



International

BENELUX COUNTRIES EASE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The Benelux countries--Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg--have freed most commodities for import from the United States and other dollar areas without quantitative restrictions, the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce, reported in a June 11 release.

Canned fish are among the commodities which now may be freely imported from the dollar areas.

The Netherlands Government has estimated that items covered on the common list of freed commodities represent about 85 percent of Netherlands imports from the United States in 1953. Although no corresponding estimates have been made for Belgium and Luxembourg, their percentage of liberalized U. S. imports probably is close to that of the Netherlands.

Formalities to be observed in connection with the importation of commodities on the common list are few. The Netherlands Government requires that a license application must be submitted to appropriate authorities, but licenses will be granted automatically and will carry with them the right to foreign exchange. Ordinarily, only a declaration to an authorized foreign-exchange bank to the effect that specified dollar goods are to be imported is required to obtain the necessary foreign exchange in Belgium-Luxembourg.

Once the commodities have been imported into the territory of one of the Benelux countries they will be allowed to move freely within the entire area.

Omission of commodities from the common list does not necessarily mean their importation will be restricted. It is expected that many nonlisted commodities will be admitted freely, and that import restrictions will be applied only in relatively few instances.

Information as to whether a specific commodity is included on the list may be obtained from the European Division, Bureau of Foreign Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF REFRIGERATION

NINTH MEETING AT PARIS IN 1955: The Ninth International Congress of Refrigeration was scheduled to meet at Paris, France, August 31 to September 15, 1955. Working sessions were to be held in the conference rooms and the lecture halls of the Sorbonne in Paris. The Eighth Congress was held in London in 1951.

The program was to cover all phases of the refrigeration industries, including the freezing and storing of fish.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

JAMES APPOINTED TEMPORARY DIRECTOR: Milton C. James has been appointed temporary director of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission,

effective August 1, according to Commission Chairman Bates. James is a former Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, having retired from Federal Government service in 1952. He also served as U. S. Commissioner on the International Pacific Halibut Fisheries Commission; and more recently, since his retirement from Federal service, acted as consultant to the Department of Fisheries of Washington State.

WHALING

WORLD WHALE- AND SPERM-OIL PRODUCTION, 1953/54: World production of whale and sperm oils during 1953/54 is forecast at 455,000 and 60,000 short tons, respectively, as compared with 420,000 and 55,000 tons in 1952/53. The increase in both of these oils is due mainly to larger returns from Antarctic pelagic (open sea) operations, according to the June 14 Foreign Crops and Markets, a Department of Agriculture publication.

Antarctic production of both whale and sperm oil in the recent 1953/54 whaling season was around 392,000 tons, according to provisional data, or 5 percent larger than the corresponding outturn of the preceding season. Whale-oil output increased by 4 percent to 366,793 tons and sperm oil by 19 percent to 25,369 tons. The larger production of whale oil can be attributed to the fact that in the past season the catch of baleen whales closely approximated the permissible catch limit of 15,500 blue-whale units (established by international agreement), while in 1952/53 the total catch amounted to only 14,855 units, or considerably short of the 16,000-unit quota allowed. Since no maximum quota has been established for the catch of sperm whales, the increased output of sperm oil in 1953/54 was due largely to a more favorable price and demand situation than that which prevailed during the previous season.

There were 17 expeditions operating in the 1953/54 Antarctic season, or one more than in 1952/53. Norway, with 9 factoryships, was again the leading producer of whale oil followed by the United Kingdom, Japan, the Soviet Union, the Union of South Africa, and the Netherlands.

Antarctic Pelagic Whale- and Sperm-Oil Production, 1953/54 (Preliminary)

Country	Whale Oil		Sperm Oil		Total	
	1953/54	1952/53	1953/54	1952/53	1953/54	1952/53
	(Short Tons)					
Norway	173,427	138,226	5,812	5,125	179,239	143,351
United Kingdom	79,081	73,623	8,899	10,230	87,980	83,853
Japan	41,220	37,443	5,946	1,259	47,166	38,702
Union of South Africa	25,929	26,299	1,557	1,786	27,486	28,085
The Netherlands	16,919	19,001	1,299	358	18,218	19,359
U. S. S. R.	30,217	28,201	1,856	782	32,073	28,983
Panama	-	28,924	-	1,717	-	30,641
Grand total ^{1/}	366,793	351,717	25,369	21,257	392,162	372,974

^{1/}Does not include production of South Georgia shore stations. In 1952/53 this production totaled 21,161 tons of whale oil and 1,239 tons of sperm oil.

Antarctic production of whale oil, including that which is produced by 3 South Georgia shore-stations, usually accounts for around 90 percent of the world supply. Output of whale oil by the South Georgia stations in 1953/54 is believed to have increased by as much as 75 percent from the 21,161 tons produced in 1952/53. It is expected that this year's production of whale oil from the numerous shore stations operating in scattered parts of the world will be at least as large as in 1952/53 when some 46,000 tons were produced.

Sperm-oil production during 1953/54 from Antarctic operations amounted to about 27,000 tons against 22,500 tons in 1952/53. Production from other areas of

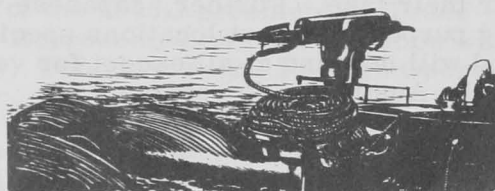
the world can only be roughly estimated as data regarding normally extensive North Pacific sperm whaling by the Soviet Union are not yet available for 1953. In the 3 years 1950-52, Soviet Union output of sperm oil from this area averaged about 12,000 tons, according to reports.

As of April 2, 1954, the entire pelagic production of whale oil had been sold at prices ranging from £67-10-0 to £81-10-0 per long ton (US\$169-204 per short ton). At that time only the Argentine South Georgia land-station outturn, estimated to be around 11,000 tons, was still unsold. In addition, there was a carryover from the 1952/53 Antarctic season of about 17,000 tons which was in storage in the Netherlands. The forthcoming Australian summer production (in 1953 Australia produced 19,100 tons of whale oil) has been sold in advance at prices between £72-10-0 to £86-0-0 per long ton (US\$181-215 per short ton). It is reported, also, that a large part of other summer production, including that of Norway and Iceland, has been contracted for at similar prices.

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SIXTH CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION AT TOKYO: The International Whaling Commission opened its sixth conference on July 19 in Tokyo, Japan, and was attended by representatives of the contracting parties, including the U. S. S. R., according to a July 16 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo.

The United States delegate was Dr. Arthur R. Kellogg, Director of the U. S. National Museum, with Mr. William M. Terry, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Commander J. P. Martin, U. S. Coast Guard, as advisers.



JAPANESE PEARL FISHING IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS IN 1954

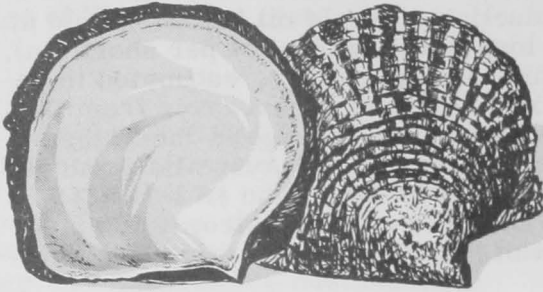
Details of the conditions under which Japanese pearling vessels would be permitted by the Australian Government to operate on a limited scale were announced May 8 by the Australian Minister for Commerce and Agriculture. These conditions will be in effect during the 1954 season and subsequently until a decision is given by the International Court of Justice in the legal proceedings on the Japanese claims.

The Minister in his press statement recalled that in November 1953 the Australian Government had agreed, subject to certain stipulated conditions, that it would not attempt to prevent the Japanese from having access to the International Court of Justice in regard to issues arising from the Australian Pearl Fisheries Act. The issues related to the contention of the Japanese Government that the Australian Pearl Fisheries Act and related measures affecting pearling operations were not applicable to Japanese vessels outside the limits of Australian territorial waters. Because some time would no doubt elapse before the case could be heard and a decision be given by the Court, the Australian Government had informed the Japanese Government that its willingness for the matter to go to the Court was subject to the Japanese Government's undertaking that, pending the Court's decision, pearling by Japanese in waters within the scope of the Pearl Fisheries Act would be in conformity with the Australian Government's requirements.

The Minister stated that the Japanese Government had now advised the Australian Government of its acceptance of the conditions laid down by the Australian Government limiting the extent of operations by Japanese pearling vessels during the 1954 and subsequent pearling seasons until the legal position was clarified by the International Court's decision.

He further explained that the Japanese vessels will conform with all the provisions of the Australian Pearl Fisheries Act and Regulations. During the 1954 season Japanese vessels will not take any greater quantity of pearl shell than was taken by the Japanese pearling fleet in the 1953 season. The Australian Government will

be prepared to issue licenses to no more than 25 Japanese pearling luggers and a mothership--the same number as operated in Australian waters in 1953--and for divers and divers' tenders who would engage in pearling operations on these vessels.



Pearl Oyster (*Avicula margaritifera*)

The Minister stated further that the Japanese vessels will operate only in specified areas off the Northern Territory designated by the Australian Government, and nowhere less than 10 miles from land. The areas in which the Japanese will be permitted to dive for pearl shell will be those generally farthest removed from Darwin and in which consequently Australian pearling vessels based on Darwin are not dependent to any large extent for their take. Further, Japanese vessels will be permitted to anchor for weathering purposes only at locations specially designated by the Australian Government, and will not land at all except for very special reasons and with the prior approval of the Australian Government.

Under the Australian legislation the Japanese vessels will observe any catch limits imposed in specific areas; will not take pearl shell smaller than the prescribed minimum sizes; will furnish regularly the prescribed returns giving details of take from time to time in the specified areas; and will be subject to inspection on the same basis as Australian pearlers.

The Minister stressed that observance by the Japanese of the provisions of the Australian Pearl Fisheries Act and Regulations will insure that the conservation requirements of the Australian pearling legislation will be fully observed. In finalizing these arrangements the Australian Government had taken action which will safeguard Australia's interests in the pearling industry in waters adjacent to its coasts.

Note: See Commercial Fisheries Review, July 1954, p. 38.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

ICELANDIC-RUSSIAN BARTER AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISH: In accordance with the two-year agreement signed by Iceland and the U. S. S. R. in 1953, negotiations took place recently regarding the commodities involved in the coming months. During the next 18-months' period, Iceland will ship to Russia one-third of its total production of frozen fish. Icelandic exports of frozen fish and salted herring will be increased from 34,000 metric tons in 1954 to between 40,000 and 50,000 tons in 1955. No fishery products will be shipped from Russia. The total trade in each direction is estimated at US\$17 million. In 1953 the total Icelandic exports to all countries amounted to US\$43 million.

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NORWEGIAN-DANISH AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISHERY PRODUCTS: A Commodity Exchange Agreement including fishery products was signed at Copenhagen, Denmark, on April 9 to cover trade between Norway and Denmark in the year ending March 31, 1955.

Norwegian-Danish trade is to a large extent in items on each country's OEEC free list. The agreement provides, however, for somewhat larger imports by each country of certain nonfree-listed items. Danish imports will include fish and fish products. Norway will import miscellaneous commodities, but no fishery products.

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SOUTH KOREAN-PHILIPPINE AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISHERY PRODUCTS: South Korean representatives and a Philippine trade mission in Seoul have reached tentative agreement on barter trade amounting to US\$3 million a year each way, according to the May 21 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade paper.

South Korea plans to export to the Philippines US\$2 million worth of salted dried fish, dried sea weed, canned food, agar-agar, and the remaining US\$1 million in other materials. No fishery products are involved in shipments from the Philippines.

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U. S. -PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATIONS PLANNED: The U. S. Department of State announced on July 14 the appointment of a United States delegation for negotiation with the Philippines regarding possible revision of the 1946 Agreement on Trade and Related Matters between the two countries. Represented on the delegation were the Departments of State, Agriculture, Treasury, Commerce, the Foreign Operations Administration, and the Tariff Commission.

Full opportunity will be provided for interested United States business firms and individuals to make known their views regarding possible modifications of the agreement. The holding of public hearings and an invitation for the submission of written briefs will be announced in due course.

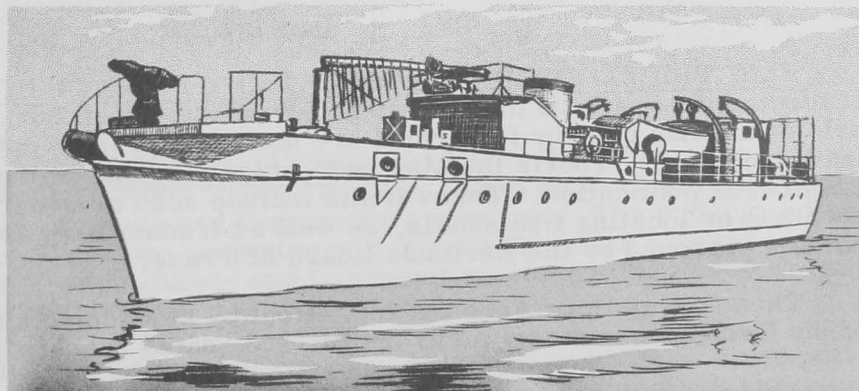
The discussions with the Philippine delegation were scheduled to commence upon its arrival in this country, probably in the latter part of August or early September. Liaison will be maintained with the U. S. Government departments and agencies having an interest in these negotiations.



Australia

SHORE-BASED WHALING SEASON OPENS: The West Australian whaling season opened on June 1 at Albany with the capture of two humpback whales, a U. S. consular dispatch

(June 4) from Perth reports. The Australian Whaling Commission's station at Carnarvon was scheduled to open on June 8 with 3 whale catchers to take the quota of 600 humpback whales. No word had been received of operations at the Norwegian-financed station on the north coast of Australia.



An Australian whale chaser. Note folded mast to get under low bridges and on foredeck the tractor which serves as a winch for playing whales.

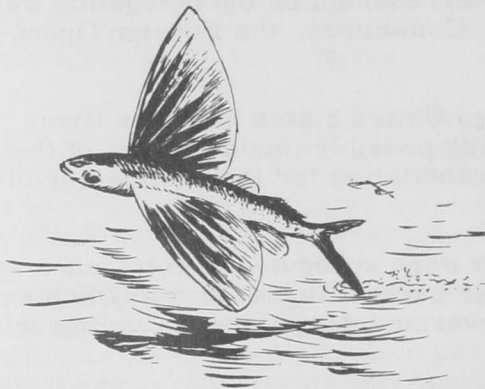
The Carnarvon station opened the season with a new plant for spray-drying whale solubles for stock feed. The new equipment was designed in Denmark, but largely fabricated on the spot at a cost of £A50,000 (US\$112,000). The dried solubles will be packed in moisture-proof bags instead of the drums used previously, thus cutting shipping costs by more than half.

The Commission announced in late May that both the whale oil and byproducts from the coming season had been sold in advance for a total estimated return of about £A700,000 (US\$1.6 million). The whale meal has been sold to Western Australian purchasers. The average price for the whale oil to be delivered to Europe was reported as LA96/17/6 (US\$217) per short ton.



Barbados Island

FLYING FISH TO BE CANNED: A flying fish canning industry is to be started with pioneer status in the Barbados Islands, according to the March 1954 Monthly Information Bulletin of the Caribbean Commission.



Flying fish.

Flying fish is a very popular food in Barbados, but at times there is a glut on the market and prices fall. Furthermore, the improvements being carried out in the fishing industry are likely to make more fish available.

It is expected that all the surplus flying fish will be canned as soon as the industry gets under way. According to the Barbados press, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour has stated that this new industry, as well as the canning of other fish products, will be given pioneer status.

Proposals call for the canning of surplus quantities, and after the needs of the Island are met, efforts will be made to export the canned fish to Canada, the United States, and Venezuela. It is estimated that the cannery will employ between 100 and 150 workers.



Bermuda

ELECTRICAL FISHING ITEMS EXEMPT FROM DUTY: Imports into Bermuda of electrical apparatus or equipment intended for installation and operation in vessels ordinarily used by fishermen are now exempt from duty regardless of the originating country, reports the May 24 Foreign Commerce Weekly, a Department of Commerce publication. These items include echo or sonar equipment used for sounding or locating fish shoals, as well as transmitting and receiving radios of a pattern approved by the Bermuda Board of Trade.

These exemptions were put into effect by amendments of items No. 30 and 84 of the Bermudan customs tariff act of 1953, dated January 27, 1954.

Fishermen are required to furnish bond to the Colonial Treasurer to provide that in event of sale or disposal locally of any such apparatus or equipment for other than for the aforementioned purpose, the duty ordinarily payable on like goods at time of sale will be duly paid thereon.



British Guiana

FISHERIES EXPANSION ENCOURAGED: Various types of fishery cooperatives are being encouraged and sponsored by the British Guiana Fisheries Division, according to the March 1954 Monthly Information Bulletin of the Caribbean Commission. Cooperative groups for the bulk purchasing of gear, among other things, is one of the recent developments. A dried shrimp industry is also being formed and a factory for this purpose was recently registered.

The processing of the byproducts of the dried shrimp industry, including shrimp meal for stock feed and fish glue, is being carried out and the products are being sold on the British market.

A recent review of the Acting Fisheries Officer disclosed that plans to create a fish dock along the lines of those of Hull and Grimsby in England--but on a smaller scale--have already been initiated. These plans include provisions for a wholesale market, processing facilities, cold storage plant, and fishermen's shelter. An ice plant has already been completed.



British West Indies

CERTAIN FISHERY PRODUCTS IMPORTS PLACED UNDER OPEN LICENSE: Acting as a result of negotiations relating to the British West Indies trade liberalization plan, all British Colonies in the Caribbean area, including British Honduras and British Guiana, have placed certain fishery products under open license. These include dried, smoked, pickled, salted, and canned fish, according to the July 5 Foreign Commerce Weekly, a Department of Commerce publication.

Importers in these Colonies no longer will be required to obtain individual or specific licenses for import of these items from any country, according to individual announcements appearing in the respective official gazettes.



Canada

ITALY TO BUY SALTED COD AND CANNED SALMON: Italy has agreed to make dollars available again in 1954/55 for Canadian salted cod and canned salmon, the Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce announced. The understanding reached between officials of the two countries will permit Canadian exports to Italy of C\$2.5 million worth of Newfoundland- and Labrador-type cod, C\$600,000 worth of Gaspé-type cod, and C\$2.0 million worth of canned salmon.

This is not a formal trade agreement but an understanding which is a renewal of arrangements made last year, a June 18 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Ottawa points out. Canada exported to Italy in 1953 salted cod and canned salmon valued slightly over C\$2 million.

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NEW SASKATCHEWAN FISHERIES REGULATIONS FOR IMPROVED QUALITY: Provincial fisheries regulations designed to protect Saskatchewan consumers by insuring that they receive fish of high-quality standards went into effect with the opening of the summer commercial fishing season in May.

The regulations are in line with the policy of the Fisheries Branch to bring fish production and marketing in Saskatchewan up to standards on a par with any on the North American continent, according to the Saskatchewan News (June 1), a Provincial news bulletin.

Commercial fishermen and fish dealers shipping fish considered unfit for human consumption may have their licenses cancelled under one of the regulations. Other regulations call for the proper dressing and handling of fish, and the labeling of boxes containing whitefish. The boxes must have the lake of origin and the words "dressed whitefish" or "round whitefish" stamped or stencilled on them.

Fisheries violations may result in the seizure of fish shipments, along with equipment used in committing the violation.



Ceylon

NEW FISHERY HARBOR: A new fishery harbor will be built at Mutwal, Ceylon, costing Rs. 5.7 million (US\$1.2 million), and will have berthing facilities for six trawlers and other small fishing vessels, according to The Fishing News (May 21), a British fishery periodical. There are only two trawlers operating there now. The harbor is expected to be completed by December 1955.

The harbor will adjoin the port of Colombo, but it will be completely independent of it and facilitate the distribution and marketing of fish. When the trawlers unload catches the fish will be carried on conveyor belts, which will be built on the breakwaters, direct to the 550-ton capacity refrigerating plant. This refrigerating plant is to be built with Canadian funds and is due to be completed by September 1955.

A byproducts factory will be built alongside the harbor. Canadian aid is being negotiated to finance the construction of this byproducts factory also. The factory will convert the waste material into fish meal and oil.



Chile

NEW SPECIES OF SHRIMP DISCOVERED: Chilean fishermen have discovered a succulent and high-priced shrimp of what may be an entirely new species, reports the latest Fisheries Bulletin of the Food and Agriculture Organization. It appears to be a close relative of a species of shrimp which was last reported in 1895 to be living at a depth of about a mile in the ocean between Panama and the Galapagos Islands.

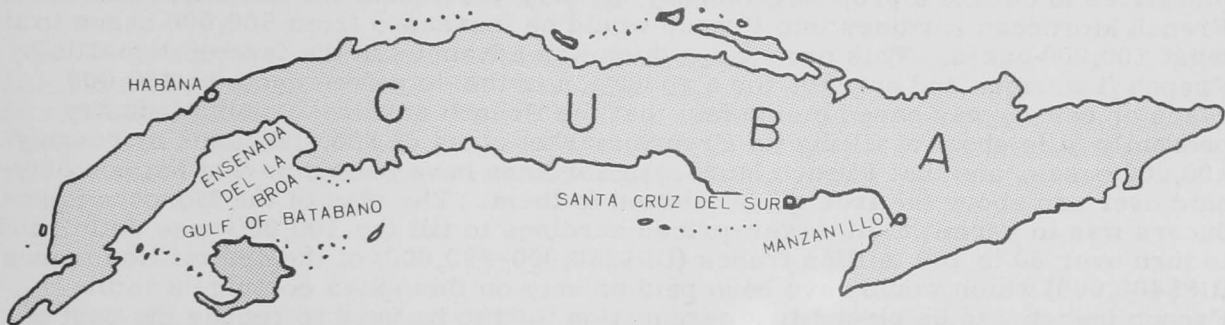
The fishermen discovered the shrimp when they started deep trawling along the edge of Chile's continental shelf on the recommendation of a fisheries biologist sent by FAO under its Expanded Technical Assistance Program. Some of the fishermen who followed the advice of the biologist made hauls of half a ton of the unknown species of shrimp.

A sample of these shrimp was received by the FAO Regional Office for Western South America in Santiago and the shrimp was identified by a professor of the Chilean Museum of Natural History and the FAO Regional Officer as belonging to the genus Heterocarpus of the family Pandalidae. The shrimp does not seem to agree with any of the Heterocarpus species reported in the available literature and a detailed study of it is being made. Specimens sent to the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., were identified as belong to a species closely allied to Heterocarpus hostilis (Faxon).



Cuba

SHRIMP BEDS DISCOVERED: Extensive shrimp beds were discovered in December 1953 near the Ensenada de la Broa in the Gulf of Batabano, Cuba, and subsequently in shallow waters around Santa Cruz del Sur and Manzanillo. By the end of May 1954 some 50 large shrimp boats and at least 30 other small craft were reported to be engaged actively in shrimping in the Batabano Gulf alone, a June 11 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Habana states.



To cope with the presently inadequate refrigeration facilities, additional equipment will soon be installed through assistance of the Agricultural Bank (BANFAIC). Meanwhile the Bank is lending financial and technical assistance to the fishermen's cooperatives. It is also pushing further shrimp-bed explorations in a fully-equipped research vessel Don Carlos, acquired recently in the United States.



French Morocco

SARDINE INDUSTRY OUTLOOK GOOD: The outlook for the French Moroccan 1954 sardine season which opened in May was encouraging, a June 23 U. S. consular dispatch from Casablanca points out. French Moroccan exports of sardines in 1953 totaled over 2 million cases as sales increased in many markets, including the United States.

Because of the Protectorate Administration's encouragement of an effective concentration in the fish-canning industry which led to the creation of production and marketing associations, operating costs have been reduced. This has enabled French Moroccan sardines to compete with Portuguese sardines in foreign markets. Also, French Moroccan sardines have been able to supply a large portion of the over-all yearly increase in world demand for the product.

Since accumulated French Moroccan stocks were disposed of during 1953, it was believed that production this year and next will be stabilized at about 1,600,000

cases annually, of which over 600,000 cases will be sold in France, 400,000 cases to the French Union and the French armed Forces overseas, and the remaining 500,000 to 600,000 cases to other foreign markets.

Another favorable index for sardine exports was the placing of this commodity under the Open General License regulations in Great Britain, a development which will permit the free importation of French Moroccan canned fish into that country. Controlled imports of French Moroccan sardines by Great Britain were virtually halted after 1951 owing to the accumulation of stocks in that country which remained unsold due principally to the unattractive presentation of the cans and the occasional shipment of low-quality products. It was too early to estimate the buying potential of the British market, but the French Moroccan industry intends to recapture a part at least of its former strong position in that country.

Encouraged by brightening exportation prospects and bolstered by production cost decreases made possible through industrial and commercial concentration, the representatives of the French Moroccan sardine canning industry decided to attempt to broaden their market in metropolitan France. In February of this year a delegation of the Committee of French Moroccan Fish Cannery visited the various chambers of commerce in France and the representatives of the French fish-canning industries to outline a proposal whereby the duty-free quota for the importation of French Moroccan sardines into France would be increased from 600,000 cases to at least 700,000 cases. This proposal, which was advanced in the face of demands by French fishermen and cannery for a reduction in the duty-free quota to 400,000 cases or below, was based on the fact that the French sardine-canning industry presently falls short of filling its French market quota of 800,000 cases by roughly 100,000 cases, and that French Moroccan sardines have been entering France duty-paid over and above the free quota allotted to them. The plan of the Moroccan producers was to permit their lower-priced sardines to fill the 100,000-case deficit and to turn over 80 to 100 million francs (US\$230,000-290,000) of the 140 million francs (US\$400,000) which would have been paid as duty on this extra contingent to the French industry to be placed in a perequation fund to be used to reduce the cost of producing French sardines.

A corollary to this plan for close collaboration between the rival industries would be the profitable use of lower-priced Moroccan sardines in compensation agreements between France and other countries. While it was reported that the plan aroused considerable interest in industrial and commercial circles in France, it has not yet been formally presented for the approval of the French Governmental agencies responsible for the establishment of duty-free quotas for French Moroccan products.



Greenland

DENMARK BUILDS FISHING VESSELS: In an attempt to interest Greenlanders in modern fishing methods, the Royal Greenland Trading Company in Copenhagen has had built six modern vessels at a Danish yard. These consist of three 26-foot and three 30-foot boats, capable of carrying between 5 and 6 metric tons each, full-decked, with living accommodations for the crews. All six are equipped with line winches, making it possible to use lines of up to 1,000 hooks. They will be sold to interested Greenlanders on the installment plan, according to the June 26 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication.



Iceland

TERRITORIAL LIMITS REGULATIONS TO BE DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL OF EUROPE: The Council of Europe at its recent session in Strassbourg has agreed to place on its agenda the extension of the territorial limits surrounding the Icelandic coast. The resolution was introduced by representatives of Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and France, according to a June 14 U. S. legation dispatch from Reykjavik reporting on an editorial in the June 4 issue of Althydubladid.

The resolution placed on the Council agenda is as follows:

"With reference to the desirability of taking up for consideration the changes which have been made in fisheries rights within the territorial waters of the Icelandic State, and also with reference to the political and economic consequences of these changes, the assembly resolves to place the following matter on its agenda: **CHANGES WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE REGULATIONS ON FISHERIES RIGHTS IN THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE ICELANDIC SOVEREIGN STATE.**"

The Icelandic representatives on the Council had no objection to discussion on the matter by the assembly, but they reserved the right to discuss it from all angles, including... measures such as the British landing ban.

The resolution was approved and referred to the Legal Committee and the Political and Economic Committee. The legal aspects of the matter will be discussed by the Legal Committee after which it will probably be given consideration by the Political and Economic Committee. It is therefore uncertain that committee reports will be submitted in time to permit discussion of the matter by the Council's next session.

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TRAWLER OWNERS MAKE NEW PLANS TO PROCESS AND MARKET THEIR CATCH IN BRITAIN: Icelandic trawler owners have been investigating the possibility of establishing and operating their own organization at a British port to process and market their fish after it is landed. This will include the building of a processing factory and an ice-making plant, according to a June 15 U. S. Legation dispatch from Reykjavik.

The first stage of what will be a long-term policy was carried out in May by the Icelandic Fisheries Attache in Britain in a visit to Newcastle-on-Tyne to investigate the suitability of that port as a center of operations. Earlier the Attache had visited the port of Goole, where he was particularly impressed by the facilities that were offered there. However, before any decision is reached the trawler owners feel it is necessary to explore other ports where officials have offered them every help in resuming trade in Britain.

This new move by the trawler owners is in retaliation to the boycott of Icelandic fish at the ports of Hull and Grimsby. It is designed to prevent the possibility of a future ban such as occurred at these ports.



Japan

TRAWLERS TO FISH FOR COD AND SOLE IN BERING SEA: The Japanese Fisheries Agency has granted permission to 2 fishing companies to trawl for cod and sole in the Bering Sea between 57°30' and 63° N. latitude and between 180° and 164° W. longitude.

The 100-ton trawler Asama Maru will make 3 trips from early in July to mid-October 1954. The 7,500-ton mothership Eijin Maru with 475-ton trawlers will operate from September 15 to October 30. Vessels are authorized to use only trawl nets and return to the sea any halibut, salmon, and crabs caught in the trawling operations, a U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo (July 9) points out.

Permission has been granted under the following conditions: (a) trawl nets only to be used; (b) halibut, salmon, and crab caught in the nets to be thrown back; (c) no operation in foreign territorial waters; (d) no entry into foreign ports without authorization.

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CANNED SALMON EXPORTS TO BRITAIN: Japan expects to export in 1954 to the United Kingdom 200,000 cases of canned salmon and salmon trout, valued at £1.5 million (US\$4.2 million), under the Anglo-Japanese Payment Agreement. This will represent about 90 percent of the production target for the year. During the prewar years 1937-39, the average Japanese exports of canned salmon to the United Kingdom amounted to 1,668,000 cases a year out of a total production of about 2,700,000 cases.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT



Malaya

NEW FISHERIES LABORATORY: A new fisheries laboratory is to be built at Changi to chart the movements of fish in Malayan waters and to find out the best method of catching them, a June bulletin from the Pacific Science Association states.

The Director of the Regional Fisheries Research Station stated that the laboratory would have a team of five scientists from the Colonial Scientific Research Service. Research work was to begin in March 1954 with the arrival of a 28-foot vessel from England for inshore work. Another vessel, the 100-foot Manihine, will be used for deep-sea work and was expected by July.

The entire project is a five-year Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme. All capital costs and half the annual expenditure will be borne by British funds. The other half will be shared by the five territories: Singapore, the Federation of Malaya, Sarawak, North Borneo, and Brunei.



Norway

1954 HERRING MEAL AND OIL PRODUCTION SOLD: All of the herring meal and oil produced by Norwegian processing plants from January 1 to May 1, 1954, has been sold, the Chairman of the Norwegian Herring Meal Export Committee reported recently. The total value of the domestic and foreign sales amounts to about Kr. 350 million (US\$49.0 million), of which approximately Kr. 240 million (US\$33.6 million) will be paid in foreign exchange. Adding the value of the herring that will be processed during the rest of the year, plus the large quantities that have been sold fresh, frozen, or salted, the Norwegian herring fisheries can safely be estimated to produce total sales of Kr. 500-600 million (US\$69.9-83.9 million) this year.

The 1954 winter herring fisheries off the coast of western Norway produced an all-time record catch of 1,160,910 short tons as against only 747,408 short tons last year. Subsequently, up to May 1 fishermen have landed 59,757 short tons of fat

herring and 62,551 short tons of small herring. As of the same date last year they had caught only 11,609 gross tons of fat herring and 25,345 short tons of small herring. The total catch of winter, fat, and small herring as of May 1 was 1,282,308 short tons as compared with 744,363 short tons in the same period of 1953, or an increase of nearly 538,000 short tons.

From the herring landed between January 1 and May 1, Norwegian processing plants have produced about 200,000 tons of herring meal, all of which has been sold. About 30 percent of the production went to domestic buyers, and the rest is being exported. A substantial quantity of the exported herring will be paid for in dollars. None is being traded as part of barter arrangements. In the same four-month period, Norwegian reduction plants produced about 90,000 tons of herring oil, all of which has been sold, mainly to domestic buyers. Altogether, about 85 percent of the total herring landings are delivered to meal and oil plants, reports a May 27 bulletin from the Norwegian Information Service.

The major part of the herring meal is classed as "extra quality," with a minimum protein content of 70 percent, a maximum of 10 percent fat, and about 10 percent moisture. The stickwater, which in former days was dumped into the sea as worthless, is now utilized to make vitamin-rich condensed fish solubles and whole herring meal, a valuable animal feed. Thus, the reduction plants utilize virtually 100 percent of the herring.

More and more Norwegian reduction plants are installing special evaporators to utilize the stickwater. All of the major plants in north Norway are now equipped with such machinery. The same trend is notable in western Norway, too.

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FREEZING HERRING IN ALGINATE JELLY: The development of a new method of freezing herring in alginate jelly was announced recently by a leading seaweed processing firm in Drammen, Norway, the Norwegian Information Service (May 27) reports. Preserving the herring from one season to another, the patented method is receiving practical application at four Norwegian herring plants. Formerly, because of the high fat content, herring could be kept fresh no longer than half a year at the most.

At a demonstration in Kristiansund recently, herring frozen in alginate jelly for 12 months was served to a critical gathering of herring experts, chemists, housewives, and representatives of the firm which has tested the new method. The consensus, according to the Norwegian Journal of Commerce and Shipping, was that the year-old herring tasted better than fresh. For one thing, the new product is devoid of the characteristic herring odor.

Packed in alginate jelly and wrapped in cellophane, the filleted herring will be introduced to Norwegian consumers next year. The fillets will be available in $\frac{1}{2}$ -kilogram packages (1.1 pounds) for retail distribution, and in 2- to 8-kilogram (4.4 to 17.6 pounds) packages for larger families and institutions. Experiments have also been made with freezing whole herring and mackerel in alginate jelly. The frozen mackerel has attracted considerable interest among foreign importers.

The demonstration in Kristiansund was held at Industrilaboratoriet A/S, a research institution sponsored by the Klippfish Exporters National Association and Norwegian Frozen Fish A/S. For more than a year scientists of this laboratory checked the condition of the frozen herring at regular intervals. Similar tests have been made by the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate's Chemical-Technical Research Institute. In no instance has it been possible to detect any trace of rancidness or deterioration of flavor.

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FISHERIES FAIR: The first large-scale fisheries fair to be held in Norway took place in Aalesund during two weeks in June, the Norwegian Information Service reported in a June 24 bulletin. Covering an area of nearly 110,000 square feet, the Norwegian Fisheries Fair gave a complete picture of the history, development, and scope of this important industry. There were 150 stands sponsored by organizations and manufacturers, including a number of foreign companies. Among other highlights was a historical section and Norway's biggest aquarium.

In an opening address the Fisheries Minister observed that the postwar development of Norwegian fisheries has wrought far-reaching changes in the coastal districts. He added: "This fair is a review of our achievements as a fishing nation. But its most important function is to give impulses that may lead to further progress. I sincerely hope it will stimulate the spirit of enterprise and daring that is the hallmark of our fishing industry."

Primarily a sales fair, the Aalesund event assembled an impressive lineup of products related to the fishing industry. One of the main exhibits featured a streamlined ocean-going fishing craft, equipped with radar, echo sounder, and a new type of ASDIC (sonar) that effectively locates fish shoals. Others showed modern fishing gear, including the superefficient purse seine; and a long line of marine engines. In the machinery section, raw fish is fed into technical wonders, coming out again as deep-frozen, cellophane-wrapped fillets, or delicate herring snacks.

FAO recognized the importance of the Norwegian Fisheries Fair by sponsoring an international course in fish processing at Aalesund, with 40 participants from 10 European countries. Lectures in four languages, Norwegian, English, French, and German, were given by leading specialists.

The rapid postwar development of Norwegian fisheries, emphasizing rationalization, mechanization, and scientific location of shoals, has reduced the number of fishermen to about 85,000. Of these, some 16,000 have fishing as their sole livelihood and nearly 52,000 derive their main income from the fisheries. The fishing fleet now comprises some 14,000 decked vessels and 26,000 open boats. The annual catch, of which 90 percent is exported, varies from 1.2 to 1.6 million metric tons. Since the war, Norwegian frozen fish fillets have found a growing market abroad, both in Europe and the United States.

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WHALE-OIL PRODUCTION, 1953/54--(with correction): Norwegian Antarctic production of both whale and sperm oil in 1953/54 is estimated at 191,300 short tons, an increase of more than one-fourth from the corresponding 1952/53 output. Antarctic pelagic operations, as usual, accounted for the bulk of the total output. Nine Norwegian factory ships operating in the 1953/54 season rendered 173,400 and 5,800 tons of whale and sperm oil, respectively. The increase in the total production is due to the fact that two more floating factories operated in 1953/54 than in 1952/53. Later information received regarding Norway's Husvik Harbour, South Georgia, whaling station indicates that the combined production of whale and sperm oil from this source amounted to 64,789 barrels (12,100 short tons) rather than the 173,000 barrels (32,290 tons) reported in Commercial Fisheries Review, July 1954, page 55.



Peru

SHRIMP EXPORTS INCREASE IN 1953: Shrimp fishing in Panama continued to expand in 1953 and total exports of shrimp for the year amounted to 2,083 metric tons as compared with 1,096 tons in 1952 (see table).

The total catch of fish other than shrimp in the Gulf of Panama in 1953 was 2.1 million pounds as compared with 2.7 million pounds in 1952. However, the total 1953 catch of fish (including shrimp) was substantially higher than in any other previous year, according to a recent report from the American Embassy at Panama City.

Year	Quantity	Value
	Metric Tons	US\$
1953	2,083	1,916,000
1952	1,096	1,350,000
1951	563	705,000
1950	138	168,000



Panama

STATUS OF THE FISHERIES, 1953: The Peruvian fishing industry enjoyed much more favorable conditions in 1953 than in the immediate preceding years and the season was considered moderately favorable. This was in spite of a late start awaiting the appearance of bonito and other fish in commercial quantities, according to an April 19 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lima.

More than 35 fish canners were reported in production at the end of the year with an output in excess of one-million cases (48 7-oz. cans), 80 percent of which was exported. Some 15 fish-meal factories have been established, exporting about 10,000 metric tons annually. Refrigeration facilities for fishery products along the coast were estimated to have a capacity of about 4,500 metric tons. Increasing numbers of large foreign (including U. S. -flag) fishing vessels were brought under contract to Peru to fish for local companies.



Portugal

NEW COLD-STORAGE WAREHOUSES FOR COD: Additional cold-storage warehouses for dried cod will be constructed at various points in Portugal under the direction of the Regulatory Commission of Trade in Codfish, according to a June 18 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lisbon. A June 14 order of the Ministry of Economy delegated the responsibility to the Commission.

The new installations will be built at Lisbon, capacity 1,800 metric tons; Figueira da Foz, 600 tons; Aveiro, 1,200 tons; Oporto, 960 tons; and Viana do Castelo, 900 tons. Existing installations total 10,500 tons--Lisbon, 6,300 tons; Oporto, 3,000 tons; and Aveiro, 1,200 tons.



Spain

REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1953: A general scarcity of sardines and cod, high operating costs, antiquated fishing vessels, and shortages in certain lines of ship fittings continued to hamper the Spanish fishing industry in 1953. As a consequence the total catch of 620,026 metric tons was only about 6 percent above the unsatisfactory 1952 level of 583,647 tons.

Government loans to the fishing industry through the Caia Central de Credito Maritima in 1953 amounted to 19,593,620 pesetas (US\$503,000), a decline of almost 47 percent from the 36,682,852 pesetas (US\$925,000) in 1952.

Other than a promised reduction in certain grades of coal for fishing vessels, there was little prospect of immediate improvement in the distressed condition of the industry. Fuel oil and tin plate remained under strict control and fishing gear was under a system of voluntary rationing at the end of the year, a June 14 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Madrid points out.

Note: Values converted on the basis: 1953--38.95 pesos = US\$1; 1952--39.65 pesos = US\$1.

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VIGO FISH CANNING TRENDS, APRIL 1954: Fish canneries in the Vigo area of Spain purchased 324,000 pounds of fish during April--4.5 percent of the total catches entered through the Vigo Fish Exchange. This compares to 166,000 pounds in March and 35,000 pounds in April 1953. In spite of more purchases by canneries, fish for canning was still being landed in below-normal quantities. Stocks of oil, tinplate, and other raw materials, while below normal for this time of year, were reported to be adequate, a May 10 U. S. Consular dispatch from Vigo reports.

With the off-season for the fishing of jurel and castaneta (brama-raii) approaching, the short-range fishing fleet must look to the bonito runs. Some of the vessels were being equipped for the albacore runs that were due to start about the middle of May, but shortages of capital handicapped the owners in the purchase of necessary equipment.

While in many respects the fish cannery are now in a better position than a year ago, the shortage of liquid capital to buy albacore and sardines should heavy runs appear during the coming months continued to be one of their main concerns.

The industry anxiously awaited any measures that the Government may take on the proposals made by the National Fishing Syndicate after the national assembly held in Madrid during April. The Syndicate proposed a study to be made of industry problems.



Thailand

JAPANESE-TYPE FISH TRAP TESTS SUCCESSFUL: Excellent catches were made by a Japanese-type trap net introduced into Thailand by STEM and operated by the Thai Department of Fisheries, a June 18 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Bangkok points out. In a recent 31-day demonstration under commercial fishing conditions this net averaged more than 1,200 pounds of fish daily; peak production was 13,200 pounds in one day. What makes this record even more impressive is that the traditional local type of bamboo stake traps were producing very little or no fish during the same period.

This is the second season of practical demonstrations; during the first season the imported trap caught twice as much fish as comparative local traps. The value of the fish caught was about three times greater.

Fishermen in the neighborhood of the Ban Phae Marine Fisheries Station, where the demonstrations were made, are enthusiastic about the new trap. Costs for the imported gear are slightly less than those needed for the present type. Utilization of locally-obtainable materials will cut the original cost by 30 to 40 percent under

the existing type. Other advantages are greater mobility, easier removal of the catches, easier setting and hauling, greater flexibility, and a greater variety of catches including more valuable market species.

The first stages of expansion will commence this year in nearby fishing villages. Since the Thai fisherman is traditionally conservative in adopting new methods, it will probably be necessary to operate on a cooperative extended-risk basis in which the Thai Government will participate by providing some materials for trap construction. After one season of this type of arrangement it is probable that Government participation can be minimized.

The results of use of the new traps will be important. Larger catches at less cost, more valuable species, and a longer fishing season with less risk to the fisherman may be expected.



Union of South Africa

WHOLE FISH-MEAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES PLANNED: The South African fish-meal industry recently has been thoroughly testing fish processing equipment designed to produce "whole meal." There are reported to be three factories already being equipped for this operation and a fourth is approaching completion.

"Whole meal" is fish meal containing fish solubles. In the United States condensed fish solubles are marketed as a separate product from fish meal and the former are sold strictly on their own merits. The plan of the South African producers is to offer "whole meal" on the United States market as a fish meal for the animal-feeding trade in competition with domestically-produced fish meals. The Norwegians have also gone into this type of production.

Although opinion is divided on the relative merits of "whole meal" versus fish meal and condensed fish solubles, the advent of additional supplies of the "whole meal" in the United States will be a factor to be reckoned with as a potentially competitive item once its relative merits are established by actual test in the market place and on the feed lot.

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FISHERIES SURVEY BY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: The South African Minister of Economic Affairs visited the West Coast fishing harbors for discussions with fishermen on matters affecting the industry, reports the May 21 issue of The Fishing News, a British trade paper.

He travelled with the Director of Fishing and other officials in the Department's research vessel Africana II, and was able to study the research methods en route.

At Velddrif he said the Fisheries Development Corporation had made important proposals that, if accepted, would greatly expand research work on fisheries. These proposals involved the Union Government, the South-West African Administration, fishermen, and the fish factories, as well as the Corporation.

To avoid serious depletion of the rich pilchard shoals off the coast of South Africa, the Union Government is imposing control by declaring "closed" seasons, besides restricting the number of canneries in the industry.

Negotiations are proceeding for the erection of a quick-freezing plant for the production of frozen fillets.

The Minister said also that the purchase price of fish would be dealt with and that a Board would be appointed to control the building of fishing boats intended for catching fish for processing.

During 1953 the total landings of pilchards and maasbankers in South Africa waters totalled 288,155 metric tons, an increase of 3,704 tons over the previous year.

The heavier catch was achieved, however, with an expanded fleet, while the unit of effort per ton landed showed a significant increase. According to the Division of Fisheries the greater effort required is accounted for by the decreased availability of fish not by a decreased supply, the heavy shoals appearing in areas farther away from bases than in previous years.

A special committee is to be appointed with statutory powers to limit the number of fishing boats allowed to operate in the pilchard and maasbankers waters on the west coast of South Africa, according to a statement by the Minister. He said this was part of the proposed intensified program to conserve and improve the fishing grounds of the west coast. No more than the number of boats operating at the beginning of 1953 would be allowed on the fishing grounds.

The Fisheries Development Corporation has conducted experimental netting operations in South African waters to discover whether Norwegian methods were suitable for catching species now caught by hand line. It was shown that the Norwegian system was not suited to this section of the coast.

Gansbaai (South Africa) fishermen have registered the Gansbaai Cooperative Fisheries, Ltd., operated independently under the management of a member of the Fisheries Development Corporation's staff. Its products include crude shark-liver oil, dried shark fins, and shark meat, which are exported; and fresh fish sold locally.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, February 1954, p. 53.



United Kingdom

GRIMSBY PLANT SUPPLIES FISH TO U. S. AND BRITISH ARMED FORCES: Considerable quantities of quick-frozen fish are being supplied to the U. S. Armed Forces by a Grimsby processing plant, according to the July 3 Fish Trades Gazette, a British trade magazine. The plant is supplying mainly cod, haddock, and bream, and payment is made in dollars. The U. S. Forces in Europe have bought large quantities of fish from Denmark, Norway, Germany, Iceland, and Holland, but they will buy only from firms which process in plants inspected and passed by U. S. Armed Forces officials. A high standard is required and the finished product is inspected by a qualified inspector.

The same Grimsby firm is sending fish to British Armed Forces all over the world. Grimsby fish has been shipped to British soldiers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, and South Africa.

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FISHING PRIVILEGES OFF RUSSIAN COAST AGAIN EXTENDED: The Russian Government has agreed to a one-year extension--to June 30, 1955--of the Pact granting British fishing privileges off the Murman coast of Russia, states a U. S. Embassy dispatch (June 22) from London. A year ago the pact had also been extended one year, to the end of June 1954. It was believed in Britain that it would be necessary to send a negotiating body to Moscow to get some concession, but this latest temporary extension was secured without doing so. During the period of this extension the British Government hopes to negotiate a more permanent agreement.

The Pact, which has been in force since 1930, allows British trawlers to fish up to within 3 miles of the Russian White Sea coast instead of the 12-mile limit imposed on all other countries. Involved are some 3,000 square miles of fishing grounds from which the British produce about 28 million pounds of plaice and haddock each year.

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MINIMUM EX-VESSEL PRICES RAISED AS OPERATING COSTS INCREASE: Minimum ex-vessel prices for fish landed by British trawlers will be increased on September 1 by about 7s. 6d. per 10-stone kit ($\frac{3}{4}$ U. S. cent per pound). The present minimum prices were set in February 1952 and since then operating costs have risen an average of £20 (US\$56) per day at sea for distant-water vessels fishing from Humber ports. This increased the annual cost of the fleet operating from these ports an additional £1.5 million (US\$4.2 million) per year.

It is reported that this does not mean increased prices for the consumer, according to the May 28 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery paper. The minimum price is merely the basic price below which trawler owners do not sell to fresh fish dealers; it is designed to prevent the bottom dropping out of the market and is generally well below the cost of catching the fish.

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TRAWLER LAY-UP REDUCED: The lay-up of British distant-water vessels was reduced from 25 percent to 20 percent, effective August 1 to September 11, according to the June 25 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical. This will mean an effective tie-up of 10 percent, compared to the present 12.5 percent, when allowances have been made for vessels which would normally be tied up at this time of year for overhaul and other reasons.

This reduction in the tie-up of distant-water vessels was influenced by an expected strengthening of the markets late in the summer.

The lay-up scheme applies only to distant-water vessels, totaling about 270 craft in the ports of Hull, Grimsby, and Fleetwood.



Venezuela

CANADIAN FIRM TO BUILD FISH CANNERY: A Canadian packing firm plans to build a fish cannery in eastern Venezuela, a June 17 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas reports. The company was completing a cannery at Cartagena, Colombia.

A representative of the firm said the company in Venezuela would act in partnership with the fishermen who would receive half the profits of the operation after the deduction of 20 percent for various contingencies. It was not mentioned how

losses would be apportioned. He also stated: "We believe that with our democratic system we will obtain most of the fish for our industry."

These negotiations have been rumored for more than a year but the optimistic views as to the probable monopoly of the fish catch will not advance the project before the Venezuela authorities.

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MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY PROPOSED: Officials of the recently-organized Venezuelan Association for the Advancement of Science have been studying a site for a marine biological laboratory near Higuerote, Miranda. A well known businessman has reputedly offered a substantial sum if the laboratory is located at Higuerote. Some industries and individuals have indicated a similar willingness to contribute to this particular project, according to a June 23 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas.

The marine life off Higuerote should offer some unusual features as the sewage from Caracas reaches the sea via the Rio Tuy, the mouth of which is just east of Higuerote. The prevailing winds and ocean currents are from east to west so that the nitrogenous content of the sea water in the Higuerote region should be somewhat higher than normal.



FOREIGN TRADE LISTS

Trade Lists, prepared by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce, are listings of foreign importers, distributors, manufacturers, processors, agents, service organizations, professional groups, and institutions, classified under approximately 75 major commodity and service groups.

Data include name and address, relative size, method of operation, lines handled, number of salesmen, and territory covered by each organization listed.

Each list is prefaced by a paragraph outlining market potentialities for United States products together with basic import or export pattern, pertinent regulations, and general conditions existing in the market.

Lists are used extensively in locating and selecting trade connections abroad, locating sources of supply, direct advertising campaigns, market surveys, etc.

Some of the classifications of interest to the fishery and allied industries include the following:

- Advertising Agencies & Concessionaires
- Boat & Ship Builders, Repairers & Chandlers
- Canneries
- Cooperage - Importers, Dealers or Distributors, and Exporters
- Feedstuffs - Importers, Dealers or Distributors, Manufacturers, and Exporters
- Machinery - Importers and Dealers or Distributors
- Oils (Animal, Fish & Vegetable) - Importers, Dealers or Distributors, Producers, Refiners and Exporters

Copies of these lists may be obtained by firms in the United States from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C., or from that Department's field offices, at \$1 per list.