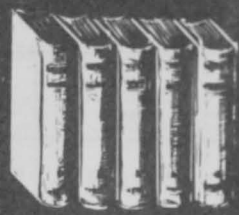




FEDERAL ACTIONS



Interdepartmental Committee on Trade Agreements

FISHERY ITEMS LISTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN FORTHCOMING TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS:

The Interdepartmental Committee on Trade Agreements issued formal notice on September 21 of the intention of the United States Government to participate in multilateral tariff negotiations with some 25 countries. Public hearings began October 31, 1955. The actual negotiations are expected to get under way in January 1956.

This notice set in motion preparations for these negotiations, including opportunity for presentation by interested persons of both written and oral views on possible concessions which may be granted or obtained by the United States. The Tariff Commission will also make the required determination of "peril-points" on all products on which the United States will consider possible concessions.

In accordance with the requirements of the trade agreements legislation as amended by the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1955, no item may be reduced by more than 15 percent below the

rate existing on January 1, 1955, in steps of not more than 5 percent a year over a three-year period. Submissions of views from interested industry members and the public generally with respect to concessions threatening national defense requirements and concerning those in which wages are substandard in the exporting country were also requested.

The United States expects to negotiate with 25 countries. The countries, all parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade are as follows: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Haiti, India, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

A list of fishery products on which the United States may consider offering concessions follows. Listing of an item is for the purpose of obtaining the views of interested parties on the possibility of a concession; it does not necessarily mean that a concession will be offered or made on the product. No tariff concession can be made on any product not included in this or a subsequent published list.

List of Fishery Items Proposed for Consideration in Trade Agreement Negotiations

| Tariff Par. & 1954 Schedule A Class No. | Brief Description | Rate of Duty on January 1, 1955 | Imports in 1954 | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | Quantity | Value |
| Par. 5 8350 110 | Sodium Alginate | 12½% | Lbs. 197,473 | US\$ 115,240 |
| Par. 34 2220 250 | Drugs of animal origin advanced in value or condition: Shark-liver oil, including dogfish-liver oil | 5% plus 1¢ per lb. I.R.C. tax | 1,568,870 | 540,178 |

| List of Fishery Items Proposed for Consideration in Trade Agreement Negotiations (Cont.) | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Tariff Par. & 1954 Schedule A Class No. | Brief Description | Rate of Duty on January 1, 1955 | Imports in 1954 | |
| | | | Quantity | Value |
| | | | Lbs. | US\$ |
| 2220 260 | Shark oil, including dogfish oil | 5% plus 1¢ per lb. I.R.C. tax | 68,875 | 13,625 |
| 2220 270 | Fish oils, n.e.s. (except cod oil and herring oil and not including whale oil). | 5% plus 1½¢ per lb. I.R.C. tax | 198 | 1,879 |
| 2220 300 | Fish-liver oils, n.e.s. (except cod-liver oil) | 5% | 378,071 | 1,629,543 |
| (Note: | The above items do not include halibut-liver oil which was not listed) | | | |
| Par. 1669 | Drugs of animal origin, not edible, crude: | | | |
| 2210 920 | Shark oil and shark-liver oil, including dogfish oil and dogfish-liver oil | Free plus 1¢ per pound I.R.C. tax | - | - |
| 2210 970 | Fish livers | Free | 301,213 | 52,365 |
| 2210 980 | Fish oils, n.e.s. (except cod oil and herring oil and not including whale oil.) | Free plus 1½¢ per lb. I.R.C. tax | 3,968 | 2,463 |
| (Note: | The above items do not include halibut-liver oil which was not listed) | | | |
| Par. 41 | | | | |
| 0941 700 | Isinglass | 25% | 46,800 | 29,355 |
| Par. 52 | Animal and fish oil: | | | |
| 0808 710 | Shark oil, including oil produced from dogfish, n.s.p.f. | 5% plus 1¢ per lb. I.R.C. | - | - |
| | Whale oil: | | <u>Gallons</u> | |
| | Sperm: | | | |
| 0803 000 | Crude | 1¼¢ per gal. | 1,512,412 | 804,433 |
| 0803 100 | Refined or otherwise processed | 3½¢ per gal. | 453,056 | 323,817 |
| 0803 500 | Whale oil, n.s.p.f. | 3¢ per gal. plus 1½¢ per lb. I.R.C. | 138,327 | 82,073 |
| | | | <u>Pounds</u> | |
| 0990 100 | Spermaceti wax | 2½¢ per lb. | 144,041 | 25,235 |
| Par. 60 | | | | |
| 8722 000 | Ambergris | 10% | 154 | 9,146 |
| Par. 717 (a) | Fish, fresh or frozen, whole, or beheaded or eviscerated but not further advanced: | | | |

List of Fishery Items Proposed for Consideration in Trade Agreement Negotiations (Cont.)

| Tariff Par. & 1954 Schedule A Class No. | Brief Description | Rate of Duty on January 1, 1955 | Imports in 1954 | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | Quantity | Value |
| 0055 500 0056 990 | Swordfish, frozen | 1½¢ per lb. | Lbs. 3,466,577 | US\$ 1,033,588 |
| Par. 717 (b) | (part) Sablefish (black cod) Fish, fresh or frozen, filleted, skinned, boned sliced, or divided into portions: | 1¢ per lb. | Not separately reported | |
| 0060 380 | Fresh-water fish | 1½¢ per lb. | 11,547,638 | 4,645,177 |
| 0060 320 | Swordfish | 1½¢ per lb. | 8,937,589 | 2,875,328 |
| Par. 717(c) | Dried and unsalted: | | | |
| 0062 250 | Shark fins | ¢ per lb. | 71,697 | 55,150 |
| Par. 718(a) | Fish, prepared or preserved, packed in oil or in oil and other substances: | | | |
| 0063 340 | Sardines, smoked, neither skinned nor boned, valued over 18 but not over 23 cents per pound | 15% | 577,912 | 116,103 |
| 0063 390 | Sardines, neither skinned nor boned, valued over 23 cents per pound | 15% | 16,430,075 | 5,915,016 |
| 0066 300 | Antipasto, valued over 9 cents per pound | 15% | 296,352 | 170,166 |
| 0066 700 | Other (than those listed immediately above and sardines, anchovies, bonito and yellowtail, tuna, smoked pollock, fish valued not over 9 cents per pound, prepared fish sticks and similar products. | 30% | 389,668 | 162,373 |
| Note: | This item includes products such as canned smoked salmon, canned smoked Sturgeon, canned sprats, fillets of mackerel, and numerous oriental specialties when packed in oil or in oil and other substances. | | | |
| Par. 718(b) | Fish prepared or preserved, not in oil or in oil and other substances in airtight containers weighing with contents not over 15 pounds each: | | | |

| List of Fishery Items Proposed for Consideration in Trade Agreement Negotiations (Cont.) | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------------|-----------|
| Tariff Par. & 1954 Schedule A Class No. | Brief Description | Rate of Duty on January 1, 1955 | Imports in 1954 | |
| | | | Quantity | Value |
| | | | Lbs. | US\$ |
| 0067 300 | Fish cakes, balls, and pudding | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ % | 1,034,732 | 177,739 |
| 0067 720 | Herring, other (than smoked or kippered or in tomato sauce in containers weighing with contents more than 1 pound each.) | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ % | 8,902,526 | 1,970,799 |
| 0067 800 | Bonito, canned in brine | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % | 2,375,203 | 546,523 |
| 0067 900 | Other (than those listed immediately above and anchovies, herring in tomato sauce, etc., salmon, sardines and tuna.) | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % | 30,578,625 | 3,919,018 |
| Note: | This item includes products such as canned mackerel and jack mackerel, canned cod flakes, canned alewives, canned eels, and numerous oriental specialties when not packed in oil or in oil and other substances.) | | | |
| Par. 719 | Fish, pickled or salted: | | | |
| 0068 000 | Salmon | 10% | 131,550 | 67,562 |
| Par. 721(d) | Caviar and other fish roe (except sturgeon) | | | |
| 0079 200 | Not boiled and packed in airtight containers | 5¢ per lb. | 110,147 | 67,012 |
| Par. 1509 | Button blanks: | | <u>Gross</u> | |
| 9724 200 | Pearl or shell not turned, faced or drilled | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ line per gross plus 25% | 204,811 | 72,801 |
| Par. 1528 | Pearls and parts; not strung or set: | | | |
| 5953 500 | Natural | 5% | - | 500,753 |
| Par. 1535 | | | | |
| 9420 550 | Fish hooks, not specially provided for | 30% | - | 776,445 |

The United States hopes to obtain, through the forthcoming negotiations, new concessions of benefit to United States trade. Domestic producers or exporters interested in developing

markets in other countries involved were invited to present suggestions as to products on which concessions should be sought and the extent to which existing customs treatment should be modified

to permit development of trade in those markets.

The Committee for Reciprocity Information also gave notice that it would receive the views of interested persons concerning any aspect of the proposed negotiations. (The membership of this committee is the same as the Committee on Trade Agreements.) Public hearings before the Committee were scheduled to begin October 31, 1955.

The United States Tariff Commission also announced it would hold public hearings starting October 31, to receive the views and information useful in preparing its "peril-point" report to the President. Views and information received by the Tariff Commission were made available to the Committee for Reciprocity Information.



International Cooperation Administration

INDIA TO BUY COLD-STORAGE UNITS AND MARINE DIESELS:

India was authorized by the International Cooperation Administration under purchase Authority No. 86-18-005-9-50197 to purchase six cold storage units for a fish warehouse and six marine Diesel engines. These items may or may not be purchased from United States suppliers.



Department of State

FIRST CLAIM PAID UNDER "FISHER- MEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT":

The U. S. Treasury reimbursed the west coast tuna fishing firm, Sun Pacific Inc., for \$12,000 in fines paid to the Ecuadoran Minister of Economy for release of the firm's tuna vessel Sun Streak.

This was the first such claim paid by the U. S. Treasury in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 680 which was passed in the Second Session of the 83rd Congress with the endorsement of the American fishing industry. This law provides for reimbursement of the owner

of the vessel for costs incurred because of seizure by a foreign country on the high seas or in areas which the United States does not consider to be within the territorial waters of a foreign country, provided that there is no dispute as to material fact.

The Sun Streak was seized on September 4, 1954, while on a routine fishing voyage approximately 38 miles off the coast of Ecuador. After five days of detention in Quayaquil, Ecuador, the American vessel was released upon payment by the owners of the fines imposed.

According to the attorneys representing the claimant, a reimbursement claim was filed with the U. S. Department of State on January 25, 1955, under the provisions of P.L. 680. In commenting on the very expeditious manner in which this claim has been handled and settled, the attorneys noted that "the entire negotiations were conducted in a spirit of active cooperation on behalf of all Federal agencies concerned."

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GREAT LAKES FISHERY CONVENTION RATIFIED:

The Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries entered into force October 11 upon the exchange of ratifications in Ottawa by the United States and Canada. The Convention was signed at Washington on September 10, 1954, according to an October 11 press release of the U. S. Department of State.

The Convention brings under a joint United States-Canada conservation regime the greatest fresh-water fisheries in the world. Under it will be established the Great Lakes Fishery Commission composed of six Commissioners, three from each Government. The Commission will seek the preservation and improvement of the Lakes fisheries through dual activities in the fields of fishery research and sea-lamprey control.

In fishery research, the Commission has the duty of coordinating the scientific activities of all agencies presently engaged in scientific study of the Lakes fisheries--the United States and Canadian Governments and the conservation

departments of the eight Great Lakes States and the Province of Ontario. The Convention thus provides a machinery for the pooling of the efforts of all fishery experts in the area and the coordination of their research.

The Commission will have no power to regulate fishing operation. It can, however, recommend conservation measures to the party Governments on the basis of its scientific findings.

The second major responsibility of the Commission is to destroy the parasitic sea lamprey. This eel-like creature attaches itself like a leech to a fish and nourishes itself on the blood and body juices of its host. It has proved a scourge to the trout and whitefish in Lakes Huron and Michigan. Lake Superior fisheries are now also under serious attack. It is estimated that this parasite is costing Great Lakes fishermen more than \$5 million a year in lake trout alone.

The Commission has wide powers in the field control of the lamprey. It is expected the Commission will make extensive use of electrical barriers which, placed across spawning streams, prevent

the lampreys from going upstream to spawn and cause their deaths.



Treasury Department

DEPARTMENT FINDS JAPANESE CANNED TUNA NOT DUMPED ON U. S. MARKET:

In an announcement dated October 5, 1955, the U. S. Treasury Department stated that an investigation showed that Japanese canned tuna exporters are not selling their products at prices below those charged in their own country.

The investigation was undertaken because of complaints by United States packers and producers of tuna that Japanese canned tuna was being "dumped" on the American market at unfair low prices.

The Treasury in a memorandum to the press said the investigation showed that "such merchandise is not being, and is not likely to be, sold at less than fair value." This ruling by the Treasury prevents the matter from going to the U.S. Tariff Commission for consideration of injury to domestic industry under the provisions of the Anti-dumping Act.



PHOSPHORESCENCE IN SEAWATER

Phosphorescence, or bioluminescence, is due to the manufacture of light by animals and microscopic organisms. For a long time the problem of phosphorescence remained unsolved, and was merely a matter of speculation. Recently it was shown that a complicated chemical reaction is involved. Light is, apparently, produced as a result of the slow burning of a substance called luciferin present in minute marine animals. When this compound combines with oxygen, light is produced. The reaction can be compared to the burning of a candle, but the energy produced takes the form of light only. This type of light is unusual, since it is a cold light, with no heat at all. The phosphorescence in the water which you see is probably due to bacteria and single-celled microscopic organisms. However, the production of "cold" light in some form is not restricted to these forms. It is also known in sponges, jellyfish, corals, marine worms, clams, snails, squids, insects, starfishes, sea squirts, and fishes.

--"Sea Secrets" The Marine Laboratory,
University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.
(September 20, 1955)