



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of the Interior FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT ADMENDMENTS TO ALASKA COM- MERCIAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS:

The Secretary of the Interior gave notice in the Federal Register of July 29 that he intends to adopt amended regulations permitting and governing the time, means, and methods for the taking of commercial fish in waters of Alaska, and related matters.

The regulations are to be effective beginning about February 1, 1956, and to continue in effect thereafter until further notice.

Interested persons are given an opportunity to participate in considering changes in the regulations by submitting their views, data, or arguments in writing to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., on or before November 18, 1955, or by presenting their views at a series of open discussions scheduled as follows:

- Alaska: Dillingham - July 30
- Ketchikan - Sept. 1
- Petersburg - Sept. 3
- Juneau - Sept. 8
- Sitka - Sept. 10
- Kodiak - Sept. 13
- Anchorage - Sept. 15
- Cordova - Sept. 17
- Seattle, Wash. - Oct. 19, 20, & 21



International Cooperation Administration (Formerly Foreign Operations Administration)

FORMOSA AUTHORIZED TO BUY DIESEL TRAWLER ENGINES:

Formosa was authorized to procure two units of Diesel trawler propulsion engines, to be financed under Procurement Authorization No. 84-730-00-70-5238 of the International Cooperations Administration (formerly Foreign Operations Administration). The Authorization indicated the United States and Possessions, the European Program Countries, Japan, and Canada as the source areas.

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INDIA AUTHORIZED TO BUY FISHERIES EQUIPMENT:

The Government of India has been authorized ICA financing for equipment for fisheries modernization. ICA Purchase Authority 86-18-005-9-50197 approves procurement of the following equipment by the India Supply Mission: Electrical apparatus \$2,000, engines and turbines \$7,200, and cold-storage units \$18,000.



Department of State

FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS:

Funds totaling \$455,000 for international fisheries commissions were included in the State Department fiscal year 1956 appropriations bill (H. R. 5502), signed by the President July 7.

The funds will be apportioned as follows:

	1955/56	1954/55
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	\$197,290	\$115,445
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission	3,885	3,885
International Pacific Halibut Commission	94,110	49,750
International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission (Sockeye) .	141,295	139,500
International Whaling Commission.	420	420
North Pacific Fisheries Commission	13,000	11,000
Expenses of U. S. Commissioners.	5,000	5,000
Total	\$455,000	\$325,000

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FISHERY PRODUCTS TARIFF CONCESSIONS GRANTED IN 1955 GENEVA GATT NEGOTIATIONS:

Modification of United States import duties on certain fishery products will result from tariff concessions recently negotiated with Japan and other countries at Geneva, Switzerland. The new rates of duty are scheduled to become effective on September 10, 1955, for concessions initially negotiated with Japan, if by August 11 two-thirds of the Contracting Parties to GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) have voted favorably on Japanese accession to the Agreement.

United States concessions initially negotiated with third countries will not be made effective until the third countries give effect to its concessions to Japan, which may be on September 10 or later.

In addition to the regular negotiations, the United States renegotiated a modification in its trade agreement obligations with Canada made necessary by Public Law 689 for fish sticks and other portioned fish which have been breaded, coated with batter, or similarly prepared but not containing added oil. The increased duties provided for by P. L. 689 of 20 percent ad valorem if uncooked and 30 percent if cooked in any degree, are to become effective as soon as practicable. Agreement was reached in a "package" settlement concerning United States renegotiation of fish sticks and Canadian actions to modify upward concessions on certain canned fruits and other products. Canada granted the United States certain other concessions and the United States granted Canada a reduction in the

duty on certain pickled and salted herring and a binding of the present duty on fresh or frozen crab meat.

Tariff concessions were of two kinds, reductions in duties and "bindings" against future duty increases.

The principal concessions in import duties granted by the United States affecting fishery products are shown in table 1.

Japan granted concessions to the United States as indicated in table 2.

In granting concessions on import items, United States negotiators operated under statutory safeguards to avoid injury to our industrial mobilization base or to domestic industries producing like or similar products. No concession granted by the United States will bring the duty rate on any item below the "peril point" found for the item under procedures established by law. The United States negotiators also operated under the policy announced by the President in his message of March 30, 1954, to the Congress that tariff reductions would be withheld on products made by workers receiving wages which are substandard in the export country. At the conclusion of the negotiations, the head of the Japanese delegation advised that "... it is the foremost concern of the Japanese Government that wage standards and practices be maintained at fair levels in industries, including export industries, of Japan."

The United States delegation at Geneva included four public members who expressed their satisfaction with the conduct of these negotiations and the realistic practical approach of the members of the delegation to the negotiations. They indicated that there could be no doubt that the negotiators were devoted to the basic policy of increasing trade and removing barriers, but that within this framework of national policy the negotiators made every effort to assure full protection of the economic interests of United States agriculture, industry, and labor.

(Tables 1 and 2 on page 63.)

Table 1 - Principal Fishery Items on Which the United States Granted Concessions

Tariff Par.	Stat. Class (1954)	Commodity Description	Rate of Duty		Negotiating Country	Total U. S. Imports for Consumption, 1954
			Jan. 1, 1955	Geneva 1955 Agreement		
41	2800.000	Agar agar	25%	15%	Japan	1,000 Dollars
717(b)	0060.320	Swordfish, fresh or frozen, filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, or divided into portions	1½¢ lb.	1½¢ lb.	Japan	897
717(c)	0062.290	Fish, dried and unsalted (except cod, haddock, hake, pollock, and cusk, and except shark fins)	5/8¢ lb.	5/16¢ lb.	Japan	2,875
718(a)	0065.300	Canned tuna, in oil or in oil and other substances	45%	35%	Norway	315
718(b)	0065.700 0067.210 0067.250	Canned tuna in brine	12½%	12½% ^{1/}	Japan	408
719(4)	0070.400	Herring, pickled or salted, in bulk or in containers containing each more than 10 pounds of herring	1/2¢ lb.	1/4¢ lb.	Japan	13,473
720(a)	0075.100	Herring, whole or beheaded, hard dry-smoked	1/2¢ lb.	5/16¢ lb.	Canada ^{2/}	2,847
721(a)	0080.100	Crab meat, crab sauce, and crab paste fresh or frozen, and prepared or preserved not in air-tight containers	1/2¢ lb.	5/16¢ lb.	Norway	51
	0080.500	Prepared or preserved in air-tight containers	15%	15%	Canada ^{2/}	49
721(b)	0081.500	Clams (except razor clams) and clams in combinations with other substances (except clam chowder)	22½%	22½%	Japan	2,916
721(e)	0081.100	Oysters, oyster juice, or either in combination with other substances, in air-tight containers	35%	20%	Japan	174
923	3230.640	Fish nets and fish netting:	8¢ lb. ^{2/}	6¢ lb. ^{2/}	Japan	618
	3230.640	Nets valued 50 cents or more per pound	30%	25%	Japan	260
1006	3390.110	Other nets and netting	40%	25%	Benelux ^{2/}	219
	3390.120	Gill nettings, nets, webs, and seines, and other nets for fishing, or flax, hemp, or ramie, n.s.p.f.	25%	22½%	Japan	21
1528	5953.900	Pearls and parts, not set or strong, cultured or cultivated	10%	5%	Japan	4,334
1535	9420.300	Fishing rods, n.s.p.f.	\$4.50 ea.; 15% min.; 55% max	\$2.75 ea.; 15% min.; 35% max.	Japan	156
	9420.500 (part)	Parts of fishing rods, n.s.p.f.	40%	30%	Japan	-
	9420.560	Fishing baskets, or creels	45%	25%	Japan	79
	9420.590	Fishing tackle and parts, n.s.p.f., except fishing lines, nets, and seines	45%	25%	Japan	461
1558	0023.800	Frog legs and whole frogs (dead)	10%	5%	Japan	1,077
1677	0980.180 (part)	Goldfish	Free	Bind free	Japan	(Est.) 21
1705	2933.000	Kelp	Free	Bind free	Japan	47
1756	0058.100	Tuna fish, fresh or frozen, whether or not whole: Albacore	Free	Bind free	Japan	11,161
1761	0087.400	Scallops, except fresh	Free	Bind free	Japan	737
	0087.600	Oysters, not in air-tight containers (except fresh or frozen other than seed oysters)	Free	Bind free	Japan	425
	0087.790	Shellfish, n.s.p.f.	Free	Bind free	Japan	363

^{1/}The 12½ percent rate of duty was bound against increase on an aggregate quantity equal to 20 percent of the United States pack of canned tuna during the immediately preceding calendar year.
^{2/}In compensation for United States action under Public Law 689, 83rd Congress, relating to fish sticks and the other fish products described therein.

Table 2 - Principal Fishery Items on Which Japan Granted Concessions to the United States

Tariff Item No.	Statistical Item No. ^{1/}	Commodity Description	Duty to U. S.		Imports from U. S. in 1953 (\$1,000) ^{3/}
			Before Agreement ^{2/}	Under Agreement	
ex 341-2	ex 055-0220	Tomato paste and puree in airtight containers used for packing fish for export	25%	free	4 ^{1/} 1,209
ex 695	541-0100	Vitamins and vitamin preparations	20%	15%	1,676
ex 733	533-0360	Pearl essence	15%	10%	208
ex 1405-5	681-0710	Steel plates and sheets, tinned, including secondary tin plate	15%	15%	3,032

^{1/}Statistical item numbers for 1954.
^{2/}The rates listed in this column are the Japanese statutory rates as provided for in Japanese Customs Tariff Law.
^{3/}Import data from the United States (including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico) are based on official Japanese statistics converted to dollars.
^{4/}Estimated.

Eighty-Fourth Congress (First Session)

JULY 1955

Listed below are public bills and resolutions introduced and referred to committees or passed by the Eight-fourth Congress (First Session) and signed by the President that directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries. Public bills and resolutions are shown in this section when introduced and, if passed, when signed by the President; but also shown from month to month are the more pertinent reports, hearings, or chamber actions on some bills.

AMERICAN FISHING FLEET MAINTENANCE UNDER COMPETITIVE CONDITIONS: H. R. 7238 (King of California), introduced June 11. A bill to amend title V of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, to promote the maintenance of the American fishing fleet under competitive conditions and in the interest of sustained fish food supplies in case of emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Provides for a construction-differential subsidy to aid in the construction of new fishing vessels. Title V of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, contains the provisions for subsidies or grants to merchant marine vessels engaged in international trade. If the same principles which presently are applied to merchant marine vessels engaged in international trade, would apply to fishing vessels, subsidies or grants up to 50 percent of the construction costs could be given by the Maritime Administration. According to the bill no subsidy shall be awarded "if the applicant does not show sufficiently that the fish or fishery products he or it is producing or intends to produce suffer from foreign competition and that the subsidy is needed to keep the American fishing fleet in such status of efficiency as is necessary to meet the foreign competition."

FISHING IMPROVEMENTS IN PENSACOLA BAY: H. R. 7683 (Sikes), introduced July 28. A bill to authorize the Army Engineers to study the feasibility of modifying an existing project at Pensacola Harbor, Florida, for the purpose of extending a channel to the fish wharves at the foot of B Street in Pensacola and to make other reasonable improvements at that location for the benefit of the fishing industry; to the Committee on Public Works.

GREAT LAKES FISHERY TECHNOLOGICAL LABORATORY: S. 2707 (Potter), introduced July 30. A bill directing the Secretary of the Interior to establish, under the Fish and Wildlife Service, a technological laboratory to serve the Great Lakes region; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. In addition to other research functions the proposed laboratory would be directed to "conduct a study of the ways of utilizing rough fish found in the Great Lakes for which there is at the present time little or no outlet."

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS: The House on July 14 passed H. R. 7278, a supplementary appropriation bill, which proposed additional appropriations for the Fish and Wildlife Service for fiscal year 1956.

The Senate Committee on Appropriations on July 25 reported H. R. 7278, with amendments (S. Rept. 1094).

Senate on July 26 passed with amendments, H. R. 7278, asked for conference and appointed conferees.

The House on July 27 disagreed to Senate Amendments to H. R. 7278, agreed to a conference requested by Senate, and appointed conferees.

Conferees on July 29 reported on H. R. 7278, making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 1956 (H. Rept. 1586).

The House and Senate on July 30 adopted conference report on H. R. 7278, making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 1956, clearing bill for the President. The bill provides additional appropriations for the Fish and Wildlife Service as follows: \$750,000 for construction, of which \$455,000 shall be available for the construction of fish-cultural facilities below Norfolk Dam, Ark., and \$6,000 for an auxiliary spillway on the James River at the Dakota Lake National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota; the remainder for construction of a headquarters building at Pascagoula, Miss., for exploratory fishing and gear development, and repair of hurricane damages at the Woods Hole Biological Station in Mass.; \$730,000 for fisheries research under the International Convention for High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION BILL, 1956: Senate Report No. 1094 (July 23, 1955, 84th Congress, 1st Session), 69 pp., printed. Reports on the supplemental appropriations for the various government agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956. Includes recommendation of an additional appropriation to the Fish and Wildlife Service for construction of facilities.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ACT, 1956: House Report No. 1586 (July 29, 1955, 84th Congress, 1st Session), 16 pp., printed. Reports on the supplemental appropriations for the various government agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956. Includes recommendation of additional appropriation for construction of facilities of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE: House Committee on Education and Labor on July 7 approved a bill (H. R. 7214) to increase the national minimum wage standard to \$1 per hour. The effective date of the increase will be March 1, 1956 (H. Rept. 1095).

The House on July 18 reported H. R. 7214 (H. Rept. 1202).

The House on July 20 passed H. R. 7214. This passage was subsequently vacated and S. 2168, a similar bill, was amended to contain the House-approved text and passed by the House. The House insisted on its amendment and requested a conference with the Senate. Conferees were appointed.

During the consideration of the bill the House rejected amendments designed to--fix the minimum wage at 90 cents an hour effective January 1, 1956; increase the minimum wage to \$1.10 an hour effective January 1, 1956; and increase the minimum wage to 90 cents an hour effective January 1, 1956, and to again increase it to \$1 an hour effective January 1, 1957.

The Senate on July 21 disagreed to House amendments to S. 2168, agreed to hold conference asked by House, and appointed conferees.

The Conferees, in executive session on July 27, agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate- and House-passed versions of S. 2168. As agreed, the bill would provide:

- (1) An increase in the national minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1, effective March 1, 1956.
- (2) The Secretary of Labor shall make an annual report to the Congress containing an evaluation and appraisal by the Secretary of the prevailing minimum wage, together with his recommendations.
- (3) Industry committee procedures are strengthened and accelerated.
- (4) That minimum wages in Puerto Rico established by industry committees shall be reviewed by such committees at least once each fiscal year.

The Senate on July 29 adopted conference report on S. 2168.

AMENDING THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT TO MAKE THE MINIMUM WAGE \$1 AN HOUR EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1956: H. Rept. No. 1095, (July 11, 1955), 3 pp.,

printed. Reports on H. R. 7214 which was subsequently vacated and substituted by S. 2168, a similar bill.

NATIONAL FISH WEEK: S. J. Res. 89 (Magnuson). Joint resolution introduced July 11 designating the period from October 3 to 8, inclusive, 1955, as National Fish Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Also H. J. Res. 373, similar to S. J. Res. 89, introduced in House July; referred to Committee on the Judiciary.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL: The House on July 26 reported S. 890, to extend and strengthen the Water Pollution Control Act (H. Rept. 1446).

EXTENDING AND STRENGTHENING THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT: H. Rept. No. 1446 (July 26, 1955), 18 pp., printed. Reports on S. 890, a bill to amend the Water Pollution Control Act by replacing it with new provisions designed to extend and strengthen the act. The bill adds three significant improvements to the Act by: (1) intensifying the national research effort in water pollution; (2) providing a broader basis for support to State and interstate pollution-control agencies; and (3) providing a reasonable and equitable mechanism for Federal-State cooperation in resolving serious interstate pollution problems.



NEW COATING FOR FROZEN FOODS

A new coating for frozen food, which has as its base a purified vacuum-dried derivative of irish moss mixed with sorbitol and water, is reported. It can be applied either by dipping or spraying and is stated to set in 30 seconds forming a skin around the product. The coating is transparent and resilient and can be removed by peeling. It is said to remain firm at 115° F. (46° C.) and unaffected by freezing. The coating may be used to protect the food from moisture loss or freezer burn.

--National Provisioner, Sept. 3, 1953.

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