



International

TRAWLER OWNERS OF SIX EUROPEAN NATIONS MEET IN GERMANY

An international deep-sea fishing conference to discuss the founding of an international fishing association was opened in Bremerhaven, Germany, in mid-July, The Fishing News (a British fishery periodical) announced.

Representatives of deep-sea fishing associations from Belgium, Britain, France, West Germany, Holland, and Spain were present.

Themes for discussion were fishing in the North Sea, the Icelandic sovereignty claims in the waters around Iceland, the extension of fishing limits, conservation of the living resources of the sea, and the insurance of fishing vessels.

The German High Seas Fishing Association announced only that "no decisions had been taken" in the discussions, which were in private. The meeting was only of an exploratory nature.

TERRITORIAL WATERS

UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS MEET TO DISCUSS SOUTH PACIFIC FISHERY RESOURCES: Representatives of the Governments of Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and the United States met in Santiago, Chile, on September 14 for the purpose of holding conversations regarding the conservation of fishery resources in the waters of the South Pacific and to plan appropriate scientific and technical studies to that end, an August 23 U. S. State Department release states.

* * * * *

LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES POSTPONE MEETING TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS: The proposed tripartite conference to establish regulations for fishing in the 200-mile maritime zone claimed by Ecuador, Peru, and Chile under the Santiago Declaration has been postponed from August to an undetermined date, an August 1 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lima points out.

* * * * *

PERUVIAN REACTION TO U. N. COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS: The recommendations of the Geneva meeting of the United Nations Commission which tended to confirm the validity of the three-mile limit for territorial waters, as opposed to the exaggerated claim of 200-mile jurisdiction, caused a prompt reaction in Peruvian circles, a June 24 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lima points out.

A Peruvian Foreign Office official stated in the press (La Prensa, June 22) that the decision does not in the slightest affect the international conventions by which Chile, Peru, and Ecuador have established 200-mile jurisdiction. The Foreign Office spokesman also is quoted as stating that the Peruvian position has been amply set forth in its Note to Great Britain (and to the United States) and that, so far as the recent findings of the Commission are concerned, they constitute only a recommendation to be made to the United Nations Assembly and hence cannot be binding on Peru.

The Counselor of the Chilean Embassy is quoted as stating that Chile will maintain its position regarding 200-mile jurisdiction and that the findings of the Commission are ambiguous since, while on the one hand it reaffirms the position of the three-mile limit, on the other hand it recognizes that there is no uniformity on this question. The Chilean Counselor is also quoted as stating that the United States has abandoned the principle of the three-mile limit. He adds that the three countries will stand together since the question is a dispute caused by economic interests of the fishing concerns desiring to exploit fish resources in the 200-mile zone.

The Chargé of the Ecuadoran Embassy was quoted as making observations in a similar vein.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

NINE ARTICLES ON TERRITORIAL WATERS DRAFTED: The International Law Commission discussed the old dispute over the extent of territorial sea limits at its seventh session in Geneva in May and June 1955. Britain and the United States want a three-mile limit, the Scandinavian countries want at least four miles, and Yugoslavia is pressing for six miles, reports the July 8, 1955, issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical. Russia in practice applies a 12-mile limit, and Chile, Peru, and Ecuador claim that their territorial waters extend 200 miles out to sea.

On June 14 the Commission adopted a provisional ruling that, without taking any decision as to the question of the proper extension of the territorial sea, it "considers that in any case, international law does not justify the extension of the territorial sea beyond 12 miles."

On June 22 the Commission adopted an article aimed at protecting the territorial waters of countries whose coastline is deeply indented, by providing that in special circumstances these waters be calculated from a straight base line between appropriate points on the coast, disregarding the low-water mark from which the boundary is usually measured. Britain, the United States, and France voted against the proposal.

A report from Geneva pointed out that the International Law Commission reached the following determination on the Breadth of Territorial Waters, subject of course to final conclusions:

- "1. The Commission recognizes that international practice is not uniform as regards traditional limitation of the territorial sea to three miles.
- "2. The Commission considers that international law does not justify extensions of the territorial sea beyond twelve miles.
- "3. The Commission, without taking any decision as to the breadth of the territorial sea within that limit, considers that international law does not oblige the States to recognize an extension of the territorial sea beyond three miles."

At the meeting in Geneva the following recommendations were adopted (subject to final approval when the Commission completes study of all topics relating to the 'Regime of the High Seas'):

Draft of Proposed Recommendations of the International Law Commission
to the United Nations General Assembly

Chapter III: Freedom of Fishing

Right to Fish

Article 28 (new)

All States have the right to claim for their nationals the right to fish on the high seas, subject to their treaty obligations and to the provisions

contained in the following articles concerning conservation of the living resources of the high seas.

Conservation of the Living Resources of
the High Seas

Article 29

A State whose nationals are engaged in fishing in any area of the high seas where the nationals of other States are not thus engaged, may adopt measures for regulating and controlling fishing activities in such areas for the purpose of the conservation of the living resources of the high seas.

Article 30

1. If the nationals of two or more States are engaged in fishing in any area of the high seas, these States shall, at the request of any of them, enter into negotiations in order to prescribe by agreement the measures necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high seas.

2. If the States concerned do not reach agreement within a reasonable period of time, any of the parties may initiate the procedure contemplated in Article 35.

Article 31

1. If, subsequent to the adoption of the measures referred to in Articles 29 and 30, nationals of other States engage in fishing in the same area, the measures adopted shall be applicable to them.

2. If the State whose nationals take part in the fisheries do not accept the measures so adopted, and if no agreement can be reached within a reasonable period of time, any of the interested parties may initiate the procedure contemplated in Article 35. Subject to paragraph 2 of Article 36 the measures adopted shall remain obligatory pending the arbitral decision.

Article 32

A coastal State having a special interest in the maintenance of the productivity of the living resources in any area of the high seas contiguous to its coasts, is entitled to take part on an equal footing in any system of research and regulation in that area, even though its nationals do not carry on fishing there.

Article 33

1. A coastal State having a special interest in the maintenance of the productivity of the living resources in any area of the high seas contiguous to its coasts, may adopt unilaterally whatever measures of conservation are appropriate in the area where this interest exists, provided that negotiations with the other States concerned have not led to an agreement within a reasonable period of time.

2. The measures which the coastal State adopts under the first paragraph of this article shall be valid as to other States only if the following requirements are fulfilled:

(a) That scientific evidence shows that there is an imperative and urgent need for measures of conservation;

(b) that the measures adopted are based on appropriate scientific findings;

(c) that such measures do not discriminate against foreign fishermen.

3. If these measures are not accepted by the other States concerned, any of the parties may initiate the procedure envisaged in Article 35. Subject to paragraph 2 of Article 36, the measures contemplated shall remain obligatory pending the arbitral decision.

Article 34

1. Any State, even if its nationals are not engaged in fishing in an area of the high seas not contiguous to its coasts, but which has a special interest in the conservation of the living resources in that area, may request the State whose nationals are engaged in fishing there, to take the necessary measures of conservation.

2. If no agreement is reached within a reasonable period, such State may initiate the procedure contemplated in Article 35.

Article 35

1. The differences between States contemplated in Articles 30, 31, 33, and 34 shall, at the request of any of the parties, be settled by arbitration, unless the parties agree to seek a solution by another method of peaceful settlement.

2. The arbitration shall be entrusted to an arbitral commission, whose members shall be chosen by agreement between the parties. Failing such an agreement within a period of three months from the date of the original request, the Commission shall, at the request of any of the parties, be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. In that case, the Commission shall consist of 4 or 6 qualified experts in the matter of conservation of the living resources of the sea, and one expert in international law, and any casual vacancies arising after the appointment shall equally be filled by the Secretary-General. The Commission shall settle its own procedure and shall determine how the costs and expenses shall be divided between the parties.

3. The Commission shall, in all cases, be constituted within five months from the date of the original request for settlement, and shall render its decision within a further period of three months, unless it decides to extend that time limit.

Article 36

1. In arriving at its decisions, the Arbitral Commission shall, in the case of measures not unilaterally adopted by coastal States, apply the criteria listed in Article 33, paragraph 2 according to the circumstances of each case.

2. The Commission may decide that pending its award the measures in dispute shall not be applied.

Article 37

The decisions of the Commission shall be binding on the States concerned. If the decision is

accompanied by any recommendations, they shall receive the greatest possible consideration.

Other articles recommended by the I.L.C. on questions of interest to the fishing industry on the "Regime of the High Seas" are as follows:

REGIME OF THE HIGH SEAS

Definition of the High Seas

Article 1

The term "high seas" means all parts of the sea which are not included in the territorial sea or inland waters of a State.

Freedom of the High Seas

Article 2

The high seas being open to all nations, no State may subject them to its jurisdiction. Freedom of the high seas comprises inter alia:

1. Freedom of navigation;
2. Freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines;
3. Freedom of fishing;
4. Freedom to fly over the high seas.

Chapter I: Freedom of Navigation

Status of Ships

Article 3

Ships possess the nationality of the State in which they are registered. They shall sail under its flag and, save in the exceptional cases expressly provided for in international treaties or in the present

regulations, they shall be subject to its exclusive jurisdiction on the high seas.

Right to a Flag

Article 4

Each State may fix the conditions for the registration of ships in its territory and the right to fly its flag. Nevertheless, for the purposes of recognition of its national character by other States, a ship must either:

1. Belong to the State concerned, or
2. Be more than half owned by:
 - a) Nationals of, or persons legally domiciled in the territory of the State concerned and actually resident there.
 - b) A partnership or "commandite" company in which the majority of the partners with personal liability are nationals of, or persons legally domiciled in the territory of the State concerned and actually resident there; or
 - c) A joint stock company formed under the laws of the State concerned and having its registered office in the territory of that State.

Ships Sailing Under Two Flags

Article 5

A ship which sails under the flags of two or more States may not claim any of the nationalities in question with respect to other States and may be assimilated by them to ships without a nationality.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, vol. 17, no. 6 (June 1955), p. 71

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

UNITED STATES SECTION MEETS IN JUNEAU: The United States Section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission announced a meeting in Juneau, Alaska, with its Advisory Committee on September 6 and 7, 1955.

On the afternoon of September 7 there was an open session to which the public was invited to hear and discuss the North Pacific fishery problems under the purview of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The United States Commissioners on the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission are:

Edward W. Allen, Seattle Washington	Milton B. Brooding, San Francisco, California.
John H. Clawson, Anchorage, Alaska	John L. Farley, Washington, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

AREAS 3A and 3B CLOSED AUGUST 4: The International Pacific Halibut Commission announced the closure of the first fishing season in Pacific halibut Areas 3A and 3B at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) August 4, 1955. In a previous announcement the Commission had set July 26, 1955, as the closing date for the first season in those areas, but because of stormy weather it became evident that the catch limit of 28 million pounds for Area 3A (also determines the closing date for Area 3B which has no quota) would not be attained and the Commission extended fishing in those areas

to August 4. Pacific halibut fishing this year opened at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) May 12, 1955.

Areas 3A and 3B this year were open to fishing for 81 days--the longest season for those areas since 1947 when fishing took place for 109 days. For the last few years the season for Pacific halibut fishing has been getting progressively shorter, but stormy weather this year prevented the attainment of the quota for Area 3A, which determines the closing date for both Areas 3A and 3B. In 1954 those two areas were open to fishing for 58 days as compared with 52 days (shortest on record) in 1953, 60 days in 1952, 56 days in 1951, 66 days in 1950, 73 days in 1949, and 72 days in 1948.

Areas 2 and 1B were closed to halibut fishing at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) June 5, 1955. Those areas were open to fishing this season for 24 days as compared with 21 days in 1954 (the shortest season on record), 24 days in 1953, 26 days in 1952, 28 days in 1951, and 32 days in 1950.

Before 1952 the closure of Area 3 meant the end of all regular halibut fishing, but that year's regulations established subdivisions of other areas to increase the production of halibut in some underfished banks, and in subsequent years additional open seasons were established for most of the areas.

This year the second season in Areas 2 and 1B opened at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) August 14 and ended at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) August 21. The second season in Areas 3A and 3B opened at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) August 14 and ended at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) August 23. The third season in Area 3B opened at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) August 29 and ended at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) September 21. Halibut fishing in Area 1A also closed at 6 a.m. (P.S.T.) September 21.

After August 21 Areas 2 and 1B, after August 23 Area 3A, and after September 21 Areas 3B and 1A shall be closed to halibut fishing until reopened in 1956.

Area 1A includes convention waters south of Heceta Head, Ore.; Area 1B, convention waters between Heceta Head and Willapa Bay, Wash.; Area 2, convention waters between Willapa Bay and Cape Spencer, Alaska; Area 3A, convention waters between Cape Spencer and the Shumagin Islands off the coast of Alaska; and Area 3B, convention waters west of Shumagin Islands and in Bering Sea.

NORTH PACIFIC FUR-SEAL CONFERENCE

THREE GOVERNMENTS ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCE: The Governments of Canada, Japan, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have accepted invitations from the United States Government to attend a conference to negotiate a treaty for the conservation of the fur seals of the North Pacific Ocean. The conference will open in Washington on November 28, 1955, the Department of State announced on September 1.



From 1911 to 1941 the seal herds were protected by the fur seal treaty signed in 1911 by the United States, Great Britain, Japan, and Russia. So successful was this treaty in rehabilitating the seals that in 1941 Japan, as permitted by the treaty's provisions, terminated it on the ground that the animals had become so numerous as to harm Japanese fisheries. Since 1942 the United States and Canada have by agreement protected the Pribilof herd in the Northeastern Pacific waters. The purpose of the coming conference will be to extend multilateral protection again over all fur seals of the North Pacific.

The fur seals resort for breeding purposes to three Pacific island groups. These are the Pribilof Islands off Alaska, the Commander Islands off Siberia, and Robben Island north of Japan. For nine months of the year the seals are at sea, dispersing themselves over wide areas of the Pacific north of the latitudes of southern California and central Japan, and during this time the herds from the three rookeries intermingle to some extent. At the time of the 1911 convention they were faced with virtual extermination because of commercial sealers who hunted them on the high seas. By the terms of the 1911 treaty, pelagic sealing (hunting seals at sea) was prohibited.

As a result of the 1911 treaty and of the management program of the United States Government, the Pribilof herd has increased from about 125,000 animals in 1911 to 1,500,000 at present. During these 40-odd years more than 1,850,000 skins have been taken on the Pribilof Islands from male animals surplus to the breeding requirement of this highly polygamous species. The Government-operated fur-seal industry is administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is financed entirely out of receipts from the sale of sealskins.

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING IN PANAMA: The seventh annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission opened in Panama on July 14, 1955. It was attended by commissioners from Panama, Costa Rica, and the United States. Peru, Colombia, Chile, and Nicaragua also were represented by observers, reports a U. S. Embassy dispatch (July 18) from Panama.

The Commission's Director of Investigations in his report pointed out to the meeting that "the Gulf of Panama ranks with the Gulf of California as the most important fishery for sardines used as tuna bait and there is no indication up to the present that this area is being overfished."

The United States representatives were: John L. Farley, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Lee F. Payne, Wilmington, Calif., newspaper publisher; and Gordon W. Sloan, Washington attorney.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

CHANGE IN TERMINATION DATE OF U. S.-ECUADOR TRADE AGREEMENT: Steps were being taken to change the termination date of the 1938 bilateral trade agreement with Ecuador from July 18, 1955, as had previously been announced, to January 18, 1956. This does not constitute a reversal of the decision to end the trade agreement, but is only a postponement, reports a June 28 State Department release.

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.

Note: See Commercial Fisheries Review, April 1955, p. 57

* * * * *

UNITED STATES TARIFF CONSULTATIONS: In accordance with instructions from President Eisenhower, consultations are now going on with other countries looking towards the holding of multilateral tariff negotiations beginning in January 1956, according to an August 1 U. S. State Department release.

United States participation in such negotiations will take place pursuant to the authority in Public Law 86, the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1955 (known as H. R. 1 before its enactment). At the appropriate time a formal notice of intention to negotiate will be issued. This notice will be accompanied by a list of products on which the United States will consider the possibility of concessions to be given in exchange for concessions to be obtained from other countries.

In accordance with the usual procedures, an announcement will also be made inviting interested persons to file written briefs and to appear at public hearings before the U. S. Tariff Commission and the Committee for Reciprocity Information (an interdepartmental committee on which nine agencies of the Government are represented). The Tariff Commission will be concerned with the determination of a "peril point" (the minimum duty necessary to avoid serious injury to the domestic industry) for each product on the list. The Committee for Reciprocity Information will receive views on any aspect of the negotiation in which any person may be interested. Requests may be presented to this Committee as to products on which concessions should be sought from the other countries negotiating with the United States.

The President has two kinds of tariff reduction authority under P. L. 86. Under one authority he may in a trade agreement reduce any rate of duty that is in excess of 50 percent ad valorem or its equivalent down to that figure. However, no more than one-third of the decrease may be put into effect in any 12-month period. Under the other authority he may reduce rates of duty by up to 5 percent of their January 1, 1955, level in each of the next three years.

These authorities may not be used cumulatively and the authority to make the first 5-percent reduction under the second alternative lapses unless used before July 1, 1956. The second 5-percent authority ceases unless used by July 1, 1957, and the third 5-percent authority ends July 1, 1958.

According to present plans, the other countries which may negotiate with the United States will include those countries which are contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It is not expected that all such countries will negotiate either with the United States or among themselves. There will also be the opportunity for countries not now contracting parties to negotiate for the purpose of acceding to the General Agreement. In due course an announcement will be made of the countries which will negotiate with the United States.

NORTH PACIFIC OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEY

CANADIAN-JAPANESE-UNITED STATES SURVEY COMMENCES IN AUGUST 1955: Canada, Japan, and the United States will join forces in August 1955 to conduct a summer synoptic oceanographic survey of the North Pacific Ocean from North America to Japan and from the Tropic of Cancer almost to the Bering Strait.

Plans for Operation NORPAC were announced at the 36th annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union. The results are to serve as a background for studies of fisheries problems of all three countries, and to provide data for exhaustive research in the various fields of oceanography: physical, biological, chemical, meteorological, and geological.

In terms of ships, manpower, and area covered this will be the largest oceanographic program ever conducted. In none of the previous large oceanographic cruises have the measurements been taken in a short enough time to avoid seasonal changes in the ocean currents being measured. Previous cruises covered large areas but have required more than a year to complete.

NORPAC has been over a year in the making, and is part of a plan to join the efforts of institutions engaged in oceanographic and fishery research in a large-scale long-term attempt to discover the meteorological and oceanographic causes of major fishery fluctuations in the Eastern, North, and Tropical Pacific Ocean.

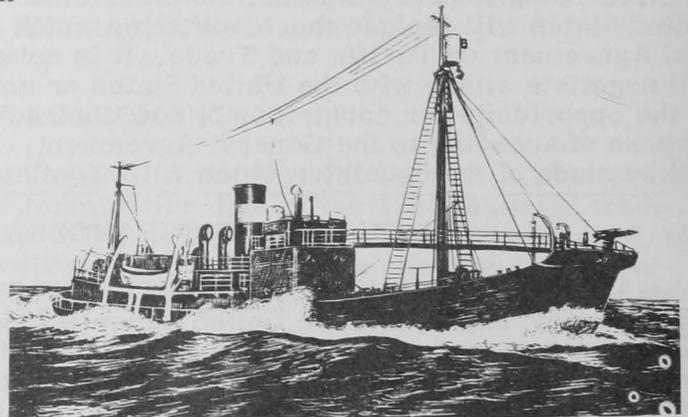
Three United States agencies are involved: the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations, using the vessels of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the South Pacific Fishery Investigations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Department of Oceanography of the University of Washington; and the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service stationed in Hawaii. The Canadian agency is the Pacific Oceanographic Group, Nanaimo, British Columbia. The cooperating Japanese agencies are the Nagasaki Marine Observatory; the Kobe Marine Observatory; the Hakodate Marine Observatory; the Japanese Hydrographic Office; the University of Hokkaido; the Tokai Regional Fisheries Research Laboratory; the Tokyo University of Fisheries; and the Central Meteorological Observatory.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife vessel Black Douglas, with three oceanographic research vessels of the Scripps Institution, will study the region between the west coast of North America and Hawaii and from the end of Baja California to Canada. The Pacific Oceanographic Group will work off the Canadian coast, and the University of Washington in the Gulf of Alaska. Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations will study the region north of Hawaii. The Japanese oceanographers will work principally eastward of the Japanese islands. The University of Hokkaido will send a ship to the Bering Sea, according to a June 1955 bulletin from the Pacific Science Association.

WHALING

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION PROPOSES REDUCED ANTARCTIC CATCH LIMITS: In an effort to prevent a further reduction in the size of whale stocks, the International Whaling Commission, representing 17 nations, decided in July to set a new limit on the number of whales caught in the Antarctic, reports The Fishing News (July 29), a British fishery magazine.

After scientists had expressed grave fears that whale stocks were being seriously diminished because the reproduction rate was not keeping up with catches, the Commission voted to reduce the permitted international ceiling from 15,500 to 15,000 blue-whale units next season beginning in December, with a further reduction of 500 for the next year.



A blue-whale unit is the measurement of the quantity of oil extracted, and represents either 1 blue whale, 2 fin whales, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ humpbacked whales. The ceiling is the total permitted catch shared by the seven nations working Antarctic whale-oil refineries--Norway, Great Britain, Japan, the Soviet Union, Panama, Netherlands, and Union of South Africa--all of which were represented.

It is understood that the proposal to reduce the ceiling was opposed by several delegates. The Commission pointed out in a statement that Governments had the right to object within a 90-day period and the change would not be binding on any Government which objected.

Further changes, also subject to the right of objection by Governments, were the decision to ban the catching of blue whales before February 1 instead of February 21, and to open for three years certain closed areas in the Pacific so that whale stocks might be studied.

The Conference has also reached general agreement on a Norwegian proposal that an independent observer of another nationality should travel in whale-oil refineries to insure that there were no infringements of regulations, such as the limit set on the total of whales caught.



Australia

RETAIL PRICES FOR JAPANESE CANNED TUNA: Japanese canned tuna which wholesaled in Sydney, Australia, in April at 12s. 9d. (US\$1.41) a dozen 3½-ounce

Product	Retail Price Per Can	
	LA	U.S.¢
Fancy Pack in Oil:		
7-oz.: Japanese (Brand A)	2s. 9½d.	32
Japanese (Brand B)	3s. 11d.	44
Australian	2s. 10½d.	33
3½ oz.: Japanese (Brand B)	2s. -	22
Australian	2s. 3½d.	26
Shredded in Oil:		
3½ oz.: Australian	2s. -	22
Fancy in Brine:		
7-oz.: Australian	2s. 7½d.	30

cans, and 22s. 3d. (US\$2.49) a dozen 7-ounce cans (fancy pack in oil), was reported by the June 1955 Fisheries Newsletter as retailing in food shops in May at the following prices as compared with prices for Australian tuna.

* * * * *

WEST AUSTRALIAN

TUNA SURVEY RESULTS: Recent tuna surveys have apparently confirmed previous reports on the unpredictable occurrence of commercial concentrations of tuna in West Australian waters, according to a United States consular dispatch from Perth dated June 3. The West Australia State Fisheries Department survey ship Lancelin recently returned from a cruise in Geographe Bay on the southwest coast near Cape Naturalists and reported satisfactory catches of oriental bonito and southern bluefin tuna, although sizes were small, with an average of only 10 pounds each for the southern bluefin catch. Northern bluefin and yellowfin tuna have also been caught as far south as Busselton. The survey work is continuing in the Fremantle area.

* * * * *

COOKED WHOLE SPINY LOBSTERS SHIPPED TO UNITED STATES: A first shipment of 56,000 pounds of cooked whole spiny lobsters was shipped to the United States from Fremantle, Australia, early in May. The Fishermen's Cooperative in that area is trying to develop a market for this type of product on the United States west coast, points out a June 3 United States consular dispatch from Perth.

The spiny lobster fishing fleet has moved north to the Abrolhos Islands off Geraldton and reports highly satisfactory catches.



Canada

MID-WATER TRAWL EXPERIMENTS: The first phase of the mid-water trawl experiments being conducted by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada

at the Pacific Biological Station was completed during February, according to the March 1955 Progress Reports from that station. The scientist supervising the experiments has reported fairly successful preliminary results. Funds from the Industrial Development Vote were used to conduct the experiments during the five-week period aboard the chartered vessel Sea Pride II.

The net is constructed almost entirely of nylon twine and rope, and has a working gape of 35 by 35 feet. The otter boards used to hold the net open are of a novel design and are suspended quite different from the conventional gear. Both the net and boards were designed and constructed by a Vancouver fisherman who has had considerable experience in herring trawling.

The gear was found to be very effective at night and numerous catches of 10 to 35 tons of herring were made in 15- to 20-minute drags on schools of herring located entirely off the bottom, at depths from 15 to 35 fathoms. Catches in daylight were much lighter (average 1 to 2 tons) than those made during the night when drags were made on comparable concentrations of fish. However, two daylight drags on a large school located in mid-water at depths between 40 and 50 fathoms yielded 15 and 35 tons. Further tests are planned for the coming summer off the west coast of Vancouver Island. A detailed report on the gear and these preliminary experiments will appear in the near future.

* * * * *

IN-PLANT TRAINING OF FRESH-FISH INSPECTORS BEGUN: In-plant training of men in fresh-fish inspection has begun in Halifax, N. S., under a Canadian Federal Department of Fisheries scheme, reports that agency's June Trade News. The training is made possible through the cooperation of the fishing industry.

Seven experienced fish inspectors have begun this new phase of training. Eventually it will be extended to other areas of the Maritimes. Initial training in fresh-fish inspection was given to 20 inspectors at classes held in Halifax last March. All will get in-plant training to supplement the earlier class and practical work.

In order to assess the work of the inspectors and to insure standardization of inspection, chemical tests will be made on samples of the fish inspected during the training. The analysis will be carried out in the Atlantic Fisheries Experimental Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at Halifax.

Coupled with the training is a fact-finding mission on the part of the inspectors. They will collect information on the condition of fish landed and the storage conditions under which the fish were held in the trawlers. This information will be analyzed by the Fish Inspection Service of the Department and by the Fisheries Research Board. The results will then be made available to the industry.

* * * * *

IMPROVING QUALITY OF WHITEFISH: Steps to be taken to improve the quality of whitefish were pointed out by the Canadian Department of Fisheries in a recently issued pamphlet, states the March 1955 issue of Trade News. The pamphlet is part of the Department's program to place high-quality fish products on the markets both in Canada and the United States.

It is pointed out that the immediate cooling of the fish to 32° F. is the most important single contribution a fisherman can make in maintaining the top quality of his catch. Withholding icing until later only retards bacterial growth and will not restore quality already lost.

The pamphlet points to the following factors as producing high-quality white-fish: (1) ample ice aboard boats for immediate chilling of the catch; (2) the use of clean containers and new boxes; (3) careful and thorough culling in order to remove stale, soft, defective, or drowned fish; and (4) not packing over 50 pounds of fish per box.

* * * * *

BRITISH COLUMBIA HERRING FISHERY PROSPECTS, 1955/56: The eleventh in an annual series of circulars (Prospects for the 1955/56 Herring Fishing Season,

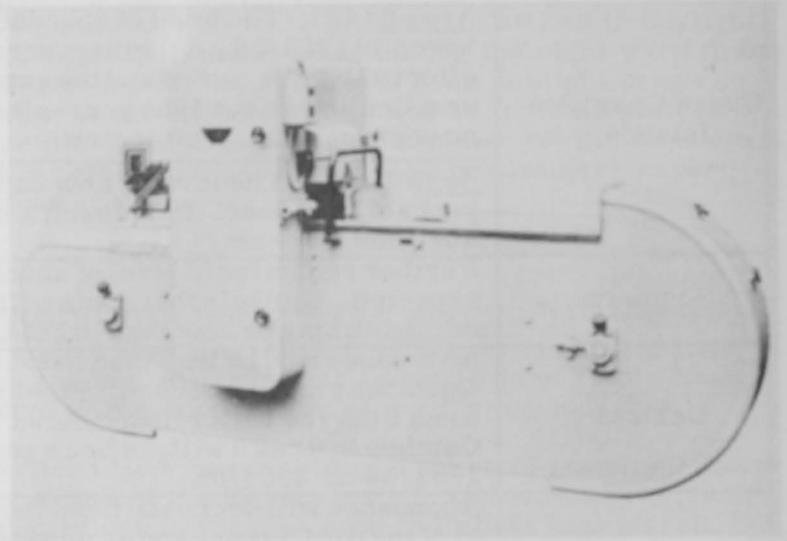
Summary Forecast of British Columbia Herring Fishery Prospects, 1955/56 Season		
British Columbia Coast Subdistrict	Forecast	Relative Size of Fish
Queen Charlotte Islands	<u>Area 2A (E)</u> . The level of abundance will be lower in 1955/56. A further increase in effort will be required and the catch will be smaller unless the 1953 year-class makes an unexpectedly strong entry.	On the average larger than in 1954/55.
	<u>Area 2B (E)</u> . The level of abundance will probably be lower. Data insufficient for adequate forecast.	Larger than in 1954/55.
Northern	Further reduction in level of abundance expected. Unlikely that quota will be reached, catch may be less than in 1954/55.	Larger than in 1954/55.
Central	Abundance will be less than in 1954/55. Quota may not be reached. Fishing in Area 6 may be better than in Area 7. Catches in Area 9 will not be as good as in 1953/54 or 1954/55.	Larger than in 1954/55.
Upper East Coast	Abundance will decrease from the high level of the past 3 years and as good catches cannot be expected. With normal effort $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the quota may be taken.	Smaller than in 1954/55.
Middle East Coast	Abundance expected to remain at a high level. Summer fishery prospects as good as in previous years. Provided summer fishery takes less than 10,000 tons, an additional 10,000 tons could be taken in the winter fishery in Area 13. Further quota extensions should depend on apparent abundance of fish on the grounds during the 1955/56 season.	Slightly larger than in 1954/55.
Lower East Coast	Abundance may be lower than in 1954/55, but the quota should be taken as readily as in previous years. Quota extension may be warranted if apparent abundance of fish on grounds at end of regular fishery is high.	About the same as in 1954/55.
West Coast	<u>Areas 23 and 24</u> . Some increase in level of abundance can be expected in 1955/56. Catches should be better than in 1954/55, although they may still be somewhat below average.	About the same as in 1954/55.
	<u>Areas 25 and 26</u> . A continuation of the poor fishery is expected with a possibility of a slight increase over 1954/55. Fishing will not be as good as in Areas 23 and 24.	About the same as in 1954/55.
	<u>Area 27</u> . Abundance in 1955/56 not expected to be as high as in 1954/55 and fishing will not be as good.	Smaller than in 1954/55.

Circular No. 38), dealing with the prospects of the British Columbia herring fishery, was issued by the Pacific Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at Nanaimo, B. C. Various studies of the herring populations form the basis of these annual predictions. In the table a summary of the forecast is given by sub-districts (the coast of British Columbia is divided into subdistricts).



Denmark

NEW FILLETING MACHINE: Two sizes of a new type of filleting machine for filleting deheaded and gutted cod and other fish of similar anatomical structure was recently placed on the market by a Copenhagen (Denmark) firm. According to the manufacturer, only one person is required to operate the machine. No sorting of fish is required within the size ranges indicated for the particular size of machine used, and it makes no difference whether the fish is in rigor mortis or soft. Fillets are cut cleanly from the backbone of the fish, even in the angle between the backbone and belly bones. A stepless variator makes it possible to adjust the speed of the machine without stopping.



Danish machine which will fillet deheaded and gutted cod and other similar fish.

The small-size machine handles deheaded and gutted fish approximately 1.1 to 7.7 pounds; fillets 12 to 20 fish per minute; measures 12 ft. 5 in. long, 3 ft. 4 in. wide, and 5 ft. 11 in. high; has a gross weight of approximately 3,400 pounds; and is powered by a 3 hp. motor. The large-size machine handles deheaded and gutted fish approximately 6.8 to 15 pounds; fillets 12 to 15 fish per minute; measures 15 ft. 9 in. long, 3 ft. 7 in. wide, and 6 ft. 7 in. high; has a gross weight of approximately 4,600 pounds; and is powered by a 5 hp. motor.

The cleaned and deheaded fish is placed on "saddles." A chain-link conveyor introduces the saddles with the fish between a pair of guides leading to the rotating cutters. The cutters automatically cut out the fillets close to the backbone. The fillets are then cut free by two fixed knives and drop down on belt conveyors on each side of the machine. The carcass or waste is collected behind the machine in a box or may be removed by means of a third conveyor belt. All sizes of fish between the weight indicated for the particular size of machine used can be filleted without adjustment.

During operation, the cutters are cleaned by a pressure spray of fresh water. The rotating cutters are shielded and equipped with a safety bar in front of the cutters. A light pressure on the safety bar breaks the current to the motor and stops the machine. The machine is driven by one electric motor situated at the top of the machine and controlled by a push-button panel at the feeding table.



French Morocco

FISHERIES TRENDS, JAN.-MAR. 1955: The French Moroccan fish canning and byproducts industries were in an unfavorable situation early in 1955 due to the poor catch in 1954, reports a June 17 United States consular dispatch from Casablanca. The 1954 pack of the canners declined to 1.2 million cases while the production of the byproduct industries was reduced by almost 50 percent.

The distress created within the industry by the absence of sufficient supplies of sardines to satisfy export possibilities was shared by the vessel owners, whose financial difficulties were increased. The seriousness of the situation was illustrated by the fact that the total 1954 sardine catch was 76,000 metric tons, compared to 103,000 tons in 1953. Owing to the inability of French Moroccan canners and byproduct producers to fill all orders from foreign markets, the Portuguese canners, profiting from exceptional catches, were able to satisfy a higher percentage of world demand for canned sardines, while fish-meal manufacturers in South Africa, Angola, and elsewhere were similarly favored.

In January the Director of Commerce visited the southern ports of Mogador, Safi, and Agadir primarily to study the situation of the industrial-fishing fleet owners with a view to framing measures to permit them to meet the obligations of their present indebtedness while making necessary expenditures to prepare the boats for the current fishing season. The formula of governmental loans for the industrial-fleet owners was retained and a Protectorate Fund of Solidarity and Guarantee established in March which would provide funds to guarantee loans extended by private credit agencies to owners whose collateral has been judged sufficient by a special commission established in each port. This central fund will be derived from the proceeds from a special tax on fish catches.

In addition to the central Fund of Solidarity and Guarantee, it was decided that equalization funds will be established in each of the ports of Safi, Agadir, and Mogador, which will also be derived from a special tax on fishing boat owners to compensate them when catches, although of canning quality, must nevertheless be sold to byproduct industries owing to a lack of demand by canners.

The controlled price of sardines for canning in 1955 will be 22 francs per kilo (2.9 U. S. cents per pound) in Safi, Agadir, and Mogador, compared to 17 and 19 francs (2.2 and 2.5 U. S. cents per pound) at the beginning of last season, while the price will be free in other ports of the Atlantic coastline. To aid in constituting the funds described above, the total of taxes (including taxes for nets) imposed on the sale of sardines to canners will be 7 francs per kilo (0.9 U. S. cents per pound) in Safi, Agadir, and Mogador, compared to 3.5 francs (0.5 U. S. cents per pound) at the beginning of last season, while in other ports the taxes will total 5 francs (0.6 U. S. cents per pound). Sardines destined for the byproducts industries will be subject to a controlled price of 5.5 francs per kilo (0.7 U. S. cents per pound) in the three southern ports and uncontrolled in price in northern ports. The total taxes on such fish will remain at 1.5 francs per kilo (0.2 U. S. cents per pound). Despite these aid measures, the situation of the industrial-fishing fleet is not bright, nor is that of the canning factories which, grouped in 25 associations, awaited the results of a season which began late and without great promise.

Exports of canned fish from French Morocco during January-March 1955 totaled more than 6,000 metric tons, about the same as the preceding quarter. Stocks of canned fish were low owing to poor fishing and canning conditions in 1954.

* * * * *

SARDINE CANNING INDUSTRY, 1954: Total production of French Moroccan canned sardines in 1954 amounted to about 1.2 million cases as compared to 1.4

million cases in 1953, a May 25 U. S. consular dispatch from Casablanca points out. The catch of sardines was poor, the quality was mediocre, and the vessel owners had financial difficulties. All these factors contributed to the drop in the pack.

The light catch of sardines in 1954 also caused a decline of almost 50 percent in the production of fishery byproducts.

These decreases in the production of canned sardines and of byproducts occurred at a time when foreign market prospects for these items were encouraging.

There was a serious decline in French Morocco's exports of canned fish--32,000 metric tons were reported in 1954 as compared to nearly 45,000 tons the previous year.



Iran

FISH CANNERY PACKS SARDINES AND TUNA: A reactivated fish cannery at Bander Abbas, Iran, as of May 12, 1955, had packed 507,416 cans of sardines and 12,966 cans of tuna, according to a Foreign Operations Administration report from Tehran.



Jamaica

SHRIMP BEDS FOUND: Rich banks of ocean shrimp have been discovered off the coast of Jamaica by an exploration sponsored by the Industrial Development Corporation, states The Fishing News (July 8, 1955), a British fishery periodical. On two banks off the South Coast, near the port of Savanna-la-Mar, a United States shrimp expert reported this find of pink shrimp which it is hoped will develop into a lucrative dollar-earner for Jamaica.

The United States expert is exploring the sea area south of the Island for shrimp fishing grounds of the type which have made the Campeche Banks off Mexico's east coast world famous.

His search is the result of a report made on the commercial possibilities of Jamaica's fishing industry by another United States expert brought to Kingston last year by the Industrial Development Corporation. As a result of the report, the Corporation is already engaged in the development of an export industry in spiny lobster tails. Regular consignments of this shellfish are now being flown to the United States.



Japan

FROZEN ALBACORE TUNA SUPPLIES LOW: Only 1,000 to 1,500 metric tons of frozen albacore tuna were on hand in Japan late in June, according to the Japanese Frozen Albacore Cooperative Sales Association. Most of this was being withheld from the market in anticipation of a higher price later. A total of 400 tons was reportedly offered for sale on June 27 at US\$285 per ton, US\$15 above the current Japanese check price. If this deal is closed, the stocks on hand will fall below 1,000 tons, with little prospect of replenishment during the next few months.

Recent landings of albacore tuna at Japanese ports have been smaller than expected, and quality is said to have been below export standards in many cases. The future seems almost certain to bring higher prices along with reduced supply, a July 1 United States Embassy dispatch from Tokyo points out.

Japanese export licenses for frozen tuna to the United States during June totaled 7,927 metric tons (albacore, 5,338; yellowfin, 2,579; skipjack, 10), a July 8 U.S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports. The Frozen Albacore Cooperative Sales Association, which was organized on June 1 to handle all export sales of albacore, reports that as of July 4 its sales had reached 8,632 metric tons--this higher figure will show up in statistics in the future as licenses are applied for to export the fish on which deals have been closed. Also as of July 4 the Association had bids on hand (at \$285 per metric ton) for 500 tons, and had offered an additional 300 tons to other buyers, out of a stock-on-hand of only 1,000 tons. The trade press reports that the Association may soon raise the price to \$300 per ton, and that scarcity of new landings of albacore has turned the situation from a glut to a sellers' market. At the present rate of landings, which are not expected to increase, it seems doubtful that Japan will be able to sell more than 11,000 tons of frozen albacore to the United States during the June-July period, compared with the 15,000-ton (originally 20,000-ton) "limitation" put into effect on June 1.

In the meantime a great deal of the tuna which was kept off the export market by the high check price during March, April, and May was canned. The Tokyo Tuna Sales Company, which controls all exports of canned tuna had 600,000 cases on hand as of March 31, and planned production of an additional 800,000 cases during the year ending March 31, 1956, making a total available for export to the United States of 1,400,000 cases. By July 2, however, the company had already received for warehousing 644,600 cases, of which approximately 440,000 cases are white meat (albacore) and 200,000 cases light meat (other tuna). More than 75 percent of the year's goal has been achieved during the first three months, and it may be that the goal will have to be revised upward later in the year. This emphasizes the fact that frozen and canned tuna must be considered as part of the same problem, as frozen tuna which is prevented from going directly to the United States market will eventually be canned.

* * * * *

FROZEN ALBACORE TUNA EXPORT ALLOCATION FOR AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1955: The Japanese Cooperative Sales Association on July 19 set the allocation for sales of frozen albacore tuna to the United States for the period August 1-November 30, 1955, at 5,000 metric tons. Sales of albacore tuna to the United States from June 1 to July 19 totaled 10,300 metric tons with 2,000 tons still on hand. It was unlikely that sales by the end of July would total more than 11,000 tons out of the 15,000-ton "limitation" originally set in June. Unsold balance of this "limitation" will not be carried over in addition to new 5,000-ton allocation for August-November. This makes the probable total maximum sales from June 1-November 30 approximately 16,000 tons as compared with 16,005 tons approved for export by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry during the same period in 1954, a July 21 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports.

Orders for frozen Japanese albacore tuna from the United States fell off during mid-July, presumably because of the beginning of the United States albacore fishing season. The Cooperative Sales Association was holding present stocks in anticipation of future sales at US\$285 or higher, with larger dealers reported ready to purchase frozen albacore at US\$275 from financially-distressed dealers to prevent sacrifice sales.

* * * * *

LOWER FROZEN TUNA CHECK PRICES RECOMMENDED: The Japan Frozen Food Export Association has requested that the Ministry of International Trade and Industry reduce check prices on frozen tuna in line with the US\$40-per-ton reduction reported as accepted by the United States tuna fleet. The recommended reduction of check prices is as follows: Yellowfin (under 80 pounds) from US\$235 to US\$195; Yellowfin (over 80 pounds) from US\$215 to US\$175; Skipjack from US\$195 to US\$155.

No action was recommended on albacore tuna at this time, since no frozen albacore remains on hand for sale, but it is possible that an equivalent reduction in the albacore price would be requested this fall when the winter catch begins, reports an August 17 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo.

* * * * *

TUNA INDUSTRY UNITES: Representatives of all segments of the Japanese tuna industry met on July 12 and agreed to revive the "Council on Tuna Exports" (Maguro Kyogikai) in order to present a united front in dealings with the United States, reports a July 15 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo.

The Council, which includes representatives of the Japanese fishing interests, canners, frozen fish dealers, canned and frozen fish exporters, and others concerned with the tuna industry, was first organized in 1950. Its aim was to present a unified agency for dealing with demands in the United States for tariff increases on tuna, and functioned until about 1953 when it largely lost its united character as the interests of the canners and freezers began to diverge.

The recent outcries in the United States against the concessions granted on tuna in the GATT negotiations and the demands for restrictions on imports of both canned and frozen tuna have apparently convinced the various branches of the Japanese tuna industry that their mutual interests in preserving access to the United States market are more important than their business differences. It is expected that the new Council with the unofficial assistance and advice of the Japanese Government Fisheries Agency will become a dominant factor in Japanese tuna exports.

* * * * *

TUNA INDUSTRY POINTS OUT STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO U. S. TUNA INDUSTRY: The Japan Frozen Food Exporters Association and the Japan Export Frozen Products Manufacturers Association are understood to have presented a petition to the Director of the Economic Planning Board and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Industry, and Agriculture and Forestry, an August 3 United States Embassy dispatch from Tokyo asserts. The petition lists the steps taken in Japan to prevent the Japanese exports of frozen tuna damaging or disrupting the United States tuna industry. The steps indicated in the petition are:

MAINTENANCE OF EXPORT PRICE: Government check prices (f.o.b.) are established on exports of frozen tuna to the United States. These check prices are floor prices. They are calculated to approximately equalize the average ex-vessel prices of tuna in the United States after adding freight and other handling charges to the f.o.b. price Japan. Maintenance of sales at or above the Government check price is under the surveillance of the Frozen Albacore Export Agency. This Agency was organized June 1, 1955. Its members include all exporters of frozen tuna in Japan. All transactions in the trade of frozen tuna with the United States are checked and coordinated by this Agency.

QUANTITY OF EXPORTS: Several thousand tons of frozen albacore tuna have been sold to the United States in April and May of the current summer season which began early (April). Shipments (exports) of frozen albacore during the current summer will be regulated on the basis of an allocation (to exporters) of 15,000 metric tons for the period beginning June. Total landings of albacore by the United States fleet ranges from 10,000 to 20,000 tons annually. This catch is considerably below the requirements of albacore of the United States tuna packers. The Japanese albacore supplements the United States catch and thus contributes to the main-

tenance of the United States pack of white meat tuna for the United States market. Under this condition, the Japanese frozen albacore does not constitute a menace to the United States tuna industry.

Japanese frozen yellowfin tuna is being shipped to the United States in regular monthly amounts which range from 1,000 to 2,000 tons. Actual export records for 1954 support this statement. The United States packer can anticipate a constant supply and in regular monthly moderate amounts. This stability of the rate of imports of yellowfin should cause no sudden or major disturbance affecting the supply of the American fishermen. Exports of yellowfin from Japan are not likely to increase substantially in 1955 because (a) Japanese mothership fleet operations are at a much reduced scale (compared to 1954), and (b) much of the catch of the Japanese long-range catchers goes to the domestic market where quality fish bring higher prices than for export.

Quality of exports of frozen tuna to the United States in 1955 will be subject to the limiting factors stated above. It is anticipated no serious disturbance to the American tuna fishermen will be created directly from these exports of frozen tuna from Japan.

RESTRICTIONS ON JAPANESE TUNA FLEET: On July 9, 1955, a temporary exception to the Japan Fishery Law expired. This exception permitted new and additional construction of tuna boats. (It was part of a program to relieve the economic pressure on the inshore fisheries by development of the offshore and distant fisheries.) With the expiration of the exception (on July 9), no licenses will be issued for new (additional) construction of fishing boats above 100 gross tons. The Japan Fishery Law (Article 5) states that neither the number nor gross tonnage of the fleet will be increased. With the Japanese tuna fleet limited to its present size, no marked increases in catch will result by any increase in number of boats. This limit on the size of fleet will contribute to stabilizing quantities and f.o.b. price of frozen tuna for export.

As indicated by the above enumerated points, Japanese frozen tuna exports are subject to regulation on exports by check prices, allocations to exporters, and restrictions on construction of fishing boats.

Market conditions for the sale of canned tuna in the United States during the last year or so has been affected by the decline of prices on foodstuffs in general. Prices of canned tuna were relatively high and out of line with this

downward trend of general food prices in the United States. Consumer prices of canned tuna had to be reduced especially to follow the decline in price of the competitive meats and poultry. It is believed the United States market is stabilizing at a new level and that inventories will decrease and adjust to normal conditions in the near future. Any restriction of the importation of frozen tuna now would create confusion and might upset the trend toward a more normal condition within the United States tuna industry.

Total exports from Japan to the United States are only one-third of the imports into Japan from the United States. The trade balance is most unfavorable to Japan. Restriction on the export of frozen tuna would be to the mutual disadvantage of Japan and the United States. Exports of tuna are one of the more important items contributing to a more favorable adjustment of this export balance.

The frozen tuna interests of Japan desire to cooperate with the United States tuna industry toward a better understanding of topics of mutual interest in the development of trade in frozen tuna. The frozen tuna industry of Japan wishes that this representation of its attitude be conveyed through proper channels to the United States tuna industry.

* * * * *

FROZEN TUNA FOR EXPORT TO BE LABELED WITH PLASTIC RIBBONS:

The Japanese frozen tuna export industry plans to use colored plastic ribbons to mark the destination of frozen fish, a representative of the Japan Frozen Food Export Association announced. At present shipments of frozen tuna destined for different canneries in the United States may all be carried in the same hold of the ship, separated only by a net. During the voyage, or during loading and unloading, the nets sometime become tangled and the fish are moved about and the identity of shipments is destroyed. As may readily be seen, this creates problems when the fish are unloaded, since there is no way to tell which fish belong to which buyer, a July 10 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports.

The new plan is to attach a plastic ribbon to the tail of the fish at the time of shipment, color coded according to the buyer at the point of unloading. The Association is convinced that this plastic ribbon would not in any way harm the fish, and has received an opinion to that effect from the Japanese Ministry of Welfare. Due to concern lest the stringent application of the U. S. Pure Food and Drug Act or other United States laws adversely affect the importation into the United States of frozen fish with plastic ribbons on their tails, the Association has arranged to submit samples of the ribbons for an official statement as to whether the ribbons would in any way interfere with the importation into the United States.

* * * * *

HIGH-SEAS SALMON CATCH FOR 1955 SEASON: The Japanese high-seas salmon fleets (14 motherships, each with about 25 catcher boats) caught 57,758,291 salmon as of August 5, the Japanese Fisheries Agency reports. The catch by species was (number of fish): sockeye 11,328,733; chum 20,409,480; pink 24,544,329; coho 1,430,662; spring 35,087.

Last year's catch by the Japanese high-seas salmon fleets totaled 20,493,645 salmon (all species). This season the Japanese estimated that 47,590,000 fish would be caught, but the total to date has exceeded that estimate. The fleets plan to cease operations between August 20-31. Japan's prewar record salmon catch was in 1939 when 220 million salmon were caught.

Although reports state that the rate of catch is decreasing, the latest estimate indicates that the salmon catch by the high-seas salmon fleets will exceed 60 million fish, an August 12 United States Embassy dispatch from Tokyo points out.

Japanese Fisheries Agency officials state that canners will pack 1.7 million standard cases (96 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. cans) of salmon this year. Last year only 626,000 cases were packed, of which only 380,000 cases were exported.

* * * * *

JAPANESE HOPE TO SELL BRITISH MORE CANNED SALMON: Japanese salmon packers are hoping to increase sales to the United Kingdom to 700,000 cases from last year's 220,000 cases as the result of the current Japan-United Kingdom payments agreement negotiations, a July 15 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo points out. While the Japanese have been favoring a lower level of trade than that proposed by the British, early in July the Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry and Minister of Agriculture both stated that it might be necessary to agree to a higher level of imports of British products in order to get the British to buy as much canned fish and fruit as Japan wants to sell. While pointing out that the British want Japan to increase imports of Scotch whiskey, which competes with a local product, the salmon canners feel that it would be worth it if they can increase their business.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT



Mexico

CHANGES IN SHRIMP FISHING SEASONS: Two changes have been made in the shrimp fishing seasons on the west coast of Mexico (Diario Oficial, August 11, 1955). The August and September closed season for fishing shrimp at sea along the coasts of Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa, and Nayarit has been removed and trawl fishing is being allowed to continue. The new closed season will be March 16 to April 15 with a possible extension to May 15 depending upon shrimp-spawning intensity, a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative in Mexico reports.

Another change in regulations permits estuarine fishing for shrimp to begin on August 16 in southern Sonora between Paredon Colorado and Agiabampo Bays, providing that 80 percent of the shrimp have reached at least 12.5 cm. total length. This second change in regulations is on an experimental basis for the current season only. Normally the estuarine shrimp season along the West Coast from Baja California through Nayarit begins on September 1 and lasts until April 15. This has not been changed other than the possible 15-day extension for southern Sonora.

There are no closed seasons for taking shrimp on the east coast of Mexico nor for the shrimp grounds between Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, and the Guatemalan border.

It is difficult to predict what effect these changes will have on the shrimp production. It is probable that the catch of 31-35 count (heads off) and smaller sizes of shrimp will be a little greater this year. However, it is not anticipated that there will be much change since the young shrimp do not begin to leave the estuaries for the ocean in large quantities until October.

* * * * *

MERIDA FISHERIES TRENDS, APRIL-JUNE 1955: Shrimp: As usual all of the frozen shrimp exports from the Merida district of Mexico originated in Ciudad del Carmen and Campeche, and all went to buyers in the United States. The production of 3.5 million pounds of shrimp in April-June 1955 was 23 percent more than the 2.9 million pounds produced in January-March 1955 and 50 percent more than the production during the second quarter of 1954.

Ex-vessel prices for 15-20 count heads-off shrimp for April, May, and June 1955 were 59¢, 61¢, and 63¢ a pound, respectively, f.o.b. Brownsville, Tex. During the first three months of the year prices were 55¢, 59¢, and 58¢ a pound, respectively; in the second quarter of 1954 prices were 38¢, 42¢, and 35¢ a pound.

Quarter	1955	1954	1953 ^{1/}
 (1,000 Lbs.)		
1st	2,889	2,388	2,130
2nd	3,549	2,355	2,021
3rd	-	3,344	2,610
4th	-	4,235	2,897
Total	-	12,322	9,658

^{1/} Include only Ciudad del Carmen exports.

Quarter	1955	1954	1953
 (1,000 Lbs.)		
1st	3.7	2.3	1.8
2nd	5.0	2.2	2.5
3rd	-	5.2	4.4
4th	-	1.5	0.7
Total	-	11.2	9.4

Shark Fins: All of the shark fins exported in April-June 1955 (5,000 pounds--about 35 percent more than the 3,700 pounds exported the preceding three months) went to buyers in the United States. Exports of shark fins were higher than in any previous quarter except the third quarter of 1954 when they reached 5,200 pounds.

Shark Skins: Shark skins, which first appeared in the exports for the first quarter of 1955 when 1,300 pounds left Yucatan, increased 13 times to a total of 17,100 pounds. All went to the United States. Prior to 1950 shark skins were exported, but for five years high export duties made the business unprofitable. With the repeal of the Mexican export tariff, it is expected that about 56,000 pounds a year may be sold on the foreign market.



New Hebrides

JAPANESE WILL SUPPLY TUNA FOR NEW CANNERY: A tuna fishing company which will go into operation in New Hebrides in 1956 will make use of Japanese fishing skill, reports the April 1955 *Pacific Islands Monthly*. It is a British-registered company which has the financial backing of a number of planters and businessmen.

A refrigeration plant with a capacity of 2,000 metric tons of fish is promised at Santo, where the cannery will be located. However, only 700 tons of this space will be available for holding fish. The balance of the refrigeration plant's capacity will be for ice manufacturing and storage for fishing-fleet supplies. Seven 100-ton tuna clippers are reported on order in Japanese shipyards. They will be owned by the company, registered in Vila, and manned by skilled Japanese with mostly European and native crews. The skilled Japanese will consist of 137 fishermen, 18 refrigeration specialists, 12 fish-curing specialists, and 4 administrative employees to handle payments and supplying the fleet.

The company expects to begin active fishing in January 1956. The market for the frozen tuna presumably is the United States. A company spokesman stated that most of the fish sold will be paid for in dollars.

The New Hebrides company is reported discussing an agreement with the American Samoa tuna cannery. Some of the New Hebrides tuna will go to Pago Pago, American Samoa, for canning during slack periods at that cannery, some will be shipped frozen to the United States, some to Italy and France, and some dried for export to Japan. The greatest difference between the American Samoa operation and the New Hebrides operation will be that the latter's fishing vessels will not be

equipped with freezing facilities. The tuna will be chilled in ice in order that some of the tuna may be disposed of in its fresh state. In addition, since there is at present no regular supply of fresh fish in the area, the Santo enterprise is expected to provide large quantities of fish other than tuna for plantation labor.

About 3,000 tons of tuna a year must be handled to make the operation successful, according to the company. The Japanese have indicated that they will be able to catch and deliver this amount of tuna.

The Japanese fishermen will deliver fish to the Santo freezer on a contract basis, at so much per ton, the price varying with the type of fish delivered. The Japanese will find their own bait--about 60 tons of frozen bait will be imported from Japan each year. Long lines will be used to catch the tuna.

The principal season for tuna fishing will be during the southern winter. It is hoped that during the tuna off-season, local spiny lobster tails will be processed.



Norway

TUNA CANNER REPORTS STRONG COMPETITION FROM JAPAN: A small Norwegian canner of tuna in Western Norway reports strong competition from Japan where both the raw material and operating costs are much cheaper. A special price for Norwegian tuna for canning goes into effect only after the catch has reached a certain amount. This quantity was not taken last year and the prospects do not appear favorable this season. In order to keep operating, small salmon mostly from northern Norway have been canned for the British market. While this canned salmon cannot compete with Pacific salmon from the United States on the basis of price, there are buyers who, for various reasons, prefer the Norwegian salmon, according to the August 10 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian trade periodical.

* * * * *

NEW CONTROLS ON FISHERY PRODUCTS EXPORTS: A provisional law on Norwegian export of fish and fish products which establishes more far-reaching controls on marketing and pricing was passed by the Norwegian Storting. The powerful Norwegian Fishermen's Association is not entirely satisfied with the law but has decided to go along with it, recommending that it apply for one year only. During this time the Association hopes that a recently-formed committee set up to study the feasibility of a government export agency to regulate all export prices will be able to make concrete suggestions which may alter the present provisional law, a July 1 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Oslo reports.

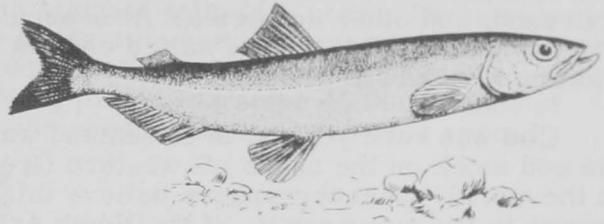
The Government's policy in relation to export of fish has been debated at considerable length in the last few months. The fishermen's organizations are dissatisfied with the controlled prices which they get, while exporters feel that the growing centralization and government price-setting on exported fish deprives them of their freedom of action in competing in international markets with other producing countries. Of particular interest in this connection has been the recent Icelandic increase in exports of dried fish which are underselling the Norwegian product on several markets. Exporters blame the export tax of 0.90 krone per kilo (0.6 U. S. cent per pound) for the declining sales of dried fish abroad and the fact that about 1,500 metric tons of dried fish from 1954 have not yet been sold.

The over-all fisheries policy of the Norwegian Government will undoubtedly come up for further debate in the Storting session in the fall. If the export of dried fish continues to decline, changes in the present export tax on fish and fish products may well be adopted.

* * * * *

COD CATCH AHEAD OF LAST YEAR: Despite the disappointing result of this past winter's Lofoten fisheries (less than 45,000 metric tons), Norway's total cod catch is far ahead of last year's, the Norwegian Information Service announced on June 23. The large landings made along the Finnmark coast were principally responsible.

Meanwhile, the transport Steinhof arrived in Aalesund with a cargo of some 1,600 tons of salted cod caught off Greenland, where the season looks very promising.



Capelin (Mallotus villosus)

So far, the Finnmark fisheries have produced well over 50,000 tons of cod, in addition to substantial quantities of other fish, compared with but 17,000 tons at the same time in 1954. This brings the total cod landings to 118,530 tons, as against 77,622 by mid-June a year ago. When the Finnmark fisheries are finished, this year's cod catch is expected to have reached 120,000 tons.

The Finnmark fishermen were in a frenzy of activity catching capelin, a 5-7-inch long smelt-like fish called "lodde" in Norwegian. For generations used only as bait for cod, the "lodde" has recently found increasing application as raw material for the regional fish-meal reduction plants. Every year about this time huge quantities of capeline come to spawn in the Varangerfjord. After accomplishing their mission, they fan out along the Finnmark coast, all the way east to Vadso.

The Greenland fisheries, which now rank as Norway's third important source of cod, were pioneered by enterprising fishermen from the Sunnmore district in the early 1920's. This year, over 70 Norwegian fishing vessels, including 4 large trawlers, crossed the North Atlantic to get their share of the cod stock on the banks off western Greenland. By the end of the April-September season, they will probably have landed some 17,000 tons of cod, in addition to about 500 tons of halibut. All of the cod is salted and brought back to Norway in special transports for export to Mediterranean countries, while the halibut is frozen and shipped to England.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GREENLAND FISHERIES: In the early days of the Greenland fisheries, Norwegian expeditions operated independently. Every full load of salted cod had to be brought back to Sunnmore. As the North Atlantic crossing took anywhere from one to two weeks each way, the fishing vessels could make only a few trips a season. In 1947, however, a number of fishing vessel operators and skippers in Aalesund formed their own provisioning and transport company. Initially, some 30 vessels joined the new organization, and several ships were chartered for the transport between Norway and Greenland. The following year the new firm joined forces with the Danish company. Then a year ago, the cooperative venture was extended to include the Faroes company. The new combine started with a capital of Kr. 2 million (US\$280,000). Meanwhile, the land station established at Faeringer Harbor had been moved to nearby Asgriko Harbor, in order to provide deep-water docking facilities.

At Asgriko Harbor there is now a 600-foot long pier, with an area of 45,000 square feet; two freezing plants with a daily capacity of 25 tons each; storage for nearly 1,000 tons of deep-frozen fish; a 6,000-ton salt silo; and miscellaneous warehouses. This year the new combine is building a new 2,700-foot pier and another salt silo. Additional facilities include a machine shop, a ship supply store, a large laundry, dormitories, and a 300-seat community center with restaurant and reading room. All of this has been built in the past five years. So far, a total of Kr. 7 million (US\$980,000) has been invested in developing the land station.

As a result of these cooperative efforts, which are strictly a private enterprise, the whole character of the Greenland fisheries has been changed. Fish caught on the offshore banks is delivered to Asgriko Harbor, where it is salted or deep frozen, and then loaded on transports to be carried directly to ports in Norway, principally Aalesund, and other countries. At season's end, however, the fishing vessels usually return with a full load of salted cod, as the price paid in Norwegian ports is somewhat higher than in Greenland.

Cod was rarely found in Greenland waters around the turn of the century. Now, the cod stock on the banks off western Greenland is considered among the largest in the world. Oceanographers believe this development is linked with the steady increase in the temperature of the North Atlantic. They have established that the cod is now spawning in the Greenland fjords and on the banks in the Davis Strait, instead of spawning along the Iceland coast as in former years. Apparently, codlings and young cod are able to find sufficient food in the West Greenland waters.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian ocean research vessel G. O. Sars is gearing up for its third cruise of the year to the Barents Sea, northeast of Norway. Here a team of scientists under the direction of Gunnar Saetersdal will continue investigations of the conditions and migration of the Arctic cod. Another trip is scheduled for next October.

The Barents Sea is the feeding ground of the codlings spawned on the Lofoten banks off North Norway. After 5-6 years, the young Barents Sea cod is lured to the Finnmark coast by the large shoals of capelin. Some three years later, the mature cod migrate to the Lofoten spawning banks and then back to the Barents Sea. Much needs yet to be ascertained about the Arctic cod, Mr. Saetersdal admits, but the size of the yearly classes can now be predicted with considerable certainty. However, the causes of the big fluctuations in the annual Lofoten cod stock are still beyond the ken of ocean researchers, he says.

* * * * *

BRISLING SARDINE CATCH POOR: The Norwegian brisling sardine catch this season up to July 7 totaled approximately 69.2 million pounds, only about one-half the catch for the same period a year earlier, reports a July 22 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Oslo. The 1955 catch has been the poorest in years. If it does not improve within the remaining two months of the season it will cause serious consequences in the Norwegian canning industry. In fishing circles it has been recently maintained that the poor catch is due to increased fishing in the Skaggerak, the brisling breeding grounds.

Canned brisling sardine is an important dollar-earning item for Norway. A poor brisling sardine catch would especially affect Norwegian ability to meet demand in the United States where an extensive advertising campaign has been under way since 1952 to increase sales of Norwegian canned brisling sardines.

* * * * *

MACKEREL FILLETS FROZEN IN ALGINATE JELLY: Full-scale production of deep-frozen mackerel fillets in alginate jelly has been started by Norges Makrellag, the cooperative marketing organization of Norwegian mackerel fishermen, reports a June 16 bulletin from the Norwegian Information Service.

Thoroughly tested in pilot operations, the method consists of deep-freezing the whole or filleted fish in alginate jelly.

Even after long storage the alginate-frozen product retains the freshness and flavor of fresh fish. This year Norges Makrellag plans to deep-freeze about 1,000

metric tons of mackerel fillets. As soon as more machinery is available the output will be substantially increased.

The fishermen's cooperative, which previously has been deep-freezing whole mackerel, started trial freezing of fillets in alginate jelly last year. These experiments proved so successful that full-scale production has been launched in Kristiansand, Arendal, and Stavanger. Later on, additional plants will be opened in Hauge-sund and Egersund. The Kristiansand filleting plant uses some 45,000 pounds of raw mackerel a day. A substantial part of the production has been sold abroad.



Pakistan

FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF FROZEN SHRIMP ARRIVES IN UNITED STATES:

The first shipment of frozen shrimp from Pakistan reached the United States July 25 at Jersey City, N. J., according to the Consulate General of Pakistan.

The initial consignment of 5,000 pounds was the culmination of 2 years of research and engineering and planning by a Pakistan company located in Karachi. The fish-freezing plant installed by this corporation is the first of its kind in Pakistan. The Pakistan corporation will concentrate its freezing operations on shrimp initially, but within a very short time expects to handle substantial quantities of turtle meat, frog legs, and red snappers.

The shrimp from Karachi waters are reported to average approximately 20 to the pound. The shrimp fishing grounds are all within a radius of 30 miles of the freezing plant. The average time between catching and freezing is 12 hours, with the shrimp boats delivering daily catches to the freezing plant each evening.

Regular monthly shipments to the United States of approximately 50,000 pounds are planned. Full-size shipments are expected to be reached in October 1955. The freezing plant has an annual capacity of approximately 3 million pounds.

While capital for the Pakistan corporation has been supplied jointly by United States and Pakistani interests, it is expected that negotiations will be concluded shortly with an important Japanese firm whereby it will furnish the fishing fleet and deliver the shrimp from the Karachi waters to the freezing plant. Payment to the Japanese firm will be made in the form of a profit-sharing agreement with the Pakistan corporation.



Panama

SHRIMP FISHERY: It is believed that the jumbo shrimp which constitute the bulk of Panama's export product are less than a year old, and probably about seven months. When spawning, each shrimp lays about a million eggs, according to an August 1 report from the Food and Agriculture Organization shrimp biologist assigned to Panama.

The ex-vessel price paid to fishermen for shrimp (50 U. S. cents per pound) is the highest ever, and prospects for continued good catches and good prices are very bright. Local shrimp boats average three 5-day trips per month, and 350-pound catches per day. No night shrimp fishing is done.

The local shrimp monopoly has obtained a sizable loan from the Social Security Fund for expanding operations. Its base of operations is being moved to the Island of Taboga. Tests are now being carried out to determine the possibilities of exporting frozen and dried fish, and of canning tuna.



Peru

TUNA FISHERIES TRENDS, JUNE 1955: The past Peruvian bonito season was normal and inventories were well disposed of on the international markets at low prices because of Japanese competition in both canned and frozen tuna, states a United States Embassy dispatch (June 28) from Lima. However, the tuna industry which is located farther north and whose catch is mostly exported in frozen form reports poor prices and growing unemployment. Fishermen are turning to swordfish and shrimp to offset the low prices paid for fresh tuna; but unemployment continues to grow.



Republic of the Philippines

NO IMPORT TAX FOR IMPORTS OF UNITED STATES CANNED FISH: Canned fish from the United States are among the commodities on which the Philippines will not impose the special tax on imports when the revised trade agreement between the United States and the Philippine Republic goes into effect January 1, 1956, reports a United States Embassy dispatch from Manila.

Products not now subject to the 17-percent tax on foreign exchange will be the same products exempted from the new import tax which is provided for in the revised trade agreement. The Philippine legislature is reported to have completed action creating the new special import tax, which is to be reduced progressively each year. Under terms of the legislation canned fish are among the items on which the import tax will not be imposed in 1956.

The revised trade agreement was signed September 6 at the U. S. Department of State in Washington, D. C.



Portugal

AZORES FISHERY TRENDS: Among the principal cash products produced in the Horta District of the Azores are canned tuna and sperm-whale oil. Some canned tuna has been shipped to the United States, but most of it and all the whale oil goes to European buyers. The price of whale oil this year of 4.5 escudos per kilo (7 U.S. cents a pound) is higher than the prices prevailing in 1953 and 1954, states an August 12 United States consular dispatch from Ponta Delgado.

An American investment of US\$40,000 in a whaling and tuna canning plant on the Island of Pico is reported. The tuna industry is threatened to some extent by competition from the freezerships from the European mainland supplying the raw material, and the unsettled market in the United States. Due to the United States import duty on tuna packed in oil of 45 percent, most of the canned tuna sold to the United States is packed in brine.

* * * * *

FISH CANNING TRENDS, JANUARY 1955: Total Portuguese production of canned sardines in oil or sauce during January 1955 amounted to 1,912 metric tons, valued at 31.7 million escudos (US\$1.1 million) to the canners. Production in January 1954 totaled only 1,109 tons, reports the June 1955 Conservas de Peixe, a Portuguese trade magazine.

Production of canned sardines in brine was 84 metric tons in January 1955, valued at 0.4 million escudos (US\$13,000), as compared with 16 tons a year earlier.

Portuguese production of canned tuna and tunalike species in oil or sauce in January 1955 totaled only 14 metric tons, valued at 0.4 million escudos (US\$15,600) to the canners as compared with 50 tons in January 1954.

* * * * *

CANNED FISH EXPORTS, MARCH 1955: Sales of Portuguese canned fish on foreign markets in March 1955 maintained a very favorable position, according to the June 1955 Conservas de Peixe, a Portuguese fishery magazine. Total exports of all varieties of Portuguese canned fish amounted to 4,681 metric tons in March, valued at 69.5 million escudos (US\$2.4 million), as compared with 3,084 tons a year earlier (see table). During January-March 1955 the total exports amounted to 13,147 tons, valued 198.1 million escudos (US\$6.8 million).

Sardines in oil or sauce comprised the major portion (3,704 tons) of the Portuguese canned fish exports in March 1955, followed by sardinelike fish in oil or sauce (458 tons), tuna and tunalike fish in oil or sauce (192 tons), sardines and sardinelike fish in brine (112 tons), mackerel in oil (73 tons), and tuna and tunalike fish in brine (21 tons).

Species	Quantity	Value
	Metric Tons	1,000 US\$
Sardines in oil or sauce	3,704	1,791
Sardinelike fish in oil or sauce	458	328
Sardines and sardinelike fish in brine	112	20
Tuna and tunalike fish in oil	192	139
Tuna and tunalike fish in brine	21	12
Mackerel in oil	73	47
Other fish	121	64
Total	4,681	2,401

Canned tuna exports improved in March as compared with the two previous months.

In the January-March 1955 period Germany improved its position as the leading buyer of Portuguese canned fish, receiving a total of 2,437 metric tons, valued at 35.4 million escudos or US\$1.2 million (almost entirely sardines in oil), Italy ranked second with 2,182 tons, valued at 31.3 million escudos or US\$1.1 million (sardines and tuna in oil). Great Britain was third with purchases of 1,837 tons, valued at 26.6 million escudos or US\$0.9 million (almost entirely canned sardines). The United States received 1,127 tons of Portuguese canned fish in January-March 1955, valued at 22.9 million escudos or US\$0.8 million (principally 513 tons of sardines and 490 tons of anchovies).



Spain

TUNA CANNERS SHOWING INCREASED INTEREST IN U. S. MARKET: There is a considerable and growing interest in the Bilboa area of Spain in the export of

canned tuna to the United States, a June 24 United States consular dispatch from Bilbao points out. For some time there have been difficulties in obtaining export permits from the Ministry of Commerce. Now, it is understood that those difficulties have been resolved. But perhaps the most important factor is that the recent introduction and rapidly spreading use of live bait by the tuna fishermen in the area has resulted in greater catches.

Catches now greatly exceed domestic needs and, according to a Bermeo fish canner, could be increased a good deal more if a larger market were assured. This fish canner believes that export to the United States could reach 6,000 to 8,000 metric tons a year within a few years, bringing to Spain US\$4.5 to US\$6 million.

* * * * *

SARDINES REPORTED SCARCE OFF SANTANDER COAST: The disappearance of sardines off the Santander coast of Spain has aroused considerable interest locally, reports a July 19 U. S. consular dispatch from Bilbao. In recent months there has been additional comment and special attention is being paid to investigations being made by a French scientist (who is the director of the Oceanographic Laboratory of Biarritz) aboard the Donibane off the northern coast of Spain.

Although sardines continue to be caught and brought into Cantabrian ports in small quantities, the catches are nothing like in the past. Many persons have been asking where the sardines have gone, but the French scientist stated in the Santander press (Alerta) that they have not gone away and that he has observed good-sized schools through the detection devices aboard his ship. These schools were seen a half mile from Comillas (Santander) and at the entrance to Santander Bay. He stated that obviously there were not the abundant supplies that there used to be but that he believed that the fish were coming back and would again be abundant. He stated further that he only hoped that Spanish and other fishermen would not fish for the smaller ones. (This is being done on the Cantabrian coast where small sardines are sometimes used as live bait for tuna.)

In this connection, there was recently a press notice that sardines in moderate quantities were being brought into northern Portuguese ports. The local press comments on this situation are that there are still sardines to be caught, that Portuguese equipment is more modern than the Spanish, which is why they catch sardines when the Spanish fail. The article reaches the conclusion that it is up to the Spanish to improve their fishing devices and hunt out the sardine now that they are scarcer than formerly.

* * * * *

FISHERIES TRENDS, MAY 1955: The Spanish inshore fishing fleet on the North Coast continued to enjoy a heavy catch of anchovies during May, reports a July 1 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Madrid. Although the benefits to the fishermen were not increased proportionately because the large supplies caused a serious decline in prices, the fishing and fish-canning industries found the situation much better than a year ago when catches were very small. Additional optimism among these groups was generated by improved prospects for a good tuna season and the increasing possibilities that considerable quantities of canned tuna might be exported to the United States.

Short-range fleet owners of the Vigo area in northwestern Spain, who had been experiencing difficulties due to the inadequacies of their outmoded vessels and equipment, received a Ps. 25 million (US\$1.1 million) modernization loan from the semi-official Marine Credit Bureau. This should assist them to take advantage of new fishing methods and techniques and increase production.



Union of South Africa

FISHERIES TRENDS, APRIL 1955: Large quantities of fish were caught in waters off the Union and South-West Africa during April, and as they consisted principally of maasbankers (jack mackerel), the output of fish meal and fish oil reached record levels, reports a June 10 United States consular dispatch from Cape Town.

There was a heavy demand for canned fish, but the pack was disappointing. Production of canned and frozen spiny lobster was heavy. The market for spiny lobster and fish oil remained steady, but the demand for fish meal weakened slightly.

* * * * *

DEVELOPMENT OF FROZEN FISH INDUSTRY: Quick freezing is the latest and fastest developing aspect of one of the leading South African firms engaged in fish trawling, the July 1955 issue of The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review points out. Quick freezing was started about four years ago with a normal blast freezer. Last year the company installed two contact-plate freezers and since then four more of these freezers have been installed.

Intensive advertising to break down initial consumer apathy has created a big market for quick-frozen fillets and the company now turns out several different packs.

Some months ago, this company started to produce quick-frozen fish sticks. The installation of the freezers gave the firm the plant it needed for its venture in fish sticks. The first products soon proved so successful that special machines were installed to cut the blocks and this year a German automatic machine was found to produce ideal fillets for fish sticks.

The company not only supplies the local market with quick-frozen fillets and fish sticks, but it is also building up a substantial export market.



United Kingdom

"FAIRTRY" LANDS ONE MILLION POUNDS OF FROZEN FILLETS ON FOURTH TRIP: The British factoryship trawler Fairtry landed one million pounds of frozen fillets at Immingham on May 31 after a trip of just over three months, reports the June 10 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine.

This was the Fairtry's fourth trip, slightly longer than the previous ones. In line with the owners' policy of filleting as much of the catch as possible, a greater amount of fillets was produced on this trip.

The bulk of the production was cod and haddock fillets, with small quantities of coalfish (pollock), halibut, and skate wings. Most of the catch was sold in advance, but buffer stocks of most varieties were reserved for day-to-day requirements.

* * * * *

NEW HERRING PRESERVATIVE TESTED: A new preservative for herring awaiting processing was to be tried out in August 1955 by the British Herring Industry Board, an August 5 United States Embassy dispatch from London reports. This was the answer from the Chairman of the Board to criticism that the glut of herring (greater than ever before) was mishandled. If the test is successful it will open the way to a bright economic future for the British herring oil and meal industry.

The Chairman of the Herring Industry Board said in part: "The Herring Industry Board has for 10 years been pioneering in quick freezing and urging the trade to take up this process. Interest seemed to be quickening. But while freezing can become a valuable additional outlet it never will be a solution for gluts of herrings for which the only economic use in sight is reduction to oil and meal.

"In this field the tasks that lie before the board are (1) to complete their own factory building program for oil and meal, and (2) to discover a chemical which is technically economical and suitable for preserving the herring awaiting processing.

"The factory program is well advanced.

"For a long time we and our scientific advisers have been seeking the preservative that is needed. Various substances have been tried but each have had a drawback of one kind or another. After having experienced a good many disappointments I hesitate to predict success but I can tell you that yet another pilot-scale trial is just about to begin with a preservative which appears to have useful possibilities. If our hopes are realized on a commercial scale, the technical problem of months will have been solved and the way will be opened to a bright economic future for oil and meal."

* * * * *

RUSSIA RE-IMPOSES TWELVE-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT FOR BRITISH TRAWLERS: British fishermen are now barred from fishing up to a three-mile limit from the Russian coast. The Anglo-Soviet Agreement of May 1930 expired on July 5, 1955, and the Russian Government notified the British Ambassador at Moscow on June 24 that it could not renew the agreement for a further period but was willing "to begin negotiations on the possibility of concluding a new agreement."

British fishermen will now be able to operate only outside the 12-mile limit claimed by Russia as territorial waters, according to The Fishing News of July 8, 1955.

The agreement ran until January 5, 1953, when the Russian Government invoked the clause enabling it to give six months' notice of termination. However, after representations from the British Government, the Russians agreed to an extension for one year and again for another year.

Iceland's newly declared limits had meant more intensive fishing off Russia. Hull ships this year netted a quarter of their catch off the Russian coast, Grimsby ships a sixth, and Fleetwood ships a tenth.

Iceland and Norway have both instituted four-mile limits which have cut British trawlermen off from vast areas of fishing grounds, according to the British.

The secretary of Hull Trawler Officers' Guild points out that if the Russians revert to the 12-mile limit of their territorial waters, Hull skippers would lose the use of several prolific plaice-catching grounds inside the area.

The heavy fishing for cod and other types was carried on much farther away from the coasts and would not be affected.

