



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Foreign Operations

Administration

FORMOSA AUTHORIZED TO BUY MARINE DIESEL ENGINES: The Central Trust of China, Taipei, Taiwan, announced intended purchases of 60 marine Diesel engines and accessories and miscellaneous equipment needed in Formosa for the Taiwan fisheries. This procurement, with FOA financing, lists the United States and Possessions, the European (OEEC) Participating Countries, and Japan as the areas of source, according to recent bulletins from FOA. The engines are to be used on sampans.

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INDIA AUTHORIZED TO BUY OUTBOARD MOTORS AND DIESEL ENGINES: The Government of India has been authorized FOA financing for the purchase of 12 units of marine, gasoline-powered, two-cylinder, 10 hp. outboard motors for the expansion and modernization of India's marine fisheries. The engines will be used to power boats 20 feet in length, 4-foot beam, 1½-foot draft, according to a June 4 bulletin from FOA.

FOA has also authorized India to purchase a total of 110 marine Diesel engines, complete with all fittings and accessories, according to a July 15 FOA bulletin. These engines will be used on fishing craft of 25 to 40 feet in length.

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INDONESIA AUTHORIZED TO BUY COMMODITIES FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT: Indonesia has been authorized by FOA to purchase commodities for fisheries development totaling \$60,000, according to a June 24 bulletin from that agency. Indonesia is authorized to make the purchases in the United States and Possessions, and European participating countries.

The commodities listed in the bulletin include: fish-meal bags, miscellaneous metal and nonmetal products, electrical apparatus, generators, engines, motors, turbines, construction equipment, and industrial machinery (including office machines, appliances, and parts).



Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SURVEY TEAM REPORTS: Four major recommendations, directed to improving the organization and services performed by the Fish and Wildlife Service were made by a Survey Team which was appointed by Secretary of the Interior McKay on March 31.

The Survey Team, which recently completed its assignment after six weeks of intensive study and investigation was made up of: James R. Turnbull, Seattle, chairman; Ross L. Leffler, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and John D. Pennekamp, Miami, Fla. M. George Goodrick and John B. Bennett, career employees of the Department completed the team.

Prefacing the Team's report (released July 15) was recognition that the Director of the Service had plans available for reorganization, which at the request of Secretary McKay were held in abeyance until the current survey could be completed. The Survey Team voiced the hope that its report would assist the Director in his effort to affect a reorganization.

The recommendations follow:

1. The Fish and Wildlife Service be reorganized to conform with the organization recommended in the report.

2. All functions of the Service be regionalized except that of fundamental research as defined.

3. Research relating to Wildlife and research relating to Fisheries be more closely coordinated with the operating requirements of the Service.

4. The public relations and publications programs be revitalized to achieve better public understanding and cooperation for the objectives and programs of the Service.

The problems of the Service, the Team points out, stem from three primary sources, defined as (a) lack of cohesion and unified purpose; (b) more and more states are becoming self sufficient in fish and wildlife management and conservation; and (c) public relations and publications.

One of the major sources of impaired morale within the Service, the Team pointed out, would be eradicated by "getting the operating branches out of research and getting the Branch of Research into the research the Service needs."

The Team stated that it found in discussions with Service personnel and with state officials who deal with its representatives that "improved public relations" ranked high in the list of pressing needs of the Service.

Sixteen specific recommendations to improve the public information program of the Service were made.

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ALASKA SURVEY TEAM REPORT APPROVED: Acting Secretary of the Interior Tudor on July 23 approved a report of a survey team, which was appointed to study the Department's organization, procedures, and functions in Alaska. The purpose of the survey was to determine how the Department could improve administration in the territory and to make recommendations toward this goal. However, the scope of the survey did not include commercial fishing.

The survey team was made up of Roy B. Earling, mining consultant, Seattle,

Wash., chairman; Glenn Duncan, businessman, Haines, Oregon; Gilbert H. Jertberg, attorney, Fresno, Calif.; and Robert Coote, staff assistant, Technical Review Staff, Office of the Secretary.

Recognizing the extent and complexity of the Department's responsibilities in Alaska, the team considered three possible recommendations to achieve closer coordination of activities.

Consideration was given to the appointment of an assistant secretary for Alaska. It was decided that this was impracticable at this time.

The team recommended that the Alaska Field Committee be activated under the direction of a full-time executive secretary or coordinator.

It was also recommended that the Department consider the establishment of a central administrative service organization, and a consolidated legal staff in the territory under the supervision of the Solicitor.

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS: The Secretary of the Interior gave notice in the Federal Register of July 14 that he intends to adopt amended regulations permitting and governing the time, means, and methods for the taking of commercial fish in the waters of Alaska, and related matters.

The regulations are to be effective beginning about February 1, 1955, and to continue in effect thereafter until further notice.

Interested persons are hereby given an opportunity to participate in considering changes in the regulations by submitting their views, data, or arguments in writing to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., on or before November 19, 1954, or by presenting their views at a series of open discussions to be held as follows:

Alaska: Dillingham - July 30
 Sitka - September 1
 Juneau - September 3
 Wrangell - September 7
 Ketchikan - September 9
 Kodiak - September 20
 Anchorage - September 23
 Cordova - September 27
 Seattle, Washington - October 20, 21,
 and 22.



State Department

APPROPRIATIONS INCLUDE FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS: Funds totaling \$310,000 for international fisheries commissions were included in State Department fiscal year 1954/55 appropriations approved in a conference report and adopted by both Houses of Congress on June 30 and cleared for the President. Earlier the House had voted \$295,000 and the Senate \$325,000. In 1953, \$295,010 was allotted for the Commissions. There were no special instructions contained in the conference report.

As tentatively allocated by the State Department, the funds will be apportioned as follows:

	1954/55	1953/54
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	\$117,195	\$107,000
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Com- mission	4,885	4,690
International Pacific Halibut Commission	50,500	48,000
International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission (Sock- eye)	137,000	135,000
International Whal- ing Commission ..	420	420
Total	310,000	295,110



White House

PRESIDENT DOES NOT ACCEPT TARIFF COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON GROUND FISH FILLETS: The President on July 2 declined to accept the recommendations of the United States Tariff Commission for an increase in the duty on imported groundfish fillets and for a quota on imports in any one year.

The Tariff Commission had made an investigation of the effect of a trade agreement concession on the domestic groundfish fillets industry, under Section 7 of the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951.

The President, in identical letters to Senator Eugene D. Millikin, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and Representative Daniel A. Reed, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, outlined certain of the problems confronting the domestic industry in recent years apart from the threat of imports from abroad. The President then pointed out that the recent introduction of a new product, fish sticks, demand for which has increased markedly even since the Tariff Commission prepared its report, leads him to believe that consumption of groundfish fillets promises to increase substantially within the next few years.

The President stated his conviction that "it would be a disservice to the long-run interests of the entire groundfish industry to limit the imports of groundfish fillets in these circumstances.

"It would," the President said, "hamper and limit the development of the market for the product and jeopardize present prospects for the increase in per capita consumption of fish, which is the key to a real solution of the industry's problem."

The text of the President's letters to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee follows:

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On May 7, 1954, the United States Tariff Commission, pursuant to an investigation under Section 7 of the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1951, recommended restrictive action with regard to imports of frozen groundfish fillets, that is fillets of cod, haddock, pollock, cusk and rosefish.

The action recommended by three of the six commissioners was that the tariff on a certain part of our imports of groundfish fillets should be raised from 1-7/8 cents per pound to 2-1/2 cents per pound and further that the imports in any one year should be limited to a quota of 37 percent of the average annual consumption of groundfish fillets during the immediately preceding five years. The two commissioners recommended against this action. One commissioner did not participate in the decision because of a death in his family.

The basic issue that the commissioners had to determine was whether serious injury is being threatened or caused by increased imports at a rate of duty reflecting a concession made in a trade agreement with a foreign country. The concession in question was made originally to Canada in the Trade Agreement of 1938 and renewed in 1947 in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The concession consists of an undertaking by our government not to charge a rate of duty higher than 1-7/8 cents per pound on the first 15 million pounds of groundfish fillets imported in any year. A rate of 2-1/2 cents applies under the concession to imports in excess of this figure. The concession also provides that, whenever the average consumption in the United States during the immediately preceding three years exceeds 100 million pounds, the lower duty would apply to 15 percent of this average consumption figure. On the basis of 1953 imports, the recommended action would raise the duty on 34 million pounds of fillets and reduce the total quantity of imports by 13 million pounds.

The fishing industry of New England, which produces most of the domestic groundfish fillets, has not had an easy time over the years. It has been plagued with a number of difficult problems which have been the subject of extensive study. Groundfish of certain species have become scarcer on the nearby banks. This has meant longer voyages, higher costs and a need to fish more intensively. There have been labor-management difficulties and competition from imports have been stiff in the face of a market which has not been growing adequately.

The great unsolved problem of this industry has been how to expand its markets. Per capita consumption of fish in the United States, particularly in the Middle West, has remained relatively low. To increase consumption, the industry has sought ways to put fresh or frozen fish more frequently into everybody's diet. It has sought better packaging, better marketing, better advertising, and ways to make fish easier for the housewife to prepare. These efforts cannot, of course, succeed without at the same time keeping prices of fish in line with other products competing for the consumer's taste.

Recent developments have brought another great forward step in the introduction of a new product, fish sticks. Even at the time when the Tariff Commission prepared its report, there was some evidence that fish sticks might bring about a substantial increase in total groundfish consumption. Events have moved so rapidly since then that it now appears the industry's major problem is going to be to keep pace with demand, which this year is expected to be four or five times larger than it was last year. Fish fillets have always offered a relatively inexpensive source of protein. Fish sticks now appear to offer this advantage combined with ease of preparation. That being the case, it seems likely that fish sticks may finally bring about an increase in consumption of fish, which has held steady at between 10 and 12 pounds per capita annually for almost fifty years. Conceivably, consumption may increase by almost 50 percent within a few years as a result of the new product.

Thus it appears that the industry is on the way to solving an important part of its problem by tapping a new mass market. It seems particularly important not to interfere with that development but to give it fullest scope and encouragement. I have tried to measure the proposed import restriction in the light of this basic need. I am firmly convinced that it would be a disservice to the long-run interests of the entire groundfish industry to limit the imports of groundfish fillets in these circumstances. Such action would reduce the raw material supplies of the processors of fish sticks. It would create an artificial scarcity and tend to increase the price. At the same time it would hamper and limit the development of the market for the product and jeopardize present prospects for the increase in per capita consumption of fish which is the key to a real solution of the industry's problem. I have, therefore, after full consideration of the matter, decided against restrictive action.

The solution which appears to hold the best prospect for a vigorous, healthy domestic industry also best serves to strengthen the economics of several friendly nations. Although most of our groundfish fillets come from Canada, a substantial part come from Iceland, as well as such other countries as Norway, Denmark, the United Kingdom, West Germany and the Netherlands.

I am fully aware that the industry's problems have not all been solved. Further research in fishing technology, in conservation, and in knowledge of development and movement of the fish is needed. Fish processing, packaging and marketing and consumer education all present additional fields for further work.

The Federal Government has an important role to play in furthering these objectives. Accordingly, I have recently signed S. 2802, which sets aside certain revenues from fishing products for a special fund to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the purpose of which shall be to carry on such research and market development as I have just outlined. The Federal Government will also be alert to find additional ways in which appropriate assistance can be rendered. An additional restriction on imports, however, would not, in my opinion, help in the over-all task, but would hamper developments which now promise a brighter future, both for the industry and for the consumer.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dwight D. Eisenhower



Eighty-Third Congress (Second Session)

JULY 1954

Listed below are public bills and resolutions introduced and referred to committees or passed by the Eighty-Third Congress (Second Session) and signed by the President that directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries. Public bills and resolutions are shown in

this section only when introduced and, if passed, when signed by the President; but also shown are the more pertinent reports, hearings, or chamber actions on some of the bills shown in this section from month to month.

DISTRIBUTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS: The President on July 1 signed S. 2802, to encourage further the distribution of fishery products in the development of research programs and increased markets. (P. L. 466). The Law reads:

Public Law 466 - 83d Congress
Chapter 447 - 2d Session
S. 2802

AN ACT

To further encourage the distribution of fishery products, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 of the Act of August 11, 1939 (53 Stat. 1411), is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior each fiscal year, beginning with the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1954, and ending on June 30, 1957, from moneys made available to carry out the provisions of section 32 of such Act of August 24, 1935, an amount equal to 30 per centum of the gross receipts from duties collected under the customs laws on fishery products (including fish, shellfish, mollusks, crustacea, aquatic plants and animals, and any products thereof, including processed and manufactured products), which shall be maintained in a separate fund and used by the Secretary of the Interior (1) to promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce by conducting a fishery educational service and fishery technological, biological and related research programs, the moneys so transferred to be also available for the purchase or other acquisition, construction, equipment, operation, and maintenance of vessels or other facilities necessary for conducting research as provided for in this section, and (2) to develop and increase markets for fishery products of domestic origin and (3) to conduct any biological, technological, or other research pertaining to American fisheries.

"(b) For the purposes of this section, any agency of the United States, or any corporation wholly owned by the United States, is authorized to transfer, without reimbursement or transfer of funds, any vessels or equipment excess to its needs required by the Secretary of the Interior for the activities, studies, and research authorized herein.

"(c) In carrying out the purposes and objectives of this section, the Secretary of the Interior is directed as far as practicable to cooperate with other appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, with State or local governmental agencies, private agencies, organizations, or individuals, having jurisdiction over or an interest in fish or fishery commodities and he is authorized to appoint an advisory committee of the American Fisheries industry to advise him in the formulation of policy, rules and regulations pertaining to requests for assistance, and other matters.

"(d) The Secretary of the Interior is further authorized to retransfer any of the funds not to exceed \$1,500,000 to be made available under this section to the Secretary of Agriculture to be used for the purposes specified in section 1 of this Act, and only such funds as are thus transferred shall be used for the purposes specified in section 1 of this Act with respect to domestically produced fishery products.

"(e) The separate fund created for the use of the Secretary of the Interior under section 2 (a) of this Act and the annual accruals thereto shall be available until expended, except (1) that not more than \$3,000,000 be spent in any fiscal year and (2) that the balance of the fund shall not exceed \$5,000,000 at the end of any fiscal year, and the Secretary of the Interior shall retransfer the funds in excess of said \$5,000,000 balance to the Secretary of Agriculture to be used for the purposes specified in section 32 of the Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 774; 7 U. S. C. 612c), as amended.

"(f) The Secretary of the Interior shall make a report to the appropriate committees of Congress annually on the use of the separate fund created under section 2 of this Act."

Approved July 1, 1954.

Report On Hearings Before A Subcommittee On Merchant Marine and Fisheries, House of Representatives, on various House Bills to further encourage the distribution of fishing products, and for other purposes. Hearings held April 2 and 3, 1954. The report includes statements by various members of Congress; Government and State officials; representatives of fisheries commissions, associations, and unions. Also included in the report are various reports and correspondence.

DUTIES ON FISH STICKS: H. R. 9824 (Bates), a bill to amend paragraph 717 of title I of the Tariff Act of 1930, with

respect to duties applicable in the case of fish sticks; introduced on July 7; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on July 12 passed over H. R. 9824.

H. R. 9942 (O'Neill), similar to H. R. 9824; introduced on July 19; to the Committee on Ways and Means. S. 3727 (Saltonstall), similar to H. R. 9824; introduced on July 9; to the Committee on Finance.

DUTY ON FISH STICKS: H. R. 9998 (Bates), a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 with respect to the duties applicable to certain prepared fish (fish sticks and similar products); introduced on July 22; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

The bill provides that paragraph 720 of title I of the Tariff Act of 1930 is amended by adding at the end thereof the following subparagraph:

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

Sec. 2. The foregoing amendment shall enter into effect as soon as practicable on a date to be specified by the President in a notice to the Secretary of the Treasury following such negotiations as may be necessary to effect a modification or a termination of the international obligations of the United States with which the amendment would be in conflict.

EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE FOR ALASKANS IN BRISTOL BAY FISHERY: H. R. 9884 (Miller of Nebraska), a bill to establish an employment preference for residents of Alaska in connection with fishing activities in the Bristol Bay area; introduced on July 13; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The bill provides that in all fishing activities, including processing, carried on in the Bristol Bay area of Alaska, employment preference shall be given to residents of Alaska. For the purposes of this Act, the term "resident" shall mean only such persons as are citizens of the United States and who have resided in Alaska continuously for a period of at least two years. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS: Both the House and Senate on June 28 adopted conference report on H. R. 8680, Interior Department appropriations (including Fish and Wildlife Service) for the fiscal year 1955, clearing bill for White House (H. Rept. 1926).

H. R. 8680 signed by the President on July 1 (P. L. 465). The law provides funds to the Fish and Wildlife for the Investigation of Resources (Including the Branches of Commercial Fisheries, Fishery Biology, and Wildlife Research) as follows:

For expenses necessary for scientific and economic studies and investigations respecting conservation, management, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, including related aquatic plants and products; collection, compilation, and publication of information concerning such studies and investigations; and the performance of other functions related thereto; as authorized by law; \$4,127,000, of which not to exceed \$350,000 shall be available for the lamprey eel program.

NORTH PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES CONVENTION: H. R. 9786 (Tollefson)--a bill to give effect to the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean, signed at Tokyo, May 9, 1952, and for other purposes; introduced on July 2; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Also H. R. 9787 (Allen of California), similar to H. R. 9786.

S. 3713, (Bricker, Cordon, Knowland, Kuchel), similar to H. R. 9786, introduced in the Senate on July 7; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

The House Committee on July 13 ordered reported to the House, H. R. 9786, amended.

The House on July 24 adopted committee amendments and passed, by a voice vote, H. R. 9786.

The Senate Committee on July 14 ordered favorably reported to the Senate, S. 3713, amended, (S. Rept. 1806). The fourth amendment to the bill inserts the words "as long as Alaska shall remain a Territory." The purpose of this amendment is to negate any congressional intent through the passage of this bill that the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Act of 1950 should govern the relative areas of control over fisheries between the Federal Government and Alaska as a sovereign State when Alaska obtains its statehood. Obviously, this is a legislative determination which will have to be made through the basic act creating the status of statehood for Alaska. There are four other amendments to correct errors and clarify statements.

The Senate passed S. 3713, on call of calendar, on July 17.

PROTECTION OF U. S. FISHERMEN ON HIGH SEAS: The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on July 20 ordered reported to the House, H. R. 9584, amended, protecting the rights of U. S. fishermen and others on the high seas and in territorial waters of foreign countries.

The House on July 24 passed H. R. 9584, after adopting committee amendments.

PROTECTION OF U. S. VESSELS ON HIGH SEAS: H. R. 9716 (King of California), a bill to protect the rights of vessels of the United States on the high seas and in territorial waters of foreign countries; introduced on June 28; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

RETURN OF FISHING VESSELS: The Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on June 28 reported S. J. Res. 67, joint resolution to repeal certain World War II laws relating to return of fishing vessels, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 1649). The report states:

The considerations which brought about the enactment of these laws are no longer of any material significance. The

essential purpose of the act of April 29, 1943, was to authorize the return to their owners of fishing vessels and similar craft, primarily for the purpose of maintaining the fisheries and related industries in full production in order to bolster a lagging supply of food. There is no longer a need for this legislation since fishing vessels of the sort envisioned are now in ample supply. The purpose of the act of August 10, 1946, was to accord veterans a preference on purchasing unreturned vessels. Here, too, there is no longer any need for such legislation.

The Senate on July 6 passed without amendment S. J. Res. 67.

The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries on July 27 reported S. J. Res. 67, to repeal certain World War II laws relating to return of fishing vessels (H. Rept. 2550).

TRADE AGREEMENTS EXTENSION: The Senate on June 29 concurred in House amendment to H. R. 9474, to extend to June 12, 1955, authority of the President to enter into reciprocal trade agreements, clearing the bill for the White House.

On June 24 the Senate passed H. R. 9474, after adopting 1 amendment and rejecting 3 amendments, as follows: Adopted: Amendment by Senator Johnson of Colorado (for Senator Symington), barring decrease in duty on any article, the domestic production of which would be threatened by such decrease; and Rejected: Gore amendment (in the nature of a substitute for the bill and which would have extended present law for 3 years rather than 1); Mundt amendment, providing that if investigation by Tariff Commission indicates that importation of any articles will materially interfere with farm parity price program, President shall impose up to 50-percent fees on such articles; and Malone amendment to establish a Strategic and Critical Minerals and Material Authority.

H. R. 9474 was signed by the President July 1 (P. L. 464).

Public Law 464 - 83d Congress
Chapter 445 - 2d Session
H. R. 9474

AN ACT

All 68 Stat. 360.

To extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the period during which the President is authorized to enter into foreign-trade agreements under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended and extended (19 U. S. C., sec. 1351), is hereby extended for a further period of one year from June 12, 1954.

Sec. 2. No action shall be taken pursuant to such section 350 to decrease the duty on any article if the President finds that such reduction would threaten domestic production needed for projected national defense requirements.

Sec. 3. The enactment of this Act shall not be construed to determine or indicate the approval or disapproval by the Congress of the Executive agreement known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Approved July 1, 1954.

