International

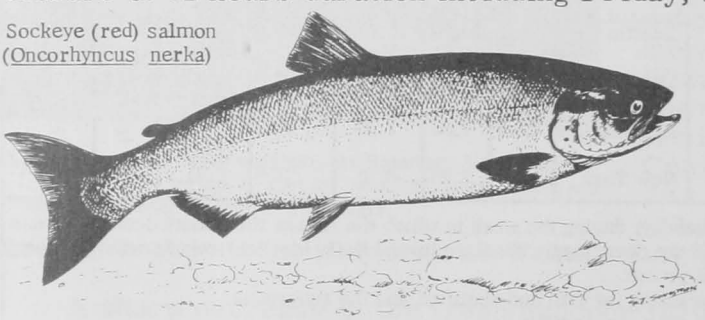
INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION

GOVERNING BODY APPROVES STUDY OF FISHERMEN'S WORKING CONDITIONS: The Governing Body of the International Labor Organization, which held its 128th session in Geneva, Switzerland, approved on March 2 proposals for a study of fishermen's working conditions submitted earlier by a committee of 12 experts, reports a March 2 release from the United Nations at New York. It was agreed that the Governing Body would ask member governments whether they favor establishing international standards on the following points of interest to the fishing industry: age of admission to employment, medical examinations, working contracts, and accident insurance.

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC SALMON FISHERIES COMMISSION

SOCKEYE SALMON REGULATIONS FOR 1955: A summary of recommendations for regulations governing the 1955 sockeye fishing season as approved by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission on the basis of the considerations undertaken at Vancouver, British Columbia, January 8, 1955, is as follows:

Respecting United States Convention Waters: (1) There shall be a weekly closure of 72 hours duration including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of each week in all United States Convention waters from June 30 to August 1 in the year 1955. The weekly 72-hour closure shall commence at 12:01 a. m. Friday for purse seines and reef nets and at 6:00 p. m. Thursday for gill nets.


Sockeye (red) salmon (Oncorhyncus nerka)

(2) There shall be a closure of 48 hours duration including Saturday and Sunday in all United States Convention waters from August 1 to August 8 in the year 1955. The 48-hour closure shall commence at 12:01 a. m. Saturday, August 6, for purse seines and reef nets and at 6:00 p. m. Friday, August 5, for gill nets.

(3) There shall be a weekly closure of 36 hours duration including Saturday of each week in all United States Convention waters from August 8 to August 29 in the year 1955. The weekly 36-hour closure shall commence at 4:00 p. m. Friday for purse seines and reef nets and at 6:00 a. m. Saturday for gill nets.

Respecting Canadian Convention Waters: (1) There shall be a weekly closure of 72 hours duration from June 30 to August 1 and a weekly closure of 48 hours duration from August 1 to August 22 in Canadian Convention waters known as Areas 19, 20, 21, and 23.

(2) There shall be a weekly closure in all other Canadian Convention waters (Areas 17, 18, and District No. 1) of 78 hours duration from June 30 to August 9, 96-hour weekly closures from August 9 to August 30, 72-hour weekly closures from August 30 and extending to September 15, and a continuous closure from 8:00 a. m. September 15 to 8:00 a. m. September 20.

(a) In that part of District No. 1 above Pattullo Bridge the weekly closure shall cease 4 hours later than in that part below Pattullo Bridge irrespective of the length of any of the above specified closures.

(3) The opening and closing hours in all areas of Canadian Convention waters shall be substantially the same as those in effect last year.

Respecting the International Waters of the High Seas: The Commission approved a regulation ordering a weekly closure of 72 hours beginning June 30 and extending to August 1 and a weekly closure of 48 hours beginning August 1 and extending to August 15 for the year 1955 in all Convention waters in the High Seas, the same being the waters between the 48th and 49th parallels lying westerly of a line drawn between Bonilla Point and Tatoosh Island and outside the territorial limits of both Canada and the United States.

General: The Commission declared that no one shall buy, sell, or have in his possession any sockeye salmon taken in any of the Convention waters during the time when fishing for such salmon is prohibited in such waters.

TERRITORIAL WATERS

UNITED NATIONS SEEKS INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF AND FISHERY CONSERVATION: Under the titles of "Draft Articles on the Continental Shelf" and "Economic Development of Fisheries and the Question of Fishery Conservation and Regulation," the United Nations' General Assembly considered at its 1954 session two related topics of a nature far more urgent than a cursory glance at their names might imply, a recent United Nations press release pointed out.

As discussion in the U. N. International Law Commission, the Assembly's Legal Committee, and numerous other forums has amply demonstrated over a number of years, both subjects are of vital interest not only to countries with maritime interests, but also to the world in general.

Concerning the fisheries question, for instance, the Law Commission said in its most recent report on the matter that existing international law "provides no adequate protection of marine fauna against extermination." This, it pointed out, "constitutes a danger to the food supply of the world."

Color was given to this warning by the representative of one of the leading fishing nations of the world, Hans Andersen of Iceland, who told the Assembly's Legal Committee that during the last 30 years the catch had been growing smaller, despite improved fishing methods. For example, he said, a British trawler which in 1919 had an average daily catch of 3,400 pounds in the North Sea, caught a bare 1,500 pounds in 1937.

The kindred subject of the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the continental shelf (described in the Encyclopedia Britannica as "the term in physical geography for the submerged platform upon which the continental areas stand in relief") moved the International Law Commission to emphasize the importance of establishing international legislation which would "protect the paramount principle of the freedom of the seas and of the air space above them," while at the same time safeguarding the sovereign rights of the coastal states concerned. . . .

Both the continental shelf and the fisheries development question form part of the U. N. International Law Commission's comprehensive and complicated work of codifying the law of the high seas and of territorial waters, a labor upon which it has been engaged since its first session in 1949, and which is not yet finished.

In 1951 the Commission drew up provisional draft Articles upon both issues. It revised the Articles in 1953 in the light of comments received from governments, and passed them to the Assembly with the recommendation that action be taken upon them without waiting for the completion of the whole codification task. At its session that year, however, the Assembly decided not to deal with any aspect of the regimes of the high seas and territorial waters until the Commission had reported upon all the inter-related problems involved.

A year later, in 1954, a number of countries--including such maritime powers as Brazil, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States--asked the Assembly to reconsider this decision. In the case of the continental shelf, they expressed the belief that the Assembly should delay substantive consideration of the draft Articles only until 1955, instead of indefinitely. The additional year (from 1954 to 1955), they said, should allow ample time for study by all governments.

In the case of the fisheries question, the countries asked immediate adoption of a resolution under which problems of the economics and conservation of high-seas fisheries would be referred either to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U. N. or to a special governmental conference of experts. Pointing out that the matter embraced a number of specialized problems which could probably be solved only by economic and technical experts, they maintain that even if the Assembly were to delay its discussion of the draft Articles for a number of years, its eventual debate would be unlikely to be productive in character unless it had the views of such specialists before it.

Much of the subsequent debate in the Assembly's Legal Committee revolved around the central point of whether granting these requests on the two issues would prejudge the Law Commission's course of action on the remainder of its work.

On the continental shelf, the Committee, and subsequently the Assembly itself, finally approved a compromise proposal calling upon the Commission to finish its study of the world broad subject of the high seas, territorial waters, "and all related problems" in time for Assembly consideration in 1956.

Regarding the fisheries question, the requesting nations got their wish. The Assembly decided to recommend the holding of a world conference, opening on April 18, 1955, at the Rome Headquarters of FAO. Under the terms of the resolution, the conference will study "the problem of the international conservation of the living resources of the sea. . .," a term substituted for the original word "fisheries" in order to cover the whole area of marine life (whales, for instance) instead of limiting it to fish alone.

Throughout the debate in the Legal Committee, emphasis was laid on the fact that the conference was to be of a strictly technical nature which would not encroach in any way upon the Commission's work in the legal field, and the resolution itself stipulated that the conference should "make appropriate scientific

and technical recommendations" which would "not prejudge the related problems awaiting consideration by the General Assembly."

Definition of Continental Shelf: The eight draft Articles on the Continental Shelf drawn up by the Law Commission in 1953 include such provisions as proclaiming the right of the coastal states in question to explore and exploit the natural resources of the shelf, while at the same time forbidding them to engage in "any unjustifiable interference with navigation, fishing, or fish production," or to "prevent the establishment or maintenance of submarine cables."

One cardinal point is the definition of the term "continental shelf" itself. The draft Articles describe it as "the sea-bed and subsoil of the submarine areas contiguous to the coast, but outside the area of the territorial sea, to a depth of two hundred metres."

In its report, the Law Commission explained that the 200-meter limit had been fixed "because it is at that depth that the continental shelf, in the geological sense, generally comes to an end. It is there that the continental slope begins and falls steeply to a great depth."

During the Legal Committee's debate, however, some speakers pointed out that "the area of the territorial sea" to which the definition referred could not in fact be established until the Commission had completed its work on the subject of territorial waters. They cited this argument in support of their contention that it would be advisable to delay a decision until the whole study was finished.

International Fisheries Authority Proposed: The three draft Articles on Fisheries provide, among other things, for the establishment of an international authority within the framework of the United Nations. Its task would be to set up, at the request of any "interested state," systems regulating fisheries in any given area of the high seas "for the purpose of protecting the fishing resources of that area against waste or extermination."

The Articles also stipulate that any country which finds itself the only nation engaged in fishing activities in any particular area may itself set up regulation and conservation measures. Any two or more countries fishing in the same area may take similar action by mutual agreement. If difficulties arise, any one of the interested parties may submit them to the proposed international authority.

Emphasizing in its report the urgent necessity for international legislation on the fisheries conservation issue, the Law Commission pointed out that no government had expressed opposition to the suggested establishment of the authority. This, it declared, "is significant of the present state of opinion, and of the widely felt need for the removal of what is considered by many to be a condition approaching anarchy. . . ."

Note: See Commercial Fisheries Review, January 1955, pp. 42-45; December 1954, pp. 45-47; June 1954, pp., 25-35.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

U.S.-ECUADOR TRADE AGREEMENT TO BE TERMINATED: Following conversations over a considerable period of time in Quito between representatives of the Government of Ecuador and the United States, the United States, in accordance with the provisions

of Article 19 of the reciprocal trade agreement signed by both countries in 1938, has notified the Government of Ecuador of its intent to terminate the agreement, according to a U. S. Department of State release dated February 8, 1955.

Termination will become effective on July 18, 1955, as provided in the 1938 agreement.

This action will not change the present rate of import duty on canned sardines applied by Ecuador, which was established January 1, 1954, at 6 sucres per net kilogram (18 U. S. cents per pound). The trade agreement rate on canned sardines which was 0.49 sucres per legal kilogram including containers and packaging (1.5 U. S. cents per pound) under the 1938 agreement, has not been effective in recent years due to the imposition by Ecuador of exchange surcharges and increased rates of duty. United States exports of canned sardines to Ecuador in 1953 totaled 1,298,998 pounds, valued at US$284,366.

Representatives of the two countries are initiating conversations regarding the conclusion of a mutually satisfactory commercial arrangement in lieu of the reciprocal trade agreement scheduled to expire on July 18, 1955.

Australia

RECORD SPINY LOBSTER CATCHES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Record daily catches of white spiny lobster were reported as the Western Australian season got off to an early start on November 20, 1954, 10 days earlier than usual. Although rough weather in early December apparently chased the white spiny lobsters from the shallow coastal feeding grounds, red spiny lobsters were found in abundance in the deeper waters. Observers predicted a highly profitable season for the fishermen operating along about 140 miles of coastline from Freemantle north to Jurian Bay, states a January 5, 1955, U. S. consular dispatch from Perth.

Lack of shipping space to the United States delayed the beginning of the export season, but there were high hopes for equaling or bettering the previous year's results. In the 1953/54 season Western Australia accounted for about three-fourths of Australia's exports which brought dollar earnings of about US$3.5 million. Recent Government statistics show that Western Australia produced 9.1 million pounds (live weight) of spiny lobster in 1953/54, and exported 3.2 million pounds of frozen spiny lobster tails and 61,518 pounds of boiled whole spiny lobsters.

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BRITISH ORDERS FOR CANNED TUNA SAVE AUSTRALIAN TUNA FISHING SEASON: British orders for 18,000 cases (48 7-oz. cans) of Australian canned tuna were obtained with the assistance of the Dept. of Commerce and Agriculture by the leading tuna cannery just in time to save the Australian tuna fishing season, reports the January 1955 Fisheries Newsletter, an Australian fishery periodical. The Australian canner had previously announced that it could not buy any more tuna, but when fishermen agreed to take 5 d. (4.6 U. S. cents) instead of 7 d. (6.5 U. S. cents) and previously 8 d. (7.4 U. S. cents) per pound, it agreed to buy up to 80 tons of fish a week to a ceiling of 500 tons. The canner will now require at least 400 tons of tuna to fill the United Kingdom order, and has also exported 256 tons of frozen tuna to the United States.

The tuna crisis was caused by lack of export orders for the canned product, falling prices in California for the frozen raw fish, and a carryover in the Australian market of the earlier $3\frac{1}{2}$-oz. pack. The more popular 7-oz. size is now being packed.

Of the 256 tons of frozen tuna exported to the United States, 94 tons were shipped in November and 100 tons in December 1954, both shipments for California canneries, and 62 tons were shipped in December to the United States east coast. The total export of 256 tons of frozen tuna was more than four times as much as the first export in 1949-50 when 60 tons were shipped, mostly to California but some to Vancouver and Honolulu.

The 1949-50 export and samples of the canned product established a market for Australian southern bluefin tuna, and if quality is maintained and prices steady, there seems to be no reason why valuable export trades should not be developed, both in the frozen raw material for the dollar market and in the canned product for others, according to reports. It is not practicable to export tuna canned in oil to the United States because of the United States tariff of 45 percent ad valorem; but there is no duty on the frozen fish.

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IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM RUSSIA, JULY-SEPT. 1954: Australian imports of fishery products from Russia during July-September 1954 consisted of canned salmon--260,579 pounds, valued at £A59,266 (US$132,000); and canned crustaceans 92,101 pounds, valued at £A25,526 (US$57,000). In addition, other fishery products valued at £A1,067 (US$2,400) were imported from Russia during the period, reports a February 16 U. S. consular dispatch from Sydney.

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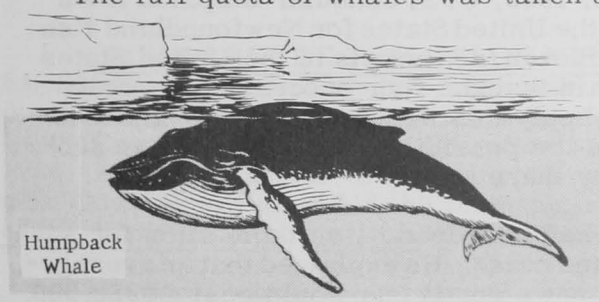
SHORE-BASED WHALING SEASON SUCCESSFUL IN 1954: Another successful Australian whaling season was concluded on October 22, 1954, when the newest of Australia's five shore-based whaling stations completed its quota. This new station, located at Byron Bay on the north Coast of New South Wales, commenced operating on July 29.

The full quota of whales was taken at each station as follows:



Humpback Whale

	Number of Whales
Point Cloates. . . .	600
Carnarvon.	600
Albany	120
Tangalooma.	600
Byron Bay.	120
Total.	2,040

At Tangalooma the quota was made up of 598 humpback whales and one blue whale, which in accordance with the international Whaling Convention counts as $2\frac{1}{2}$ humpbacks. At all other stations humpback whales only were taken.

Australian Shore-Based Whaling Operations, 1951-54

	Unit	1954	1953	1952	1951
Stations operating	No.	5	4	4	2
Whales taken	No.	2,040	2,001	1,787	1,224
Whales lost	No.	0	0	7	4
Whales processed	No.	2,040	2,001	1,780	1,220
Percentage of males	%	59.1	62.1	62.8	74.5
Percentage of females	%	40.9	37.9	37.2	25.5
Foetuses	No.	78	84	65	18
Average length: Males	Feet	39.4	38.5	39.7	40.2
Average length: Females	Feet	40.5	40.7	40.5	40.5
Average length: Animals	Feet	39.8	40.0	40.1	40.3
Oil production	Barrels	100,068	102,354	91,360	56,051
Oil yield per whale	Barrels	49.0	51.2	51.1	45.9

The five stations produced over 100,000 barrels of oil and 5,000 tons of meat meal in addition to which some 1,400 tons of dried whale solubles were produced in the new spray drying plant at Carnarvon. The total value of these products is approximately £1.6 million (US$3.6 million). It is interesting to note the decrease in the average lengths and the decrease in oil yield shown during the 1954 season (see table). These decreases are due almost entirely to the changes which have taken place on the west coast of Australia.

It should be borne in mind that Australian whaling operations are based on two separate stocks of whales, one of which migrates from the Antarctic to the west coast and the other from the Antarctic to New Zealand and the east coast of Australia. There does not appear to be any east-west movement of the whales at any stage and the stocks remain separate even in the Antarctic. Thus, in considering the effects of whaling on the stocks, conditions on the west coast and the east coast must be examined separately.

Whaling on the east coast was hampered by adverse weather during most of the season and at one stage a cyclone made it impossible for the chasers to operate for five days.

Benelux Countries

CANNED SALMON TARIFF SUSPENSIONS RENEWED: Customs duties on canned salmon entering Belguim, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg, which have been suspended on a yearly basis since the common Benelux tariff came into force in 1948, will again be fully suspended until the end of 1955, reports the January 22, 1955, Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication.

Canada

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES SEEKING MORE UNITED STATES CAPITAL: The Chairman of the Newfoundland Fisheries Development Authority recently stated he was interested in obtaining more United States capital for investment in fish processing plants in Newfoundland, reports a January 28, 1955, U. S. consular dispatch from St. John's. He states that the good demand in the United States for Newfoundland fish sticks is growing and that with the expansion of frozen food outlets in the United States it can be expected to continue to grow. He said that the fish-processing capacity of Newfoundland plants is at present unable to supply this demand. Therefore, he is planning a trip to the United States to discuss the possibility of investment in such plants with men interested in the fish industry there.

The Chairman said that the Government had surveyed 31 suitable sites for such plants at various points around the Newfoundland coast. He explained that an average-size plant could be built for C$1 million and that a small one would cost C$350,000. He added that the Newfoundland Provincial Government was prepared to advance 50 percent of the capital for such an installation with repayment in 20 years at 5 percent. Some plants have already been installed with United States backing and the locally-owned plants have also increased their facilities.

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NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES TRENDS, 1954: The 1954 fishing year in Newfoundland was one of development, change, and experimentation in the fishing industry, a January 28, 1955, U. S. consular dispatch from St. John's points out. The trend toward industrialization seems to be established.

Frozen Groundfish Production: Frozen groundfish production in Newfoundland during 1954 was the greatest on record with a yield of about 53 million pounds, an increase of 54 percent over the previous year. A 15-million-pound increase in cod yield accounted for most of the gain. The production of haddock, hake, and pollock

was almost three times as high as in 1953, but ocean perch, flounder, and gray sole declined.

This increase in the frozen fish industry is chiefly attributed to the increase in United States demand for fish sticks and for fish in frozen-block form.

Freezing Facilities Expanded: As a result of increased demand for Newfoundland groundfish, new freezing plants were put into operation during 1954 at Twillingate, Greenspond, Witless Bay, Trepassey, and Long Harbour. In addition, the capacity of the Harbour Grace and Bonavista plants was increased. At the end of the year two other plants at Catalina and Grand Bank were under construction.

Fishing Capacity Increased: Newfoundland's fishing capacity was increased in 1954 by the addition of 7 vessels to the offshore fishing fleet. There were 28 draggers in operation during the year, compared with 26 in 1953. The fleet of long liners and Danish seiners was increased by 5 vessels.

These new developments enabled inshore fishermen to sell larger quantities of fresh fish, which made a significant contribution to the frozen fish production.

Lobster Fishery: The Newfoundland lobster season opened late in 1954 due to ice conditions on the northeast coast. Nevertheless, the lobster fishery was profitable with a catch of about 4.9 million pounds, or nearly half a million pounds over 1953. About 90 percent or 4.4 million pounds, was marketed alive. Lobster canning operations continued negligible.

Fish Meal: The output of fish meal was estimated at 18 million pounds, or nearly 19 percent above 1953. This increase was considered significant and was accomplished in spite of there having been no homogenized fish production in 1954, compared with 5 million pounds in 1953. Herring-meal production increased slightly but the increase was primarily in ocean perch and white-fish meals.

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NOMENCLATURE FOR NYLON FISH-NET TWINE PROPOSED: Nomenclature for identifying nylon fish-net twine was recommended for universal use by the Canadian fishing trade at the first meeting of the Committee on Specifications for Fishing Gear (Canadian Government Specifications Board) held at Ottawa on November 29, 1954. Representatives of gear suppliers, fishermen, fish processors, and the Canadian Government attended the meeting, reports the December 1954 Progress Reports of the Pacific Coast Stations of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

This nomenclature consists of two numbers separated by a hyphen. The first number is the denier (weight per unit length) of the yarn used to make the twine. It has become necessary to state the yarn denier because yarns of 140, 210, and 250 denier are in common use. The second number indicates the twine construction and follows the system already widely used in Canada. If the second number consists of a single digit, it is the number of threads in the twine. For example, 140-3 nylon twine for lake fishery gill nets is constructed by twisting together 3 threads of 140 denier each. If the second number consists of more than one digit the twine is of cable or hawser construction. The last digit is the number of plies in the twine and the preceding digit or digits is the number of threads per ply. For example, 210-53 nylon twine for sockeye salmon gill nets is a 3-ply twine which has 5 threads of 210 denier each in each of the 3 plies. Similarly, 250-123 nylon twine for spring salmon gill nets is a 3-ply twine which has 12 threads of 250 denier each in each of the 3 plies.

Denmark

FISHERIES PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS, 1954: The Danish fisheries in 1954 yielded 353,000 metric tons of fish (including pond trout), valued at about 225 million kroner (US$32.6 million) ex-vessel, according to preliminary reports in Danish trade papers (Dansk Fiskeritidende of January 14, 1955, and Fiskeribladet of January 14. This represents about a 7-percent increase over 1953.

In 1954, 39 new vessels were added to the fleet, which is valued at 167 million kroner (US$24 million). Installation of echo sounders in the fleet increased from 525 to about 900.

Despite the fact that prices dropped for the more important supplies and gear which fishermen buy, except ice, the return on their investment was only nominal.

The Danish processing industry in 1954 used about 57,000 tons of fish, an 18-percent increase over 1953. This was due largely to the 25-percent increase in filleting, mainly of flatfish and cod. The catch of bluefin tuna totaled 900 tons and brought an average ex-vessel price of 2.15 kroner per kilo (14 U. S. cents per pound). The fish-meal and oil industry utilized about 107,000 metric tons of herring. Fish-meal and fish-oil production, including that from offal, increased 32 percent to 37,000 metric tons of fish meal, and 10 percent to over 24 million pounds of oil.

Danish exports of fishery products, including fish meal and fish oil, in 1954 increased about 11 percent to 235 million kroner (US$34 million) and amounted to about 135,000 metric tons. Exports to the United States increased about 50 percent as compared with 1953, being made up of substantial quantities of fish meal and pond trout. Danish exports of fish meal doubled in 1954 with the United States taking one-third of the total.

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FREEZING LIVE FISH: Experiments in suspending animation by freezing fish for long periods and then reviving them, have been carried on in Denmark recently by a young scientist and possibly have potentialities for commerce, although at the present time it is more a scientific curiosity than anything else, reports the February 4 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine.

The young scientist is an Assistant of Fisheries in Copenhagen. In his initial experiments he injected a fluid anesthetic mixture of evipan and urethan. After this the fish were shock-frozen at 50° C. (-58° F.) into blocks of ice where they were kept for periods of from 6 to 29 days. On being thawed, 38 percent of the fish were alive.

Another experiment was carried out later. On this occasion six live plaice were frozen but only to -25° C. (-13° F.). After 48 days the plaice were thawed in sea water and 5 out of the 6 were alive.

Altogether the scientist has made 50 experiments with good results and is still proceeding with further experiments.

In Germany a scientist has experimented on somewhat similar lines except that instead of using injections he has used an electro-narcotic method to deaden the fish. The outcome of these experiments has not yet been revealed. In 1951 a Canadian scientist kept anesthetized fish alive for 24 hours in broken ice in wood boxes.

Ecuador

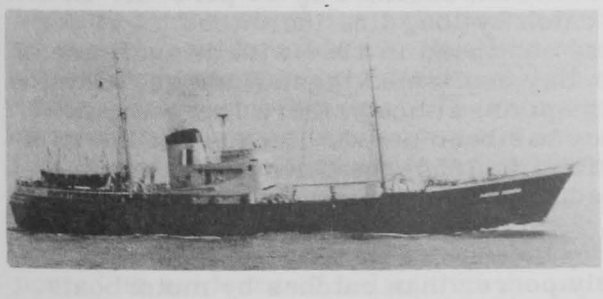
FISHERY CONCESSIONS GRANTED TWO U. S. OWNED FIRMS: Concessions have recently been awarded by the Ecuadoran Government to two fishing companies owned by United States interests but organized under Ecuadoran law, states a January 15, 1955, U. S. Embassy dispatch from Quito. The January 6 Registro Oficial contains the decree authorizing Pesca Ecuatoriana Santaelenense C.A. to fish in Ecuadoran waters without restriction as to species, and to process and export such fish. On January 14 there was published in a Quito newspaper a decree authorizing Products del Pacifico Ecuatoriano S. A. to fish for shrimp in Ecuadoran waters and to process and export the shrimp. This decree is expected to be published in the Registro Oficial at an early date.

The concessions granted the two companies are identical in many respects. Each is to run for 10 years. Each company is exempted from export taxes. Domestic sales are to be made at controlled prices so fixed by the Government as not to allow the companies more than a 15-percent profit margin. Vessels owned by the companies must be registered under the Ecuadoran flag within a year after the signing of the concession agreements. At least 25 percent of the personnel employed in each part of their operations (fishing, refrigeration, and processing) must be of Ecuadoran nationality. Exemption is granted from all duties on the machinery, equipment, and capital permitted to be imported for establishing and carrying on the business.

There are several differences, however, between the two concessions. For example, Pacifico is permitted 20 fishing vessels and four launches, whereas PESCA is allowed a mothership refrigeration boat and 15 fishing vessels. PESCA is required to set up a cold-storage warehouse, a freezing plant, and a cannery, each within a specified period of time. Pacifico is presently renting a cold-storage warehouse, and there are no requirements for a freezing plant or cannery in its case. However, the extent of Pacifico's operations is perhaps expected to be larger, in spite of the fact that its concession is confined to shrimp. It is obligated to invest at least 500,000 sucres (US$33,000) a year excluding wages and supplies, whereas the figure for PESCA is 150,000 sucres (US$9,900). Pacifico must deposit 300,000 sucres (US$19,800) with the Government as a guaranty for the fulfillment of its contract, as against 150,000 sucres (US$9,900) for PESCA.

German Federal Republic

FISHERIES RESEARCH VESSEL LAUNCHED: The first oceanic research vessel built for the German Federal Republic since World War II, the motor trawler



The Anton Dohrn, a new German fishery research vessel. The leading new feature is a shelter deck above the main deck. With the trawl worked on the starboard side, the cod end is lifted above the shelter deck and emptied through the the circular hatches which lead to the main deck. The fish is then processed on the main deck.

Port side of the Anton Dohrn where accomodations for the crew, scientists, and students are located.

Anton Dohrn, was launched in Cuxhaven and is carrying out trial trips, according to Dansk Fiskeritidende (February 11), a Danish fishery periodical. The vessel was scheduled to be delivered to the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Fisheries in Bonn in early March 1955.

The vessel's first trip will include research involving young fish in the southerly North Sea and will be made in cooperation with the German hydrographic research vessel Gauss and the research cutter Uthorn from the Helgoland biological station.

After the first trip, which will require three weeks, the Anton Dohrn will go to the fishing banks around Iceland and East Greenland in May and June 1955. There the Institute for Net and Equipment Research in Hamburg expects to conduct experiments with a midwater trawl in the catching of school fish, such as the deepwater ocean perch and cod and pollock. Plankton and hydrographic research also will be carried out.

Iceland

FROZEN FILLET INDUSTRY TRENDS, JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1954: A total of 173,435 metric tons of fish or 47 percent of the total Icelandic catch was delivered to freezers in the first 11 months of 1954 as compared with 92,413 tons or 27 percent of the total catch during the similar period in 1953. The proportions of groundfish processed by various plants in 1954 probably was about equal to 1953 when 71 percent was processed by plants members of the Freezing Plants Corporation, 24 percent by plants of the Federation of Cooperative Societies, and 5 percent by the State Fish Packing Center.

Icelandic fish producers were planning to process fish sticks in Iceland for export to the United States until they heard of the proposal to increase the import duty on breaded and cooked fish sticks. Prospects for exports of frozen fish fillets to the United States look less favorable in 1955 than in 1954 because of increasing production costs in Iceland and because freezing plants in Denmark, Germany, Canada (Nova Scotia), and other countries have begun production of frozen fillet blocks and are underselling Icelandic producers.

The two principal species processed into quick-frozen fish fillets are cod and ocean perch. Line fishing for cod off south and southwest Iceland was particularly successful in 1954, apparently indicating that fish conservation resulting from the extension of the fishery limits has been successful. During World War II and the immediate postwar years the fish catch increased due to the small number of trawlers engaged in fishing. From 1948 to 1952 the catch declined by 30 percent. In the Faxa Bay area (southwest Iceland) the 1953 catch by long line increased by 14 percent per fishing trip over 1952. The increase continued in 1954 with an increase of 33 percent over 1953. Research in the Faxa Bay confirmed these findings. Outside of Faxa Bay the fishing results have been irregular; although there has been improvement in some areas no distinct tendency has been noted. Because of the relatively profitable operation of the motorboat fleet in 1954, the Government made an investigation concerning the possibility of reducing the subsidy on motorboat operations.

Trawler cod catches have been relatively poorer than catches by motorboats. Trawlers have not been able to retain skilled crews because wages on trawlers relative to other occupations have been low, and because trawlers no longer land fresh fish on ice in Great Britian.

The principal reasons for the large (75 percent) increase in the catch of ocean perch are the ready sale for quick-frozen ocean perch fillets to the U.S.S.R. and the new ocean perch fishing grounds discovered off Greenland which are considerably closer to Iceland than those frequented previously by Icelandic trawlers.

Most of the fish-freezing plants are in southwest Iceland, and north Iceland has depended on the herring and salted and dried groundfish industries. The failure of the recent herring seasons has caused pressure for the construction of additional freezing plants in north Iceland. The Fisheries Company of Akureyri in particular has been attempting to obtain the necessary guarantees to obtain a foreign loan for the construction of a freezing plant. Other areas are also attempting to improve their fishing fleet and fish-processing facilities to counteract the attraction of the employment opportunities in southwest Iceland.

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LOBSTER FISHERY BEING DEVELOPED: A new lobster fishery industry is developing in the vicinity of Eyrarbakki in southwestern Iceland, states an October 15, 1954, U. S. Legation dispatch from Reykjavik. The production is still largely experimental because only little is known about the location or how heavily lobster grounds can be fished without depletion.

Previously most lobsters were caught with a trawl inside Iceland's fisheries limits which required a special permit from the Icelandic Government. More recently lobsters have been discovered outside the territorial waters where there are no fishing limits. Most lobsters are caught in 70-90 fathoms of water about two hours' trip from the harbor. The fishing boats employ 13 men, and 40-50 people are employed in the freezing plants.

Most of the lobsters are shelled and frozen, although Iceland is experimenting with exporting frozen lobster in the shell to the United States.

The lobster waste is processed in a fish-meal factory. The meal is approximately 15 percent protein and 30 percent calcium which it is believed will make a good feed concentrate.

Japan

FIRM TO CONVERT THREE VESSELS TO SALMON AND CRAB FACTORYSHIPS: One of the three largest Japanese fishing organizations is considering the purchase of three Japanese cargo vessels for conversion to cannery ships. Two of the ships would become motherships for salmon expeditions and one for a crab fleet. The ships named as under consideration are the Eiko Maru of 5,289 gross tons, the Kizan Maru of 7,933 gross tons, and the Kaiyo Maru of 4,963 gross tons, the latter being the proposed crab cannery. Inquiries have also been made of local shipyards for temporary conversion of two other general cargo vessels into salmon cannery vessels on a limited scale, the purpose being to charter the ships for the season only, returning them to their owners upon its conclusion.

None of these proposals are beyond the tentative stage as yet but they are reported as evidence of belief that the salmon and crab catchers will show improved results, possibly because of easing of the U. S. S. R. attitude regarding Japanese fishermen in Okhotsk and Kamchatkan waters, a January 21, 1955, U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo points out.

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CANNED CRAB MEAT EXPORTS, 1954: Japanese canned crab meat exports in 1954 totaled 332,800 cases against 204,000 cases in 1953. Exports to the United States amounted to 126,200 cases, considerably lower than the 195,000 cases exported in 1953. Countries other than the United States in 1954 imported 206,000 cases of Japanese canned crab meat (or 62 percent of total exports) against 9,000 cases the previous year (or 5 percent of total exports). The United Kingdom took $45\frac{1}{2}$ percent of all Japanese canned crab meat exports in 1954 as compared with a negligible amount in 1953.

The increase in the Japanese crab catch and canned crab meat exports came almost entirely from the waters off Japan and the U. S. S. R., since the 1954 catch of king crab in Alaskan waters was only 2,000 cases in excess of that in 1953. With the two crab expeditions proposed for the Sea of Okhotsk in 1955, local fishing circles are estimating an export of 400,000 cases for the year, reports a February 24 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo.

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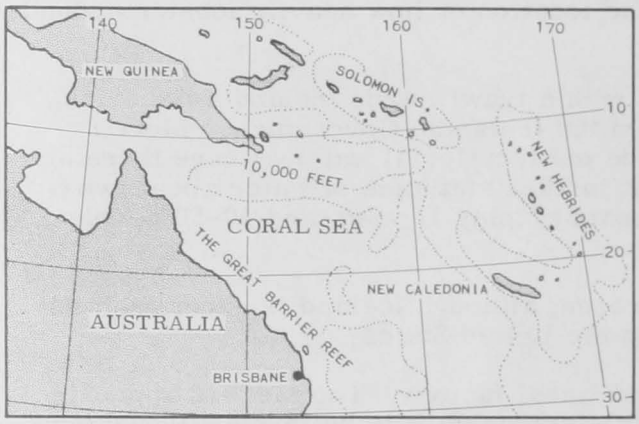

TUNA VESSEL MAKES GOOD CATCH IN CORAL SEA: The captain of the Japanese tuna vessel Kasima Maru reports he found the Coral Sea teeming with tuna and caught 5 metric tons in a few days 600 miles ENE. of Brisbane, Australia. He expressed surprise that an Australian official tuna survey in the Coral Sea had recently shown poor results, according to the December 1954 Pacific Islands Monthly, a South Seas magazine. The Kasima Maru had put in to Brisbane for engine repairs.

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MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORTS FOR 1954 AND OUTLOOK FOR 1955: The Japanese fisheries generally experienced a prosperous year in 1954, according to a January 10, 1955, U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. In foreign trade a ready market was met for most products--squid and cuttlefish for Asiatic countries, salmon for sterling areas, and crab meat for the United States all recorded increased volume of shipments. Over-all exports of marine products for the year, based on 11-months' data, were expected to amount to 140,000 metric tons, valued at US$74.8 million, compared with 1953 shipments of 121,000 tons, declared as worth US$60.7 million dollars.

A substantial portion of this export business was with the United States and consisted largely of canned and frozen tuna. However, fish-liver oil, whale oil, and pearls also figured importantly in Japan's exports of marine products. Demand was firm in the early months of the year but later softened and the export price of frozen white-meat tuna declined from about US$425 per ton to about US$325 per ton or lower at the end of the year. Despite a flurry of business in December, moderate stocks of both frozen and canned tuna were being held in Japan as the year closed, pending improvement in market demand.

For 1955 there seems to be no reason why the business in marine products should not be at least as favorable as for 1954. Continued additions of new and larger fishing boats are being made to present fleets, permitting longer voyages and better fishing techniques. Results of this in 1954 were evidenced by improved catches throughout the industry except where a particular species (herring) failed

to appear in its normal quantities and habitats. Three whaling fleets are in the Antarctic for the 1955 season against two fleets previously. The export of whale oil should therefore be increased by about 50 percent. The salmon fleets should do at least as well as the 1954 expeditions, which caught $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as many fish as the 1953 fleets. The demand for tuna in the United States will presumably be stabilized by early 1955. Should there be any appreciable lowering of the import tariffs of the United States and of the sterling countries for aquatic products, the effect would be promptly felt in Japan's fisheries.

Mexico

U. S.-MEXICAN FIRM MAY EXPLOIT GULF TUNA: A tuna canning plant set up with joint United States-Mexican capital may be established in Tampico or Matamoros, Mexico, to exploit new tuna resources recently located in the Gulf of Mexico, states a February 10 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Mexico City.

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MERIDA FROZEN FISH AND SHRIMP EXPORTS, 1954: Frozen Shrimp: Exports of frozen shrimp from the Merida District of Mexico during 1954 totaled 11.1 million pounds (not including Campeche exports during Oct.-Dec.), reports a February 9 U. S. consular dispatch from Merida. This is a sizable increase as compared with 1953 exports of 9.7 million pounds.

Frozen Fish: Merida exports of frozen fish during 1954 totaled 284 metric tons, all of which went to the United States.

Prevailing prices for Merida exported frozen fish during the last quarter of 1954 were 18 U. S. cents a pound f. o. b. Progreso for mero (heads off); while fillets of mero and corbina sold for 29 and 31 U. S. cents a pound, c. i. f., New Orleans, La., respectively.

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MERIDA SHARK FIN EXPORTS, 1954: Exports of shark fins from the Merida District of Mexico during 1954 totaled 11,224 pounds, compared with 9,434 pounds in 1953. Stormy weather during the latter part of the year curtailed fishing operations and drastically reduced exports during that period. Most of these exports are shipped to the United States.

Norway

SARDINE CANNERS INCREASE ADVERTISING IN UNITED STATES: The Norwegian Canners Association has expanded its advertising and sales promotion campaign for Norwegian sardines to cover 14 major United States marketing areas, the Norwegian Information Service reported on February 17.

The Association, encouraged by increased sales of sardines as a result of a three-year advertising and promotional campaign in 6 major United States marketing areas, has announced 8 new major targets for its 1955 campaign, according to the New York Journal of Commerce of February 4.

Backed by newspaper advertisements, 42 weeks of radio-television spots, and an over-all publicity campaign in all media, Norwegian sardines will be promoted in these new markets: Baltimore, Washington (D. C.), Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee, Portland (Ore.), and Seattle, in addition to New York, Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

The article points out that "This year's intensive campaign is keyed to the slogan 'The Best Sardines Come Your Way from Norway.'"

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1955 WINTER HERRING CATCH LESS THAN LAST YEAR: The Norwegian 1955 winter herring season officially ended on February 13 and produced a total catch provisionally set at 713,227 metric tons, with an ex-vessel value of Kr. 137 million (US$19 million), second only to the 1954 catch. The final figure for the 1954 catch was 872,426 metric tons, valued at over Kr. 177 million (US$25 million), reports the Norwegian Information Service in a February 24 bulletin.

The mature herring, wending their way across the North Atlantic from waters east of Iceland, begin to arrive around the middle of January. At this stage, the large fish contain up to 12 percent fat. These fisheries last until February 12-15, depending on the fat content. After the herring has finished its spawning mission, the fat content drops to about 8 percent. Then follow the spring herring fisheries, which are officially called off about March 20. In 1954 the fishermen landed nearly 1.1 million metric tons of fat herring, with an ex-vessel value of more than Kr. 200 million (US$28 million) the largest herring catch made in Norway.

The path followed by the herring on their never-ceasing migration has been traced by scientists of the Norwegian Ocean Research Institute. Their observations indicate that as the herring head toward the Norwegian coast they go into a cold-water pocket formed by currents from the Arctic Sea. This pocket is usually found west of the Sunnmore coast. But, if the North Atlantic is warm, the cold-water pocket may be pushed farther north, which explains why the herring some years make their first appearance at points north of the Sunnmore district. At high tide the cold-water pocket is pressed farther down than the herring can stand. Breaking through the cold-water barrier, they swim toward the coastal spawning banks at a speed of some 30 nautical miles.

A basic drawback of the Norwegian herring fisheries has always been their seasonal nature. However, judging from experiments made by scientists aboard the ocean research vessel G. O. Sars, pelagic herring fisheries in the Norwegian Sea, with superefficient purse seines, appear to be a distinct possibility. But it would require larger fishing vessels, all equipped with sonar, and the assistance of ocean researchers to pinpoint the whereabouts of the largest shoals. According to a fisheries consultant, summer weather conditions are on the whole more favorable in the Norwegian Sea than along the coast.

More than 80 percent of the total catch now goes to the 74 herring-meal and herring-oil factories strung along the coast as against only 51.8 percent up to 1949. Varying with the size of the landings, the annual output of the reduction plants has increased notably in recent years. Prior to 1954, for which figures are not available as yet, the highest production was reached in 1951, with 180,055 metric tons of herring meal and 81,728 tons of herring oil. Most of the reduction plants, 47 to be exact, are located along the west coast, while 6 are in the central Trondelag provinces, and 18 in the 3 northern provinces.

In addition to these shore plants, Norway has three floating herring factories equipped with modern reduction machinery and loading facilities, which follow the

fishing fleet wherever it goes. These are the 11,000-ton Ronald and the 7,000-ton Clupea, and new in the 1955 season is the S. S. Haeringur which has a daily processing capacity of 800-1,000 tons of raw herring.

A growing number of Norway's reduction plants has in the past few years installed special machinery for the production of vitamin-rich whole fish meal. The process involves reclaiming the so-called stickwater and reincorporating it with the herring meal in the form of condensed fish solubles. By utilizing the stickwater, which formerly was wasted, the reduction plants can increase their output about 20 percent.

Improved methods of utilizing the stickwater are being developed at the Kr. 5 million (US$700,000) Research Institute of the Norwegian Herring Oil and Meal Industry. Located at Tjaereviken, near Bergen, this privately-financed institute is a combination laboratory-pilot plant, affording the opportunity to test, on a semi-industrial scale, the findings and processes developed by researchers.

As part of its studies of the nutritional value of fish meal, the Institute operates an experimental animal farm, stocked with some 2,000 chickens and 25 hogs. Several years ago the Tjaereviken scientists ascertained that herring meal contains optimal proportions of the yet to be isolated animal protein factor (APF), which makes for healthy animal growth, and also an ideal distribution of amino acids. A major accomplishment of the Institute is the development of a preservative fluid which, when sprayed on the herring as it is being loaded, has proved extremely effective in preventing costly spoilage.

Peru

1954/55 TUNA SEASON DELAYED BY LOW PRICES: The Peruvian 1954/55 tuna season started late and as canned tuna prices in the United States were low, Peruvian canners offered the fishermen only 15.50 soles (about 82 U. S. cents) per dozen tuna at the outset of the season. Although fishermen refused to make deliveries for about 19 days, they were finally obliged to accept this price.

Peruvian exports of fishery products in 1954 may reach nearly US$10 million, reports a January 29 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lima.

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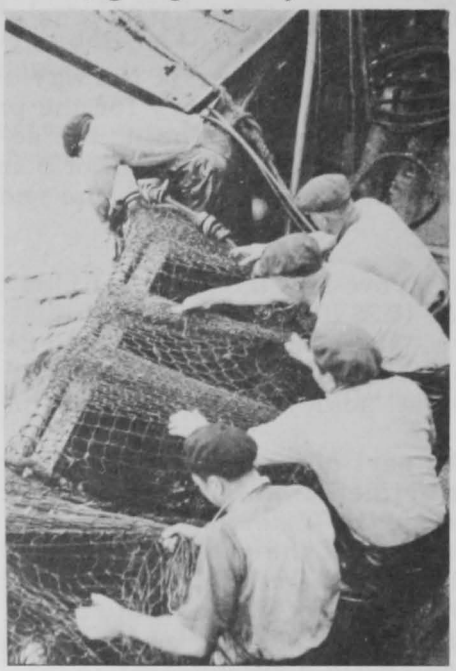
HIGHER OCEAN FREIGHT RATES FOR CANNED FISH AND FISH MEAL SHIPPED FROM PERU TO U. S. PORTS: The West Coast South America Northbound Conference has decided to increase the ocean freight rates on canned fish from $27 to $35 per ton effective March 1 on shipments from Peru to the United States, reports a February 23 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lima. The Conference also proposed to increase fish meal ocean freight rates from $22 to $25 per ton, but deferred the effective date until June 20 because of the current low price for this product on United States markets.

Portugal

FISHING TRENDS, OCTOBER 1954: Sardine Fishing: Sardine landings during January-October 1954 totaled 69,838 tons, valued at 188.5 million escudos (US$6.5 million) as compared to 59,083 tons, valued at 153.4 million escudos (US$5.3 million), for the same period in 1953.

Just like the previous months, the fishing of sardines in Portugal during October 1954 took place among really favorable conditions, going far beyond the month-

Trawl catch on deck of Portuguese trawler off northern coast of Africa.



Hauling net aboard on a Portuguese trawler off the west coast of Africa.

ly rate reached to date. In October 1954 sardine landings in the eight main fishing centers of Portugal amounted to 21,965 metric tons, valued at 54.6 million escudos (US$1.9 million ex-vessel). During October 1953 the sardine landings amounted to only 15,994 tons, valued at 35.2 million escudos (US$1.2 million).

The leading sardine fishing centers are Matosinhos, Setubal, and Portimao.

Other Fishing: Landings of tuna and tunalike fish, mackerel, anchovy, and chinchard amounted to 4,343 tons in October 1954, valued at 4.4 million escudos (US$0.2 million). For the first 10 months of 1954, landings for these species amounted to 40,052 tons, valued at 67.5 million escudos (US$2.3 million).

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CANNED FISH TRENDS, JANUARY-OCTOBER 1954: Exports: Portuguese canned fish exports totaled 38,060 tons, valued at 593.6 million escudos (US$20.5 million), during January-October 1954 (table 1).

The increase in Portugal's exports of canned fish was accompanied by considerable changes in the structure of its markets during 1954, according to Conservas de Peixe (January 1955). During January-October 1954 Germany was the leading receiver with 108.4 million escudos or US$3.7 million of canned fish (principally sardines), followed by Great

Table 1 - Portuguese Canned Fish Exports, January-October 1954

Product	Jan.-Oct. 1954	
	1,000 US$	Metric Tons
Sardines in oil or sauce	29,846	14,997
Sardinelike fish in oil or sauce	3,299	2,345
Sardines & sardinelike fish in brine	679	151
Tuna & tunalike fish in oil	2,506	1,859
Tuna & tunalike fish in brine	544	330
Mackerel in oil	735	466
Other fish	451	329
Total	38,060	20,477

Britain with 97.8 million escudos or US$3.4 million (principally sardines), Italy with 88.8 million escudos or US$3.1 million, and the United States with 77.3 million escudos or US$2.7 million (principally 1,774 tons of sardines in oil or sauce, 13 tons of tuna and tunalike fish in oil, and 1,703 tons of anchovies).

Table 2 - Portuguese Canned Fish Pack, Jan.-Sept. 1954

Product	Quantity
	Metric Tons
Sardines in oil or sauce	14,544
" " brine	630
Sardinelike fish in oil or sauce	3,636
" " " " brine	656
Tuna in oil or sauce	777
" " brine	78
Tunalike fish in oil or sauce	408
Crustaceans in oil or sauce	9
Mollusks in oil or sauce	191
" " brine	3
Other in oil or sauce	286
Other in brine	64
Total	21,282

Pack: The Portuguese pack of canned fish January-September 1954 amounted to 21,282 metric tons, 6,986 tons greater than in the same period of 1953 when only 14,296 tons were packed (table 2).

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AZORES TUNA EXPORTS TO THE U. S., 1954: Total Azores canned tuna exports to the United States in 1954 amounted to 1,272,257 pounds, valued at US$302,388, reports a January 11 U. S. consular dispatch from Ponta Delgada. This was an increase of 31 percent in volume and 35 percent in value as compared with 1953 canned tuna exports to the United States of 972,017 pounds, valued at US$223,398. Also in 1953 the Azores exported to the United States 660,000 pounds of frozen tuna, valued at US$92,000, but none was exported in 1954.

Federation of Rhodesia

CANNED FISH IMPORTS NOT UNDER CURRENCY RESTRICTION: Canned fish and plain fish hooks (excluding artificial lures, flies, spoons, etc.) are again included in a list of products which may be imported from dollar and nonsterling sources for the first half of 1955 into the Federation of Rhodesia without currency restrictions. They will still require import licenses, but these will be issued subject to scrutiny only, according to the January 22, 1955, Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication.

Spain

VIGO FISH CANNING TRENDS: January 1955: The United States market which for many years has been the principal consumer of the best quality of the Spanish canned fish has lately shown increased interest in the possibility of importing albacore tuna from Spain. Spanish fish canners, aware of the capacity of the United States market, foresee increased activities if, in the absence of sardines from local waters, they are able to pack albacore in sufficient quantities. For this reason the Fish Canners Association is actively engaged in negotiations with the Association of Owners of Fishing Vessels to extend the albacore tuna fishing season, operating from about the early part of March until the end of September. The normal season has been from about the middle of May to the end of September. For this purpose some of the larger vessels, now devoted to hake and other deep-sea fishing, would

have to transfer to albacore fishing, an operation which is not as easy as it would appear, since it involves the changing of practically all fishing equipment as well as the installation of tanks to carry live bait for albacore tuna fishing.

While many vessel operators agree that a prolonged albacore tuna fishing season might be beneficial, they hesitate to make the shift because of financial outlays involved and their hope that sardines will sooner or later reappear along the littoral.

Fish canneries in the Vigo area purchased during January 1955, 292,116 pounds of fish or about 3.5 percent of the total catch entered through the Vigo Fish Exchange. This compared to 279,754 pounds or about 3.7 percent in January 1954. Activities in packing plants were limited to the canning of anchovies and small quantities of "castaneta" for the domestic market, reports a February 11, U. S. consular dispatch from Vigo.

December 1954: Activities of the long-range deep-sea fishing fleet were restricted by rough weather and the few vessels which traveled to the fishing grounds operated under unfavorable conditions aggravated by the scarcity of fish which forced them to remain out longer. The smaller vessels operating in nearby waters engaged in the seasonal fishing of jurel (Tracharus tracharus). This species has been abundant and catches account for more than 50 percent of the total fish catch entered in the port but its market value was so low that operators claim that vessels worked at a loss.

Arrests of fishing vessels along the Portuguese coast by the Portuguese Coast Guard continued during the month. The industry, through fishing syndicates, is renewing its appeal to the central government to attempt to correct this situation.

Fish canneries in the Vigo area purchased 3,179,222 pounds of fish during December 1954 or about 18 percent of the total catch entered through the Vigo Fish Exchange. This compares to 1,276,594 pounds or about 15 percent in December 1953.

The scant amount of sardines available during the month were absorbed by the industry at the almost prohibitive price of from pesetas 4.25-5.00 per kilo (8.8-10.4 U. S. cents per pound). The seasonal price is pesetas 1.50 per kilo (3.1 U. S. cents per pound). Other specimens prepared during the month were castaneta (bramaraii), alcrique (needlefish), and jurel (Tracharus tracharus), mostly for consumption in the domestic markets.

In spite of present difficulties, the industry is optimistic and hopes that as a result of bilateral trade agreements reportedly being negotiated it will be able to reenter some of its former markets, especially West Germany.

Stocks of oil, tin plate, and other raw materials, while seasonally below normal were reported to be adequate for present output, a January 14, U. S. consular dispatch from Vigo points out.

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FISH CANNERS OF SANTANDER EXPORT LESS IN 1954: Fish canners in the Province of Santander, Spain, did not export as much canned fish in 1954 as in 1953. Of 30.0 million pounds of fish canned in 1954, the canners exported only 10.8 million pounds (36 percent), but in 1953 out of a pack of 21.9 million pounds, 15.7 million pounds (72 percent) were exported.

The total catch of fish in Santander during 1954 amounted to 46.3 million pounds, valued at 88.3 million pesetas (US$4.0 million), reports a February 18 U. S. consular dispatch from Bilbao. The 1953 catch totaled 45.4 million pounds, valued at 63.2 million pesetas (US$2.9 million).

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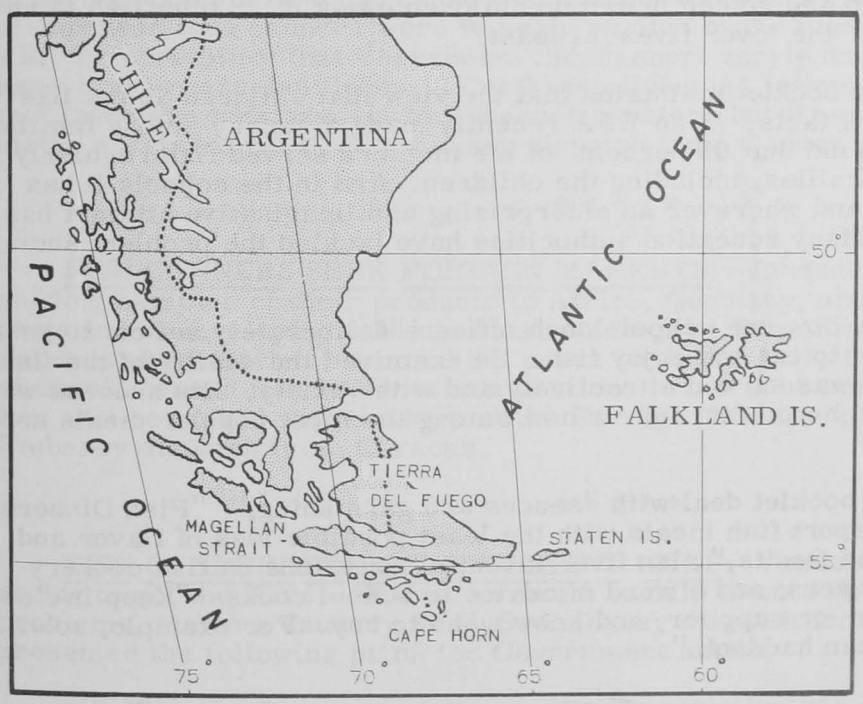
SARDINE VESSELS DETAINED BY PORTUGAL IN TERRITORIAL WATERS DISPUTE: The absence of a clear understanding between Spain and Portugal in regard to territorial waters continued to result in difficulties, according to Spanish fishing interests. Portuguese authorities have detained vessels and confiscated catches of Spanish vessels operating out of Galician ports.

The Vigo sardine fishing fleet travels as far south as Cape St. Vincent in the search for sardines. Vessel owners claim that their boats operate in that area but outside the six-mile limit fixed by the Portuguese and that their operations are under constant surveillance by Portuguese fiscal services. On the way back to the home port, these vessels, none of which is larger than 150 tons, travel as close as possible to the coast because of the rough seas prevailing in the winter. If on their return trip they are stopped by a Portuguese Coast Guard ship, the vessel is inevitably taken to a Portuguese port where the catch is confiscated and sold at public auction, the ship detained for 3 to 7 days, and the owner subsequently fined on the assumption that the catch was taken within territorial waters. While this is a long-standing problem and has resulted in serious incidents in previous years, like the sinking by gunfire of one or two vessels which refused to comply with the orders of the Portuguese Coast Guard, the situation is again becoming difficult.

During November 1954, 12 fishing vessels operating out of Vigo and Marin were detained, some of which were still waiting in Portuguese ports for the decision of Portuguese courts, according to a December 13, 1954, U. S. consular dispatch from Vigo.

United Kingdom

NAVY TO PROTECT BRITISH WHALING FLEETS: As a precaution against interference with British whaling fleets operating in the Antarctic in the current season, the British Admiralty has assigned the cruiser Superb (9,000 tons) and the 1,300-ton frigate Burghead Bay to that area. A courtesy visit will be paid to the Chilean capital, reports the January 21, 1955, issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical.



The Superb and the Burghead Bay, which are stationed at Bermuda, will go from Callao to the Falkland Islands, where the frigate Veryan Bay arrived recently.

South Africa also has a whaling fleet operating in those waters and the chairman of a Union whaling company has announced that they would seek British naval protection in the event of any attempted interference.

The position arises out of the Onassis incident and the claim of Chile, Ecuador, and Peru that they possess exclusive rights over the ocean 200 miles from their shores. There are a few islands in the Antarctic belonging to Chile who claims that the same position applies to them, namely that the waters for 200 miles around them are "all hers."

Argentine, too, claims territorial rights over the Falklands, which has been British territory for several hundred years.

Lloyd's has warned that the war risk clause in the whaling fleets' policies are involved, hence the protection which is being extended.

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COOKBOOK TO AID SCHOOL-LUNCH PROGRAM: The White Fish Authority's campaign to popularize fish meals among school children should gain much through the new booklet "How to Make the Most of Fish," addressed to the school meals service by the WFA, reports The Fishing News (January 14, 1955), a British fishery magazine.

Copiously illustrated in color, it catches the eye with appetizing fish dishes, with recipes for school cooks--and, of course, any others who wish to try them. The recipes include several unfamiliar to the average cook, such as "Fish Timbale," "Cod with Grapes," and "Russian Fish Pie."

The recipes include many varieties of vegetables beside the potato. As one of the authorities said, "Fish always calls on its friends of the vegetable and animal kingdom to attend on it, and minister to its final glory. There is no necessity to claim that the humble potato is its only servant."

Giving a series of recipes in a section on "Frying to Perfection," a well-known catering instructor says: "On the whole children prefer their fish fried. Only if that fish is fried to a crisp and golden brown do children enjoy it. . .fried fish is an ideal food for children, for the 'over fives' at least."

In the introduction the booklet maintains that the view that children do not like fish is not supported by the facts. "The WFA recently made a survey among families with young children and found that 83 percent of the mothers served fish regularly to all members of their families, including the children. And in the schools it has been disproved whenever and wherever an enterprizing and imaginative attempt has been made to combat it. Many education authorities have tackled the problem successfully."

The booklet describes how one school-lunch officer "deliberately set out to get the children in his schools to eat and enjoy fish. He examined the quality of the fish bought and insisted that it was served attractively and with variety. His success was far beyond anything he had hoped for; fish is now among the most popular meals served."

Other sections of the booklet deal with "sauces and garnishing," "Fish Dinners on the Move--how to transport fish meals with the least possible loss of flavor and attractiveness," "Do's and Don'ts," also five "favorite" questions on fish cookery in schools--with their answers; and a word of advice to school cooks--"Keep in close touch with your fishmonger or supplier, and know when to buy. For example, soles are sometimes cheaper than haddock."

Union of South Africa

FISHERIES TRENDS, DECEMBER-JANUARY: There was no fishing for pilchards and jack mackerel in South Africa during December 1954, and inventories of canned fish were reduced. The new season began in January 1955, and sales of fish oil and fish meal were made on a forward basis at high prices. The trend of prices for canned fish, however, was downward. Spiny lobster canners and processors were quite busy, and in many cases were working on back orders, states a February 14 U. S. consular dispatch from Cape Town.

U.S.S.R.

LARGE HERRING FLEETS IN NORTH ATLANTIC: Russia's 1954 herring expeditions in the North Atlantic operated a fleet of 23 motherships and 270 fishing boats (in all over 300 craft), according to Fiskets Gang (January 27, 1955), a Norwegian fishery periodical. This information was included in a brief description of a Moscow meeting of representatives of the various Soviet herring expeditions carried in the December 25, 1954, issue of Izvestilja, a Russian publication. The vessels had the latest type of equipment and with the aid of new techniques and previous experience had expected to increase the 1954 catch substantially. Up to December 25, 1954, the catch totaled 155,100 metric tons as compared with 110,000 tons on the same date a year earlier. The goal for 1954 had been set at 170,000 tons.

Venezuela

JAPANESE TO AID STUDY OF VENEZUELAN TUNA FISHERY: A representative of the Venezuelan Association of Fish Canners and representatives of a consortium of Japanese tuna canners were to begin studies of the tuna fisheries off Venezuela with the possibility that Venezuelan fish canners may establish a tuna industry. A report on Venezuelan fishes in Caribbean fisheries issued June 8, 1944, pointed out that there are tuna present in Venezuelan waters but these fish are not now exploited, states a February 9 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas.

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FISH CANNERS SEEK FOREIGN MARKETS: Venezuelan fish canners were sending samples of their products to Africa, Germany, and Trinidad, with the expectation of developing sales in those places, the President of the Venezuelan Fish Canners' Association informed the press on January 31, 1955. He said the stocks of unsold canned fish in Venezuela continue to increase but he is optimistic the problem will be solved with the help of the Foreign Office, reports a January 31 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas.

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FISH CANNERS SEEK GOVERNMENT HELP: Venezuelan fish canners are still trying to get the Venezuelan Government to help them with their overproduction problems, states a January 24 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas. They have presented the following plans for Government action:

(1) That the Government finance fish canning in 1955 and buy all the canned fish the canners cannot sell to the public. This Government stock to be used in official institutions.

(2) Should the Government decline then the canners and the Government should arrange a combination whereby fish is canned under only one brand, quality is standardized, distribution is by one organization, and production quotas are established for each canner.

The canners believe by this means they can reduce advertising and administrativ costs to such a degree that the cost of Venezuelan canned fish will be low enough to enable them to compete on the world market without subsidy. Of course, if the Gover ment complies and discovers that the actual savings are not sufficient to permit the canners to sell their product abroad, it will have some responsibility to see that the canned fish find a market. At the present time and despite all previous efforts the responsibility for marketing canned fish is entirely that of the canners.

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