fish industry was announced recently by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. The new fish industry minister will have the job to increase fish catches and improve quality, states the April 15 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine. The fish departments of the Food Industry will be transferred to the new Ministry.

United Kingdom

FACTORYSHIP "FAIRTRY" SAILS FOR GRAND BANKS: The British factoryship Fairtry departed Aberdeen, Scotland, on April 29 for the Grand Banks of New-



Factory trawler Fairtry. Sketch showing arrangement of the facilities on the vessel.

foundland where it will operate on its initial fishing trip. The vessel is expected to return to Britain in eight weeks with 500 metric tons of frozen fillets and 100 tons of fish meal. The first catch will be landed at Lowestoft and presumably will be consumed in Britain, an April 29 U. S. consular dispatch from Aberdeen states.

The owners of the Fairtry are also investigating the possibility of selling frozen fillets in the United States. They had hoped to be able to avoid the necessity of bringing the Fairtry back to Britain from Newfoundland waters when the United States market for frozen fish is more promising than the British. It is believed, however, that no way has been found to do this in view of United States and Canadian regulations governing the landing and transshipment of fish by foreign-flag fishing vessels.

This cruise brings to functional activity a ship on which a great deal of work has been done over several years, and one which promises to have considerable bearing on the future of fishing in Scotland.

Whether other companies could build and operate a ship on this scale is a moot point. The Fairfree, which did much of the spadework on which the Fairtry has been built, is now lying at Leith and failing a purchaser is likely to be consigned for breaking up, according to the April 17 Fish Trade Gazette, a British fishery magazine.

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TO LAY-UP MORE DEEP-SEA TRAWLERS: Due to anticipated light demand for fish, 25 percent of the trawlers in the Distant Water Vessels Development Scheme will be laid up this summer as compared with 20 percent last year. This important decision was announced by the Scheme, representing owners at Hull, Grimsby, and Fleetwood, according to The Fishing News (April 2), a British fishery periodical. Commenting on it, the chairman of the Grimsby Trawler Owners' Association said: "We must rationalize, like other industries."

A press statement issued from Hull said: "The committee of the Distant Water Vessels Development Scheme, representing the majority of British deep-water owners based on Hull, Grimsby, and Fleetwood, has reviewed marketing possibilities during the period beginning on April 19 and ending on July 31 this year. Bearing in mind the fact that during the same period last year more than 3,000,000 stones (42 million pounds) was landed in excess of public demand, notwithstanding that a 20 percent lay-up was in operation.

"They have come to the conclusion that more than sufficient fish will be landed to meet all requirements during the summer with a 25 percent lay-up in force. During this period vessels normally undergo refit and overhaul, consequently the actual lay-up, as far as production is concerned, will be much less than 25 percent, and the position will constantly be kept under review so as to insure adequate supplies to consumers."

The decision was well received on the whole, though trawler officers and crews fear increased unemployment through it.

A feature of the Scheme is that it will apply to Fleetwood in addition to Hull and Grimsby.

When a 20 percent lay-up was in force it represented a lay-up of only 8.3 percent above a normal one for the time of year inasmuch as it operated at a period when many of the vessels would be in dock for their annual surveys and other reasons.

It is estimated that because of similar considerations this year a 25 percent lay-up would be the equivalent of only a 13 percent effective lay-up.

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PASSENGER VESSEL TO HELP FISHERMEN LOCATE HERRING: Echo-sounding recordings, made by a passenger vessel between Aberdeen and Lerwick, are to be broadcast regularly on the drifter waveband to help fishermen locate herring shoals, an April 22 U. S. consular dispatch from Edinburgh states.

During the past few years, the passenger vessel S. S. St. Clair has been making, at the request of the scientists of the Scottish Home Department Marine Laboratory, echo-sounding recordings while on passage across the main fishing grounds between Aberdeen and Lerwick. Information obtained about herring shoals has been passed on by the vessel captain to interested fishermen and has proved to be of material assistance to them.

The United Kingdom Herring Industry Board considered that even greater benefit would be derived from these regular echo-soundings if information about the size and location of shoals could be transmitted to the fishermen as soon as it became available. With this object in view, the Board asked the vessel owners if they would permit the Board to install a suitable radiotelephone on the St. Clair. The company consented and the equipment has been installed. Effective April 29 information was to be disseminated on the drifter waveband six times daily.

International

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

AREAS 2 AND 1B CLOSED JUNE 5: The closure of Areas 2 and 1B was announced by the International Pacific Halibut Commission. At 11:59 p.m. (P.S.T.) June 5 these two areas were closed to all halibut fishing, except that provided for under the incidental fishing regulations. The Commission estimated that by the date of closure the quota of 26,500,000 pounds (dressed weight) for Area 2 would have been caught. This year's quota was one million pounds greater than in 1953. No quota was established for Area 1B, but this area was scheduled to close with Area 2.

The opening date this year for halibut fishing in all areas established by the Commission was 12:01 a.m., May 16. In 1953 the opening date was May 17, and Areas 2A and 1B closed at 11:59 p.m. June 9. The 1954 open season for Areas 2 and 1B lasted only 21 days--the shortest season on record, compared with 24 days in 1953, 26 days in 1952, and 28 days in 1951. Area 2 and 1B are to be reopened again on August 1 for a period of 8 days only.

The Commission this year made certain changes in areas which resulted in combining former Areas 2A, 2B, and 2C as one area, i.e., Area 2.

Area 3A (with a quota of 28,000,000 pounds) and Area 3B are still open to halibut fishing. As soon as the catch limit for Area 3A has been reached, Areas 3A and 3B will also be closed.