



## International

### GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

REVIEW OF TENTH SESSION: The Tenth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade produced encouraging indications that foreign governments are cooperating in the reduction of restrictions against United States goods which have been in use for balance-of-payment reasons. Discussions at the Tenth Session pointed up the fact that such restrictions have been significantly reduced during the current year, the U. S. Department of State announced on December 7, 1955. This was one of the principal points in a summary of the Session released in December. Other activities of the Session of general interest include the completion of plans for further tariff negotiations beginning in January 1956 and the initiation of discussions looking towards the lifting of the reservations which some countries placed upon their trading relations with Japan at her recent accession to the Agreement.

The Session was held at Geneva, Switzerland, from October 27 through December 3, 1955. The United States delegation, headed by United States Ambassador to Portugal, consisted of representatives of the Departments of Treasury, Agriculture, Commerce, and State.

Countries which have been restricting imports from other countries because of shortages of the currencies needed to pay for them are tending more generally to employ internal fiscal and economic measures, rather than import restrictions, to relieve pressure on their foreign exchange reserves. These measures include such actions as raising interest rates and tightening installment credit, thus dampening the demand for imports and making more domestic goods available for export.

A number of trade difficulties between individual countries, referred to the Contracting Parties under the "complaints" procedure of the Agreement, were satisfactorily settled. Another important development was a renewed request by the Contracting Parties that France move more rapidly towards the elimination of certain taxes upon imports.

Tariff Negotiations: Arrangements were concluded during the Tenth Session for a "Fourth Round" of tariff negotiations to be held in Geneva beginning in January 1956. The three previous rounds of negotiations were held at Geneva in 1947, at Annecy, France, in 1949, and at Torquay, England, in 1950-51.

Japanese Accession: The Contracting Parties discussed the problem created by the fact that, upon the accession of Japan to the Agreement last September, 14 countries exercised their right to refuse to apply the Agreement between themselves and Japan. The issue was discussed both in the regular meeting and in private consultations between interested countries, in an effort to work to-

ward a solution. The United States Delegation urged the other countries to extend the full benefits of the Agreement to Japan in order to expand export opportunities for Japanese goods. The problem will be kept under continuous study by all countries in the Agreement, and will be taken up again at intersessional meetings and at the Eleventh Session.

Balance-of-Payments Consultations: The Contracting Parties, with the assistance of the International Monetary Fund, held a number of consultations with participating countries that are applying restrictions on imports for the purpose of dealing with balance-of-payments difficulties. Australia, Ceylon, New Zealand, the Federation of

Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and the United Kingdom consulted on their import restrictions against dollar goods, as is required annually by the Agreement.

Consultations on Special U. S. Problems: The United States used the opportunity afforded by the Tenth Session to discuss informally with a number of countries some specific trade problems caused by the balance-of-payments restrictions which they have placed on imports from the United States. Such informal talks were held with the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Finland, and Brazil. It is expected that these consultations will result in the easing of restrictions on particular commodities in a number of these countries.

Transport Insurance: Another noteworthy action by the Contracting Parties at the Tenth Session was the drafting of a resolution calling for the elimination of governmental restrictions which limit the freedom of buyers and sellers of goods to place transport insurance on the most economical basis. Such restrictions increase the cost of goods figuring in international trade and may create obstacles to trade.

The proposed resolution will be considered by governments during the coming year with a view to possible action at the Eleventh Session. It recom-

mends that governments avoid measures in the transport insurance field which have a restrictive effect on international trade and that governments now having such measures eliminate them as rapidly as circumstances permit. The resolution also requests that governments report on actions taken to eliminate such measures.

Status of Ninth Session Actions: During the session, governments reported on the status of their plans for accepting the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation (OTC) and the several protocols of amendments of the General Agreement which were drawn up at the Ninth Session. These instruments must be formally accepted by a prescribed majority of the Contracting Parties before they will enter into force. The United States Delegate reported that the United States has accepted the protocols of amendments to the General Agreement and that President Eisenhower has submitted the Agreement on the OTC to the Congress with a strong message of endorsement and the recommendation that legislation be enacted authorizing United States membership in the organization.

The Next Session: The Contracting Parties agreed to hold their Eleventh Session at Geneva beginning October 11, 1956.

## TERRITORIAL WATERS

THIRD MEETING BY PERU, CHILE, AND ECUADOR ON TERRITORIAL WATERS: The Third Ordinary Meeting of the Permanent Commission for the Conservation and Exploitation of the Maritime Riches of the Southern Pacific was held at Quito, Ecuador, December 12-16, 1955. The Commission, composed of representatives of Ecuador, Chile, and Peru, with an observer from Costa Rica, took up technical and administrative questions but failed to go into the broader aspects of the 200-mile limit. The principal accomplishments of the meeting were agreements to exchange information, and the setting up of whaling quotas for the waters claimed by Ecuador, Chile, and Peru.

The Commission, which is composed of the three countries mentioned, is the result of a joint declaration by these countries signed in 1952 at Santiago claiming their sovereignty over a maritime zone 200 miles seaward from their coast. Costa Rica has since adhered to the declaration. At that time a permanent commission was created to meet periodically for the discussion of technical questions arising from the 200-mile claim.



## Australia

NEW TUNA PRODUCTS INTRODUCED: A new factory for processing tuna into tuna chicken and smoked tuna-ham has been established in what was formerly a cargo shed at Bermagui on the south coast of New South Wales. If the products find favor with the Australian consumers, the new enterprise could utilize all of the current catch of tuna, according to the November 1955 Fisheries Newsletter, a publication of Australia's Commonwealth Director of Fisheries. Samples of the two solid-meat tuna products (which are cooked and ready to eat cold) inspected by the Australian Fisheries Office were attractive in taste and appearance.

The cargo shed has been rebuilt, with a cooking and a prefabricated refrigeration plant installed. The factory consists mainly of steam cooking and smoking rooms, plus freezing chamber and cold-storage equipment.

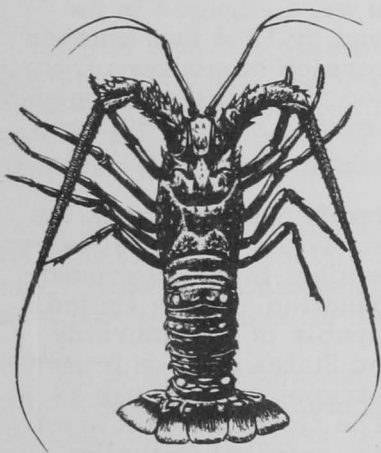
The initial processing plant can handle five tons of round fish daily. After fish have been filleted, the meat which is to become tuna chicken goes through a special preliminary processing and is then steam-retort cooked. Cooking time is less than the usual precook for canning, and this is claimed to retain more of the original flavors of the tuna. After cooking, the "chicken" is cooled, then frozen. The smoking of the ham is controlled by a system of air circulation and pressure, enabling accurate control of the process.

The factory is producing only on a sampling scale, but the manager hopes to be in commercial production by the end of October. The company plans to market the two products through distributors and is presently packing them in 28-lb. cartons, lined with greaseproof paper, but may later market an individual retail pack in cellophane. The ceiling retail price should be not more than about 45 U. S. cents per pound for the smoked ham and slightly less for the "chicken." The new firm is paying tuna fishermen about 6.5 U. S. cents a pound.



## Brazil

SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY IN NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL: Spiny or rock lobsters are found in quantity off the coasts of the States of Ceara, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraiba, and Pernambuco, or the area called the "Bulge" of Brazil. The Latin names of the spiny lobsters caught in these waters are: Panulirus guttatus, P. Argus, and P. Laevicauda. The common Portuguese term for all is "Lagosta," according to an October 26 dispatch from the United States Consul at Recife. The production and marketing of spiny lobster in Northeast Brazil is still relatively unorganized, and the techniques employed are primitive. The spiny lobsters are caught in basketlike traps, and most of the fishermen operate from balsa rafts called "Jangadas," although some waders with torches work off the inshore reefs at night.



Spiny lobster (Panulirus argus)

The spiny lobster season lasts from September through February, and most of the catch is either sold locally or shipped cooked to Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo. There is also one small packing plant which cans a limited quantity of spiny lobster for sale

within Brazil, and there have been some recent experiments with shipping chilled spiny lobster tails. The total quantity of spiny lobster entering commercial channels in Northeast Brazil is estimated to be about 80 metric tons per year. Consumption in the Northeast is relatively small, as no popular taste for lobster has been developed in this region. Americans and Europeans living in Brazil are the principal consumers of Brazilian spiny lobsters. Restaurant prices for spiny lobster in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are very high, but opinions differ widely as to whether or not the market there could be substantially expanded, with liberal shipments of fresh tails at more reasonable prices. Live spiny lobsters sell for only a few cruzeiros per kilogram in the more remote fishing villages in Northeast Brazil.

There are no freezing facilities in Northeastern Brazil and it will be necessary for any firm entering the lobster business there to construct its own freezer. Nearly all spiny lobster fishing in the Northeast is done by highly independent fishermen operating their own balsa rafts. These men are probably unprepared to provide a steady supply of large quantities of fresh spiny lobster, although they might be able to expand their present output considerably on occasion.



## Canada

NEWFOUNDLAND'S ECONOMIC FISHERIES PROSPECTS PRESENTED TO ROYAL COMMISSION: Among numerous other natural and cultural resources needing Federal assistance, the case of fisheries was presented to the Royal Commission of Canada by the Premier of Newfoundland. Prior to the beginning of the 20th Century, fishing was about the only industry that played an important part in the settlement, communications, and living standards of "Canada's poorest Province." Since then other industries, such as mining and forestry, have played a more important part in the economy of Newfoundland, according to a November 16 dispatch from the United States Consul at St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Premier is more optimistic over the fisheries prospects than most Newfoundlanders. In his October 18 speech he belittled the approaches made by most statesmen to the problem of the depressed fisheries. Most politicians, he said, can offer nothing more constructive than suggestions that the fishermen seek work on the American bases or go to Ontario as carpenter apprentices. The Premier asserted that the fisheries have a potential "greater than can be grasped by any living man." During the First World War over 40,000 men were engaged in the inshore fishery. In 1951 there were 19,000 so employed, and by 1954 that number had declined to about 16,700 men. The reasons for the diversion of workers from the sea are to be found in the declining market for salt-dried cod and the consequent failure of salt-cod prices to assure the fishermen even as much as their old low standard of living.

Newfoundland's market has shifted, for currency and tariff reasons, from the European to the Caribbean area. The elastic demand in this latter area precludes any significant price rise, so that the only possible improvement in the Newfoundland fishing program would lie with a cut in the cost of production. If the United States and Canadian market for cod in frozen form were capable of considerably greater expansion than now seems possible and if the United States duty on frozen fish sticks had not been raised to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  percent recently, the transition in types as well as location of markets might be made more easily. The Government's brief sees the lack of refrigeration and population increases in the tropical Catholic countries as a saving consideration for the salt-cod industry, if, at the same time, exchange rates become favorable enough to the Latin countries to make their demand for cod effective. Portugal and Spain remain potential markets for Newfoundland fish, since neither country produces enough for its own needs, but as long as the dollar value of cod keeps it out of their reach and if Newfoundland fishermen cannot cut their costs, the European market is uncertain.

The Premier makes no suggestion to the Federal Government and outlines no program for the Provincial Government. The future of cod fishing hangs on the success of artificial drying of fish (hopefully a cost-cutter), a larger slice of the North American frozen fish market, and tariff and exchange rates favorable to Latin consumers.

The Premier concludes that the biggest economic problem facing the Province is the condition of the fishery. The goal here is to raise the productivity of the

inshore fishermen, then to expand the market for frozen fish to take care of the planned capacity of 100,000,000 pounds annually. The Government makes no request for Federal aid and does not mention Federal unemployment insurance for fishermen.

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GROWTH OF THE FISH STICK INDUSTRY: In Canada there are 7 to 8 plants producing fish sticks, and their production in 1954 amounted to 1.6 million pounds of sticks.

Some 25 plants on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, with the main volume concentrated in the former area produced 33.3 million pounds of blocks or slabs (the raw material utilized in producing fish sticks) in 1954. However, a large proportion of the blocks and slabs are exported to United States plants for processing into fish sticks.

In 1955 the expansion of the production of fish sticks and blocks and slabs continued. Production of fish sticks for the first eight months of 1955 reached 3.9 million pounds as against 1.1 million pounds for the same period of 1954. January-August 1955 production of blocks and slabs totaled 32.6 million pounds as compared with 17 million pounds for the same period in 1954, the November 1955 Trade News of the Canadian Department of Fisheries points out.

The expansion in fish stick production in both the United States and Canada raises the inevitable question of the effect of the new product on fish consumption in general, and upon the traditional fillet form in particular. Estimates would suggest that in Canada while there has been a strong consumer demand for fish sticks as well as an obvious need for filling the marketing "pipeline" from processor through to the retail outlet, there has been little or no increase in over-all consumption of fish products effected as a result of the new products.

While it is not possible to estimate accurately the impact of fish sticks in the Canadian domestic market, it is fair to assume that use of the product by Canadian housewives may have been somewhat slower than in the United States, but that the pattern of consumption will tend to follow that in the United States as supplies become more widely available and adequate refrigerated storage facilities increase.

Fish sticks in Canada are produced from a number of species of sea fish of Atlantic or Pacific origin as well as from certain species of fish from inland waters. However, Canada groundfish, principally cod and haddock, are the species most frequently used in the preparation of sticks.

Up to the present the Canadian fishing industry, as is the case with the industry in both Norway and Iceland, has developed as a supplier of the raw product--blocks and slabs. Fish sticks as such are produced almost entirely for the domestic market. The United States import duties on cooked and uncooked fish sticks have served effectively to bar the Canadian finished product from markets in that country.

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NEW LABELING REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS: The following amendment to Section 59 of the Canadian Fish Inspection Act has been proposed by the Department of Fisheries for implementation effective March 1, 1956, according to the November 4 Bulletin of the Fisheries Council of Canada.

SECTION 59: 1 All containers and wrappers in which fresh or frozen or processed fish is packed shall be correctly and legibly marked or labeled to indicate the following:

- a. the vernacular (common) name of the fish,

- b. the minimum net weight of the contents or the words "to be weighed at time of sale,"
- c. the name and address of the person, firm, or corporation by whom or for whom they are produced and packed or by whom they are distributed, and
- d. the words "Product of Canada."

2 Marking or labeling prescribed by subsections 1 (a) and 1 (b) shall be not less than  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch in height and shall appear on the main body or face of the wrapper.

3 No person shall mark, label, or package any fresh, frozen or processed fish in a manner that is false, misleading, or deceptive.

Note: By "fish" is meant all fish and shellfish products.



## Colombia

FISH CANNERY FINANCES HERRING EXPLORATORY FISHING: The Barranquilla cannery, one of two fish canneries operating on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, recently financed a seven-day experimental trip by a California fishing vessel off the northern coast between Cartagena and Santa Marta, a December 6 United States Embassy dispatch from Bogota states. The California purse-seiner was sent out primarily for the local "flat herring" which this cannery cans as sardines.

The trip was not successful since only about 400 pounds of fish were caught, although several large schools were spotted which for various reasons could not be encircled.

Both the Barranquilla cannery and the other at Santa Marta have been entirely dependent on the very uneven supply provided by local fishermen using cast nets and similar primitive gear. Except for the heavy mullet season, running from October-January, the canneries operate at a small fraction of capacity and must resort to such unprofitable expedients as packing other types of products to keep going. The Barranquilla cannery can handle 15 metric tons of raw material a day.

The price of the canneries' output is high--68 U. S. cents retail for the 15-ounce oval can of sardines. Therefore, the Barranquilla cannery was able to offer the California vessel \$140 a ton for the fish caught.

The failure of the experiment is attributed primarily to insufficient knowledge of local conditions, waters, and fish habitats, and to insufficient capital to finance the necessary extensive exploration.

Discouraged by their long and fruitless efforts to establish a profitable business on the Caribbean coast of Colombia, the operators of the Barranquilla cannery recently opened a plant in Tumaco on the southern Pacific coast where they will endeavor to contract with the Pacific tuna fleet for supplies of fish. Should this be successful, the Barranquilla cannery will be closed down except during the mullet season.

It is understood that the Government is preparing a decree on the promotion of the fish industry in line with the recommendations made by a Spanish Food and Agriculture Organization expert who recently visited Colombia. However, it is not yet known whether these recommendations include provisions for an exploratory vessel.



## Denmark

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES FAIR TO BE HELD IN COPENHAGEN: An International Fishery Trade Fair will be held in Copenhagen May 18-27, 1956. Arrangements are in the hands of Universal Fair and Exhibition Service A/S, Copenhagen. This is the first fair of its kind in Denmark.

It is expected that exhibits will be held in the Forum building and in several other buildings in the harbor area. The Danish Ministers of Fisheries and of Commerce have agreed to act as patrons and advisers, together with representatives of other Danish organizations, both official and unofficial, which are concerned with fishing and fish trading and processing.

It is hoped to attract exhibitors from most European countries and negotiations for official exhibits are also said to be in progress, states a December 15, 1955 dispatch from the United States Embassy at Copenhagen.



## Ecuador

FISH AND SHELLFISH EXPORTS, 1954--CORRECTION: In the October 1955 issue of Commercial Fisheries Review, the table "Ecuadoran Fish and Shellfish Exports, 1954" shows live spiny lobster exports to the United States, Panama, and Peru. It is believed from information now available that the data are for fresh and frozen shrimp instead of spiny lobsters.



## El Salvador

NEW MARINE FISHING LAW ISSUED: In 1955 El Salvador issued a new marine fishing and hunting law (Legislative Decree No. 1961), which primarily establishes legal procedures and sets up processes for starting a fishing company. This new law is restricted to the actual fishing operations (all other aspects of the industry are regulated by a law for the development of industry--Legislative Decree 661), reports the United States Operations Mission to El Salvador.

Under the new law, the Ministry of Economy will regulate the marine fisheries for exploitation, domestic consumption, sport, and mixed fishing, for home use and for sale, and voids all previous legislation in conflict with the law. The general regulations of a marine fishery are now being prepared and will be issued in the form of a Ministerial decree.

Article 6, II, permits up to 50-percent investment of foreign capital in a Salvadorean fishing company. The next article (Article 7) lists the privileges granted under the law for a period of five years after its passage to companies going into fishing. After the five-year period, fishing companies will be subject to the regular taxes, import duties, and other contributions of ordinary business concerns.

All fishing vessels operating in Salvadorean waters must be of Salvadorean registry (Art. 16). This means they will have to belong to a Salvadorean company, which may have up to 50-percent foreign investment. Reports indicate that the question of tuna clippers obtaining a license to fish for bait in Salvadorean waters has been referred to a special law which will be passed at a later date.

Article 18 of the new law provides for fines of from US\$2,000 to US\$6,000 for fishing in Salvadorean waters without the proper permission. (The constitution of 1950 designates 200 miles as the offshore limits of Salvadorean territory.)



## German Federal Republic

**SEAWEED FLOUR:** A German scientist, Heinrich Lienau of Flensburg, has started producing bread containing a small percentage of seaweed flour ("Algenbrot"), reports a December 6 dispatch from the United States Consulate at Hamburg. Lienau has been experimenting for decades with the utilization of seaweeds as fodder, and he now reports that he has been able to use certain kinds of seaweeds for human food. The experiments were started in Iceland, but World War II interrupted them. Lienau later started to work with seaweeds again in Germany after the war.

A special treatment is used to clean the seaweeds (Phaeophyceen) of parasites, shells, etc. To remove the excessive salinity, the seaweeds are washed in fresh water, dried, and coarse-ground. This product is packed in strong paper bags of 110 pounds each and sent to Hamburg where the coarse-ground seaweed is specially ground to prepare the product for mixing with common bread flour. Seaweed flour, which can be mixed with rye flour, wheat flour, and any other type of flour, is shipped to the bakeries in 100-pound paper sacks. Generally, 2 percent of the seaweed flour (soaked in milk or water until a gritlike paste is obtained) is kneaded into the bread dough. The percentage of seaweed flour may be increased according to taste and moisture content, but not more than 8 percent can be added otherwise a peculiar flavor is imparted to the bread, according to Lienau. It is reported that the nutritive value of the bread is improved by adding seaweed flour since it contains essential nutritive elements, vitamins, and trace elements missing in grain. The seaweed flour can absorb great quantities of moisture, and the bread is spongy. The bread with seaweed flour keeps longer than regular bread. Although a sea odor is observed when the bread is baking, the odor disappears when the bread is cooled.

Algenbrot besides being produced in Germany is also made in Belgium where sales are reported increasing. Production of this bread was also recently started in Austria.



## Iceland

**RUSSIAN-ICELANDIC TRADE AGREEMENT, 1956:** Negotiations between Soviet Russia and Iceland towards a Trade Protocol for the calendar year 1956

Item	Estimated Value f. o. b.	
	1955 Agreement	1954 Agreement
	US\$1,000	US\$1,000
Fish fillets, frozen ...	8,173	7,011
Herring, frozen .....	166	-
Herring, salted .....	2,337	3,506
Unclassified .....	246	123
Total .....	10,922	10,640

were completed. The agreement was amended to include a provision for an increase in the overdraft authority from about US\$615,000 to US\$1,230,000. In exchange for various nonfishery products produced by Russia, the Icelanders have agreed to supply Russia with a substantial amount of fishery products.



The agreement for 1956 includes the shipment of 20,000 metric tons of frozen fish fillets and 15,000 tons of salt herring plus miscellaneous products (some other fish products may be included in this category).

The dispatch also states that large-scale shipments of fishery products to Russia in November 1955 have helped to relieve the rather critical shortage of cold-storage space in Iceland. Cold-storage space in Iceland had become so short before November that quantities of fresh ocean perch were diverted to the reduction plants.

Agreement has now been reached for the U.S.S.R. to take a final 3,000 tons of frozen fish fillets under the 1954 agreement, but the Russians were unable to agree to take the final 2,000 tons which would have completely taken up the optional quantity specified under the agreement.



## Indonesia

**SHRIMP FISHERIES:** Statistics on the catch of shrimp in Indonesian waters are incomplete, according to a dispatch from the U. S. Operations Mission to Indonesia. Catch data are available from fishery centers that have fish auctions, but it is believed that 15 percent or more bypass the auctions. The shrimp fisheries are extensive and widely scattered and many fishing villages are isolated, so that for many areas statistics are entirely lacking.

Estimated production in 1954 for the islands of Java and Madura are: "Rebon" (immature shrimp less than 1 inch long) 4,347,000 pounds and "Udang" (mature, more than 1 inch long) 957,000 pounds. The immature shrimp are used primarily in the preparation of fermented pastes.

The report states that the shrimp fishery potential is apparently unlimited, since extensive areas of marshland adjacent to the coasts of Sumatra, Java, and Kalimantan, with corresponding trawlable bottom offshore, are known to support shrimp populations. These resources are virtually unexploited at the present time. Local demand for shrimp is good and is probably limited only by price.

The amount of shrimp that is exported is unknown although there is an extensive but unknown trade between certain fishery centers adjacent to the Malay States, with shrimp products probably included in this trade. Fermented shrimp paste ("trasse") is one of the important products exported.

The lack of canning and freezing facilities, and the improbability of their being installed in the near future, indicate that Indonesia has no immediate prospects of becoming an important factor in the international trade for shrimp or other seafoods.

The Indonesians catch considerable quantities of shrimp in brackish-water ponds (used primarily for Chanos chanos culture); juvenile with a "sodo" (a scoop net pushed by hand in shallow water); with weirs and traps; with a sort of fyke net operated in river mouths and elsewhere in strong current; and reportedly with hand lines (for very large shrimp). There is no trawl fishery for shrimp at present.

A large part of the shrimp catch is processed to fermented pastes such as "trasse;" quantities are made into a dough with sago flour, cooked, and dried for later deep-fat frying to make a sort of shrimp chip. There is also a large market for fresh shrimp. The predominant type of shrimp is Penaeus sp., with the size ranging from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to 14 inches or more.



## Japan

DEVELOPING GOOD TUNA FISHERY IN INDIAN OCEAN: The tuna fishing in the Western Indian Ocean, developed by Japanese long-line fishermen, is yielding catches of 12-14 yellowfin per 100 hooks. This is a much higher catch rate than on any other grounds fished by the long-liners.

The Nankai Regional Fishery Research Laboratory, the Japanese government agency most active in tuna research, is planning to investigate oceanography and tuna ecology on the long-line grounds of the Indian Ocean. The expedition, which will be made in cooperation with the fisheries department of the University of Kagoshima, is using the University's training ship Keiten Maru (510 tons). The training ship was scheduled to sail January 4 and return about the middle of March, according to Nippon Suisan Shimbun, a Japanese trade publication.

On December 3, 1955, the No. 2 Seiju Maru (750 tons) returned to the port of Shimizu, Japan, with a full load of 425 tons of yellowfin and big-eyed tuna after an 80-day voyage that extended across the Indian Ocean to the vicinity of the African coast. The average day's catch was reported as about 12 tons of yellowfin. It is said that 70 percent of the catch passed inspection as suitable for export, that the proceeds of the voyage will amount to about US\$90,000, and that crew members will receive about US\$275 each for the trip.

In addition, the large tuna mothership No. 21 Kuroshio Maru (1,858 tons) returned on December 4, 1955, from the new fishing grounds in the Arabian Sea region with 1,063 tons of fish, valued at over \$160,000. About 70 percent of this catch was slated to be canned for export. On December 18 the Kuroshio Maru again sailed for the fishing grounds off Somaliland and Madagascar.

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LONG-LINING FOR SALMON PROPOSED: Fishermen of northern Japan, eager to enter the profitable northern salmon drift-net fishery but prevented from doing so by the Japanese Fisheries Agency's strict limitation on the number of licenses, are planning to try long-lining for salmon on the northern grounds. Under present regulations it is considered that this would be an open unlimited fishery. Basic studies of the method are being made by the Fukushima Prefecture Fishery Experiment Station, states the Japanese trade publication, Nippon Suisan Shimbun.

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LONG-LINER PRESERVES TUNA BY "AIR FREEZING": The new tuna boat, the Jingu Maru (499 tons), returned to port in Japan on December 3, 1955, from its maiden voyage with 330 tons of fish preserved by "air freezing," a method of preservation that is used aboard the tuna motherships but which was being tried for the first time aboard a Japanese tuna long-line boat. The greater part of the load was in such a good state of freshness that it was suitable for consumption as fresh raw fish, despite the 4 months' duration of the voyage. This success is attracting much attention at Misaki, where it is considered an epoch-making development, the Japanese trade publication Nippon Suisan Shimbun reports.



## Mexico

**REVIEW OF FISHING INDUSTRY, 1953-55:** Catch: According to statistics compiled by the Fishing Office of the Ministry of the Navy, fish and shellfish catches in Mexican waters (including the fish caught by United States and other foreign vessels) reached a peak of 140,548 metric tons in 1951, and in the subsequent three years has varied

Table 1 - Catch of Fish and Shellfish in Mexican Waters, 1/ 1953-54

Species	1954	1953	Species	1954	1953
(Metric Tons)			(Metric Tons)		
Albacore tuna	995	1,905	Mullet	1,757	909
Skipjack tuna	8,471	6,177	Shrimp <sup>1/</sup>	20,061	19,671
Other tuna	36,764	47,883	Oysters	7,235	6,883
Bonito	440	1,252	Abalone	1,528	1,626
Yellowtail	945	1,210	Lobster, spiny	1,111	1,033
Sardines	5,553	4,717	Crabs	651	718
Grouperlike fishes	3,286	3,497	Clams	377	783
Sea bass (robalo)	2,567	2,662	Turtles	298	263
Sierra	1,891	2,514	All other fish		
Corvina	1,253	920	and shellfish <sup>2/</sup>	13,534	11,404
(Continued in opposite column)			Grand total	108,717	116,027

1/ Includes fish caught by United States fishing vessels in Mexican waters.

2/ Includes about 100 species of fish and shellfish.

less than 5 percent from the average annual catch of 110,848 tons. The principal volume items, shrimp and tuna, accounted for over half of the total in 1954 (table 1). Catch statistics for 1955 are not yet available, but the shrimp catch is understood to be very satisfactory for that year off both coasts. The tuna catch, however, declined 25 percent from 1953 to 1954 and probably declined further in 1955. Most of the tuna is caught by United States fishing vessels operating out of Southern California. The 1955 spiny lobster catch is thought to have been moderately greater than in previous years, according to a December 14, 1955, report from the United States Embassy at Mexico City.

Table 2 - Canned Fish and Shellfish Pack in Baja California, 1953 (4 principal canneries)

Kind	Quantity
	(Metric Tons)
Abalone	1,307
Anchoveta	40
Corvina	11
Mackerel	744
Sardines	7,123
Skipjack tuna	120
Tuna	141
Total	8,486

The "red tide" caused some anxiety in October in the area below Tampico to the base of the Yucatan peninsula, but did not hamper fishing operations seriously.

**Foreign Trade:** The volume of exports in 1954 declined about 4 percent from the previous year, but the value of exports in terms of pesos rose 18 percent, according to Ministry of Economy statistics. The increase in value reflects a rise in peso quotations after the 44.5 percent devaluation of the peso in April 1954. Frozen shrimp represented 83 percent of the value of seafood exports in 1954. Export statistics through September 1955 show an increase over the same period of 1954 of 17 percent in the volume of shrimp exports and an increase of 9.6 percent in value. The figures for shrimp exports in the first nine months of 1955 are 12,029 metric tons, valued at US\$8,294,635.

Imports declined by 16 percent in total volume from 1953 to 1954, although the value in pesos increased slightly. The United States supplied less than 6 percent of the value of total imports. These imports, which were valued at less than 6 percent of Mexican exports of seafood, consisted primarily of dried cod and salted or smoked fish of unspecified species.

Prices: Although tuna is the most important catch in Mexican waters, this fish is not exported in significant quantities by Mexican packing companies. The whole-

Product	Quantity	
	1954	1953
	(Metric Tons)	
Marine Oils:		
Whale .....	6.2	-
Swordfish .....	2.8	1.6
Shark-liver .....	15.9	10.5
Other .....	263.7	163.7
Algae gelidium .....	75.0	142.8
Other algae .....	121.3	36.5
Shells:		
Abalone .....	188.3	119.7
Oyster .....	59.0	40.6
River .....	216.9	15.2
Nacre .....	32.4	7.4
Other .....	10.4	10.4
Sponges .....	0.2	-
Fertilizer materials .....	2,316.5	1,356.6
Shark livers .....	100.6	101.4

sale price of canned tuna in Mexico City is US\$12 per case of 48 cans, each can weighing approximately 7 ozs. United States fishing vessels catch considerable tuna in Mexican waters; such tuna appears in Mexican production statistics, but not in the export statistics.

The value of frozen shrimp exports greatly exceeds the value of all other fish and shellfish exports. The American Consulate in Merida, Yucatan, reports that the average prices at Brownsville, Tex., during the third quarter of 1955 for frozen 15-20 count brown shrimp for primary sellers were as follows: July 66 U. S. cents, August 62 U. S. cents, and September 60 U. S. cents.

recent years. A leading canner quotes a case of 48 No. 1 cans at about US\$20 f.o.b. San Diego, Calif. Most of this canned abalone is transhipped to the Orient.

Canned abalone has been the second most important export product in

Table 4 - Mexican Exports of Fish and Shellfish, 1953-54

Commodity	Quantity		Value	
	1954	1953	1954	1953
	(1,000 Pounds)		(Equiv. in US\$1,000)	
Unprocessed fresh:				
Clams .....	335	1,213	12.5	67.2
Turtles .....	324	326	2.6	3.8
Processed:				
Fish fillets .....	487	428	33.1	40.3
Fish, fresh, refrig., frozen .....	7,427	5,229	482.6	432.1
Fish, dry, salted or smoked .....	82	351	5.0	110.7
Lobster, spiny, cooked .....	1,870	1,766	624.2	501.6
Frog legs .....	9	15	1.8	2.8
Crustaceans .....	-	7	-	0.5
Shrimp, dried .....	22	4	4.9	1.4
Shrimp, fresh or refrigerated .....	331	335	96.0	104.3
Shrimp, frozen .....	33,631	35,311	11,255.6	14,019.2
Mollusks .....	-	40	-	2.7
Canned:				
Abalone .....	3,419	4,894	1,103.0	1,536.9
Shrimp .....	13	26	3.9	11.3
Lobster, spiny .....	2	2	0.2	0.2
Oysters .....	-	2	-	0.6
Sardines .....	2	-	0.4	-
Other .....	9	9	2.3	3.1
Total Exports .....	47,963	49,959	13,628.1	16,838.7
Exports to U. S. .....	47,450	49,456	13,577.6	16,678.6

Note: It is believed that in 1952 and earlier years very substantial exports of fresh, refrigerated, or frozen fish included the catch in Mexican waters of United States fishing vessels, but in 1953 and 1954 statistics included only exports of Mexican-caught fish.

Canned spiny lobster has been the third most important export product in recent years. A trade source states that a lobster company in Ensenada, Baja California, is the sole exporter in that area by agreement with the Banco de Fomento Co-operative. Recent average prices of frozen spiny lobsters landed in San Diego are understood to be about 70 U. S. cents per pound. The current wholesale price of fresh lobster in Mexico City varies between 43-55 U. S. cents per pound, according to type and grade.



A typical Mexican shrimp trawler.

A number of new fishing boats are now under construction, particularly in the Ciudad Carmen shrimp area, and proposals to establish freezing, refrigeration, and processing plants in a number of ports are under consideration by the Ministry of Navy and private industry. However, budgetary limitations will probably prevent the Navy from executing any large-scale facilities in the near future.

According to a brief item published in a Mexico City financial newspaper in September 1955, US\$17.1 million will be invested in the construction of five packing, reducing, and dehydrating plants at Manzanillo, Colima. A company is reported to have been formed to operate these important new seafood plants.

This unconfirmed press item stated that the large investment would be financed jointly by public and private capital. But whether this particular project will be realized as stated or not, it is evident that both private investors and government officials believe there are attractive investment opportunities in the processing of seafood in this country.

Note 1: Quantities and values shown are probably minimums because catch and production data are based on declarations for tax purposes.

Note 2: Values were converted to U. S. dollar equivalents as follows: 1954--12.49 pesos equal US\$1; 1953--8.60 pesos equal US\$1.

At least one large canning company sells a "salmon-type" pack in Mexico City at about US\$7.20 a case. This pack consists of yellow-tail and mackerel-type fish.

Outlook: New fishing legislation has been again presented to the 1955 session, but is not expected to be passed this term.

Table 5 - Mexican Imports of Fish and Shellfish, 1953-54

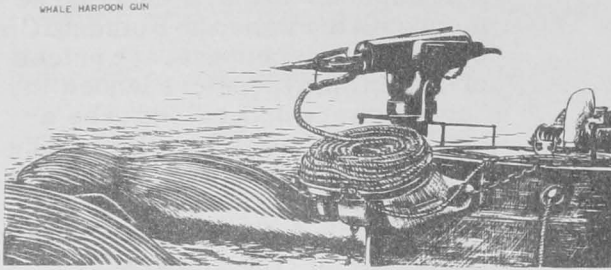
Commodity	Quantity		Value	
	1954	1953	1954	1953
	(1,000 Lbs.)		(Equiv. in US\$1,000)	
Live fish & shellfish. .	33	4	6.1	2.8
Unprocessed fish & shellfish . . . . .	148	152	33.0	44.5
Processed:				
Caviar . . . . .	4	4	6.6	11.5
Salmon, canned . . .	29	46	10.7	20.9
Cod, dried . . . . .	670	1,175	237.3	466.9
Fish, salted or smoked . . . . .	1,508	1,563	404.6	475.9
Shellfish, dried, salted or canned . .	203	173	80.1	88.1
Total Imports . . . . .	2,595	3,117	778.3	1,110.6
Imports from U. S. . .	152	205	46.0	63.7



## Netherlands

**WHALING PRODUCTION, 1954/55:** Production by the only Netherlands firm operating in the Antarctic whaling industry amounted to 10,948 metric tons of oil and other products during the 1954/55 season. The production consisted of 9,827 metric tons of whale oil, valued at US\$234 a ton, and 1,086 metric tons of sperm oil, valued at US\$200 a ton. Miscellaneous products totaled 35 metric tons.

Despite better prices received for the oils during 1954/55 as compared to 1953/54, the total value received amounted to only US\$2.6 million in 1954/55 as compared with US\$3.5 million the previous season. The sharp drop of US\$0.9 million was the result of a poor catch due to bad weather conditions. The nominal profit, therefore, totaled only US\$257,249. In order to cover depreciation and maintenance expenses, as well as Government-guaranteed dividends, payments, and reserves, the Netherlands Government paid to the company a subsidy of US\$1.6 million.



During the 1955/56 Antarctic whaling season, the Netherlands is participating with its new factoryship for the first time. This factoryship, the Willem Barendsz, is the largest ship of the Netherlands merchant marine. It will be accompanied by 18 catchers, as compared with the 12 catchers that took part in the 1954/55 expedition. The total production of oil from the 1954/55 expedition was approximately 12,070 short tons.

To date, 16,535 tons of the 1955/56 production of whale oil has been contracted for in advance; 11,023 tons at US\$217 per short ton and the remaining 5,512 tons at US\$216 per ton. In addition, 2,756 tons of sperm oil have been contracted for at US\$178 per short ton.

The 1954/55 season's first-quality whale oil sold for US\$213 per short ton; the average price for sperm oil was US\$182 per ton.

The catch of the old Willem Barendsz in 1954/55 amounted to 116 blue whales, 601 fin whales, and 3 Greenland whales--a total of 720 whalebone whales plus 128 sperm whales.

Both the numbers of whales and blue-whale units <sup>1/</sup> caught during the 1954/55 season were considerably below those of the previous year. The number of whale units caught was 417, compared with 852.1 in the 1953/54 season. A total number of 413.5 units were processed, compared with 836.7 in the previous season. However, because the extraction was relatively favorable this year, whale-oil production was larger than might have been expected by comparing the whale units processed during the two successive seasons.

<sup>1/</sup> One blue-whale unit is 1 blue whale; 2 fin whales; 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  humpback whales; or 6 Greenland whales.



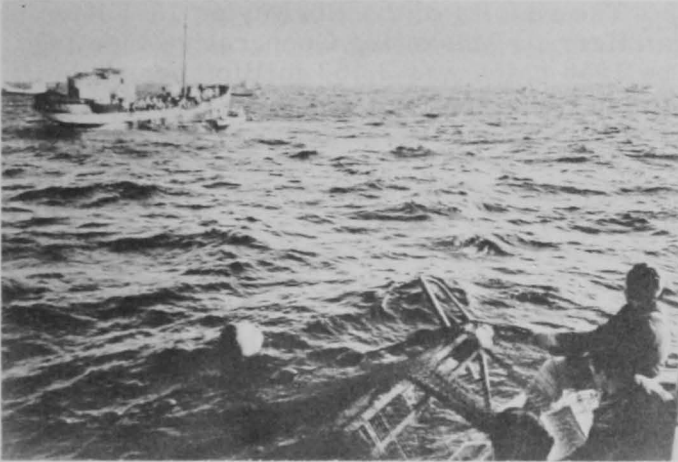
## Norway

FISHERY TRENDS, DECEMBER 1955: Herring: Price negotiations between fishermen and the Fisheries Ministry of Norway for the 1956 herring season have been completed. The guaranteed average landed price for large herring was fixed at about 1.43 U. S. cents per pound and for spring herring at 1.23 U. S. cents per pound, about \$0.2 U. S. cents over 1955.

Cod: Negotiations on minimum cod prices for the 1955/56 season were still under way, according to a dispatch from the United States Embassy at Oslo. It is believed in fishing circles that the price for Lofoten cod will be set at about 5.1 U. S. cents per pound for fish over 16.5 inches long, approximately 1.8 U. S. cents over 1954. Minimum prices for smaller and less valuable grades of cod are expected to be less than the 1954/55 prices in order to compensate for the increase in the price of large cod.

1955 Mackerel Season: It was announced at a meeting of the Norwegian Mackerel Association in December that 10,800 metric tons of mackerel were caught during the 1955 season, an increase of 400 tons over 1954. This is still well below the normal year's catch, estimated by the trade at between 13,000-14,000 tons.

Canned Brisling in 1955: Due to the poor brisling (sardine) catch in the 1955 season, only 247,000 cases had been packed through November 19, 1955, compared with 419,700 cases during the same period of 1954. The season was about over on that date and it has been characterized by the industry as the worst in decades. The canning industry also suffered from less than normal packs of sild sardines and mackerel.



Hauling in the seine--Lofoten cod fishery.

Dried Fish Exports: During 1955, the Conservative press criticized the Government's minimum export pricing system for fish, using the partial loss of the Italian market to Iceland as an example. Although Icelandic sales of dried fish have risen sharply this year, the Norwegians still sell about twice

as much in Italy as the Icelanders. The decline in Norwegian sales to Italy has been relatively small--from 2,067 metric tons in the first seven months of 1954 to 1,853 tons during the same period in 1955. Norwegian exporters point out that their product is still largely competitive due to its high quality.

Guaranteed Wage for Fishermen: The Norwegian Storting has passed a measure to guarantee a weekly wage of about US\$10.50 to herring and cod fishermen. Only fishermen on boats at least 25 feet long with crews of two or more are eligible. A fund of US\$840,000 has been established, to be administered by the Norwegian Fishermen's Association. The export levy on all fish and fish products will be raised 50 percent to cover the costs of establishing the fund. The 1953 and 1954 cod catches were the smallest in years. Wages, based on the individual fisherman's shares and equipment, were very low and the Government was forced to extend US\$420,000 in emergency relief in the Lofoten area in 1954. In 1953, a similar fund was set up, but with a much narrower scope; it applied only to the relatively small number of fishermen on large vessels on trips of at least four weeks' duration. This new fund should go far in alleviating the economic hardship to the fishermen in a poor season.

Loans for Nylon Nets: The Storting in December 1955 appropriated US\$700,000 for loans to fishermen to buy nylon nets. The loan will be made through the State Fisheries Bank at  $3\frac{3}{4}$  percent interest to full-time cod fishermen. The size of the loan may be set by the Bank, and it can cover 75 percent of the cost of the nets, up to US\$14 per net. Nylon nets yield catches up to four times the size of other nets currently in use, but they are far more expensive. The problem of financing by the individual fisherman has been the main stumbling block up to now. The Government considered that loans to individual fishermen was preferable to a subsidy on nylon nets, both for financial reasons and because of its policy to keep the small fisherman competitive with larger enterprises.

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NEW WHALE CATCHER LARGEST EVER BUILT: The Nortreff, just completed at Fredrikstad, Norway, for Norwegian owners, is described as the world's largest

whale catcher. The vessel is 215 feet in over-all length, 33 feet in breadth, and 18 feet 6 inches in depth, reports The Fishing News (November 25, 1955), a British fishery periodical. The gross tonnage of the vessel is 901 tons. The hull and main deckhouse are of steel, but all other superstructure is of aluminum. Total cost of the vessel was about US\$784,000.

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HERRING CATCH LOWER IN 1955: The results of the Norwegian 1955 herring season were announced at the Norwegian Herring Marketing Cooperative meeting in Bergen early in November 1955. The 1955 catch was 2,153 million pounds, valued at US\$29.1 million, compared to the previous year's 2,399 million pounds, valued at US\$29.4 million. In 1955, 1,646 million pounds of large herring and 472 million pounds of spring herring were taken, while the balance consisted of other types of herring, a November 10 United States Embassy dispatch from Oslo points out.

The herring oil and meal industry in 1955 received 1,579 million pounds of herring, corresponding to about 150,000 metric tons of meal and 63,000 tons of oil. Production of these byproducts in 1954 was 170,000 tons and 78,000 tons, respectively. All the 1955 production of herring oil has been sold, mostly to the Norwegian fat supply and canning industry.

Exports of herring for 1955 have been satisfactory in both volume and price terms. The export of iced fresh winter herring increased from 476,000 barrels in 1954 to 688,500 barrels in 1955. The export of frozen herring was the highest on record, with 598,000 cases of large herring and 287,000 cases of spring herring delivered to 17 countries.

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FISHERY BYPRODUCTS PLANTS INSTALL EQUIPMENT TO RECOVER STICK-WATER: Stickwater units, utilizing the waste water from fish and whale reduction, have so far been installed in 40 plants in Norway and abroad, reports the Norwegian Information Service (December 15, 1955). The machinery is supplied by a Norwegian engineering firm at Haugesund, Norway. A unit model of the machinery is on display at the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, New York, N. Y.

These units have been installed aboard all floating whale factoryships at most whaling shore stations, including some in Australia, Peru, and South Africa, reports the firm, which claims that its machinery which recovers the stickwater of fish and whale reduction can boost the yield of fish and whale meal by some 20 percent.



## Peru

NEW WHALING COMPANY FORMED: A new whaling company has been formed in Peru by a combine of French, Norwegian, Panamanian, and Peruvian interests. The new firm will use the Janine (formerly the Anglo Norsk) as the central unit of the fleet.

The company has obtained a permit from the tripartite Commission (Chile, Peru, and Ecuador) to catch whales in the 200-mile zone along the coasts of the three countries. This permit was granted at the meeting of the Commission in Quito, Ecuador, in December 1955. At the meeting it was also decided that the total annual quota for deep-sea whaling in the 200-mile zone will be 2,100 sperm whales. It is believed that it is highly improbable that any licenses will be granted



to nonnationals. At the present time there is no limit placed on the catch of whales from land stations, states a December 28 report from the United States Embassy at Lima.

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DEFENSE OF TERRITORIAL-WATERS CLAIM: La Nacion (Government newspaper) in an editorial on December 12, 1955, on the subject of 200-mile jurisdiction refers to the action of the Organization of American States in calling a special meeting on questions of the continental platform to be held in the Dominican Republic in March of 1956. This convention is described as being one to study and solve economic, jurisdictional and scientific problems related to maritime jurisdiction and defense of the natural resources of the maritime zone.

The editorial refers to the Tripartite Declaration of Santiago of 1952 and its ratification in Lima during the past year by the member countries of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific at its second meeting. The statement is added that "today the third such meeting is taking place in Quito" in order to perfect the regulations signed and ratified by the three countries. In this connection the editorial adds that the thesis of the countries of the South Pacific, originally Peruvian, has been accepted in principle by Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Uruguay, all of which have sent observers to the meeting which begins today in Quito.

The editorial also refers to Peru's action in punishing an international pirate firm, thus protecting Peru's ichthyological resources. Reference is made to the meeting of the International Whaling Convention which subsequently accepted the Norwegian protest against violation of the convention by Onassis, thus confirming the Peruvian thesis.

The editorial continues that at the International Convention at Trujillo there will be a new discussion of the economic aspects of the doctrine of the continental shelf as it has been affected by the technical developments of submarine petroleum deposits. The statement is made that it was the United States which first formulated the doctrine of the continental platform in 1947. Since that date the capacity for exploitation of petroleum resources under the sea has increased and this activity can now be carried on in greater depths and at greater distances from the coast. Thus, the editorial claims, economic aspects support the thesis of the 200 miles as well as the necessity of conserving fish resources. Furthermore the concepts of national defense have changed, making antiquated the former concepts of marine jurisdiction. All of these facts make it necessary to change the concept of marine jurisdiction. The editorial concludes by saying that the most important point is that any change in principles should benefit equally and fairly all the countries of the continent, and therefore one may be confident of the unanimous acceptance of the Peruvian thesis in the coming Inter-American conference regarding the continental platform.



### Portugal

FISHERIES TRENDS, AUGUST 1955: Sardine Fishing: During August 1955 the sardine fishing was good both in terms of tonnage and value, states the November 1955 Conservas de Peixe, a Portuguese trade periodical. Fishermen landed 13,593 metric tons of sardines (ex-vessel value US\$1,665,000) as compared with landings of 12,834 tons (value US\$995,000) in August 1954. The canners purchased 8,356 tons of the total at a cost of US\$1,102,000. The balance of 5,236 tons was used for

local consumption. The port of Matosinhos with 58.6 percent of the total landings led all others in the landings of sardines in August, followed by Portimao with 13.5 percent. Prices paid to the fishermen in August for sardines were about 5.5 U. S. cents per pound as compared with about 3.5 U. S. cents in August 1954.

Other Fishing: January-August landings of other fish were: tuna 1,332 tons (ex-vessel value US\$379,200), bonito 13.4 tons (value US\$17,217), mackerel 4,075 tons (value US\$501,183), anchovies 3,528 tons (value US\$690,817), and chinchard 20,574 tons (value US\$1,262,957).

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FISHERIES TRENDS FOR 1955--CORRECTION: In the October 1955 issue of Commercial Fisheries Review, page 100, the last paragraph of the item titled "FISHERIES TRENDS FOR 1955" was incomplete. It should have read as follows:

Modernization of the cod fleet and the addition of new and larger units contributed to the larger catch in 1954 and 1955. The Portuguese cod fleet in 1937 comprised 51 small sailing ships, totaling 17,300 gross tons. The fleet now aggregates approximately 70,000 gross tons, with a total complement of 5,000, which is more than triple the 1937 total. Despite the increase in Portuguese cod consumption since 1937, when population increased by more than a million, imports of cod (34,945 metric tons in 1937) decreased in 1954 to 13,548 metric tons, valued at 105 million escudos (US\$3,700,000).

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CANNED FISH PACK, JANUARY-JUNE 1955: The supply of fish available to the Portuguese canners during June 1955 was good and the pack included 1,831 metric tons (94,400 cases) of sardines in oil or sauce. The total pack of all canned fish from Jan.-June 1955 was 9,897 tons of which 5,779 tons were sardines in oil or sauce, according to the November 1955 Conservas de Peixe.

Product	Net Weight		Canners' Value		Product	Net Weight		Canners' Value	
	Metric Tons	1,000 US\$	Metric Tons	1,000 US\$		Metric Tons	1,000 US\$	Metric Tons	1,000 US\$
Sardines in brine . . . . .	398	60			Tuna in brine . . . . .	12	6		
Sardines in olive oil or sauce . . . . .	5,779	3,097			Tuna in olive oil . . . . .	487	415		
Sardinelike fish in brine . . . . .	658	198			Tunalike fish in olive oil . . . . .	73	45		
Sardinelike fish in oil . . . . .	1,235	673			Other species (including shellfish) . . . . .	480	250		
Anchovies, rolled & fillets . . . . .	775	819			Total . . . . .	9,897	5,563		
(Continued in opposite column)									
Note: Values converted to US\$ equivalent on the basis of 28.75 escudos equal US\$1.									

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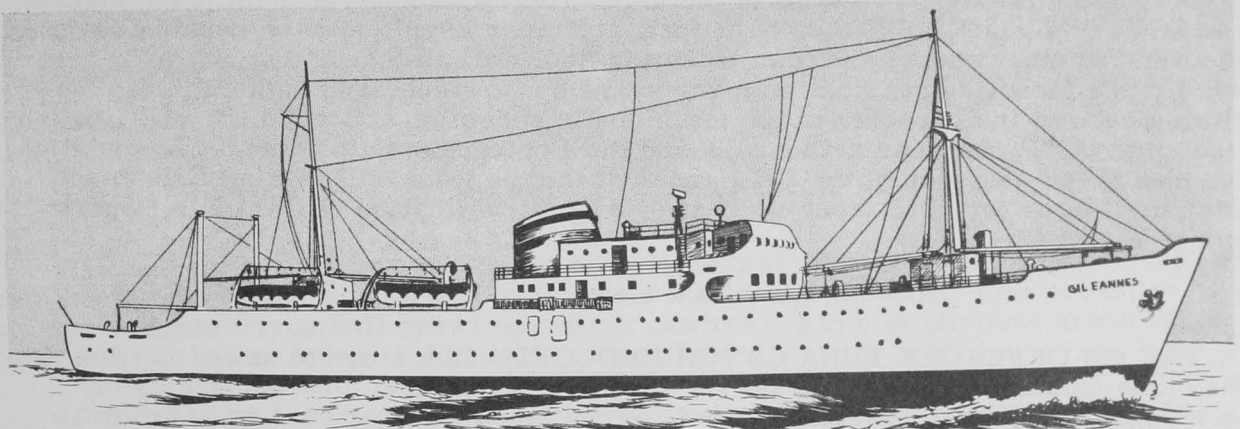
CANNED FISH EXPORTS, JANUARY-AUGUST 1955: Portuguese canned fish exports totaled 5,385 metric tons (283,400 cases), valued at US\$2.7 million, during August 1955; and 37,505 tons, valued at US\$19.1 million, during January-August 1955.

Species	Aug. 1955		Jan.-Aug. 1955		Species	Aug. 1955		Jan.-Aug. 1955	
	Metric Tons	1,000 US\$	Metric Tons	1,000 US\$		Metric Tons	1,000 US\$	Metric Tons	1,000 US\$
Sardines in olive oil . . . . .	4,069	1,919	29,855	14,622	Tuna & tunalike in olive oil . . . . .	209	151	1,431	1,060
Sardinelike fish in olive oil . . . . .	480	329	3,149	2,110	Tuna & tunalike in brine . . . . .	79	46	496	256
Sardines & sardinelike fish in brine . . . . .	264	59	1,291	247	Mackerel in olive oil . . . . .	267	152	851	533
(Total in opposite column)					Other fish . . . . .	17	11	432	239
					Total . . . . .	5,385	2,667	37,505	19,067

Portugal's export of canned fish in August 1955 maintained the high level of previous months, according to Conservas de Peixe, November 1955. During January-August 1955 Germany continued as the leading receiver with US\$3.5 million of canned fish (principally sardines in oil), followed by Italy with US\$3.2 million (principally sardines and tuna), Great Britain with US\$2.5 million, and the United States with US\$2.2 million, principally 1,752 tons of sardines in oil or sauce, 10 tons of tuna and tunalike fish in oil, and 1,118 tons of anchovies.

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SERVICES OF HOSPITAL SHIP OFFERED TO CANADIAN FISHERMEN: For close to five centuries Portuguese fishermen have been reaping rich rewards from the prolific cod banks off Canada's east coast, receiving a warm welcome and using facilities available at Canadian ports. Reciprocating this favorable treatment, the



Gil Eannes, new Portuguese hospital ship for cod fishing fleets in the North Atlantic.

Portuguese are sharing with Canadian deep-sea fishermen the medical and other assistance provided by a deluxe hospital ship which each year spends five months in Newfoundland and Greenland waters with Portugal's cod-fishing fleet.

This assistance will be given by the Gil Eannes, mothership of the Portuguese cod-fishing fleet, which was launched in 1955 and made her maiden voyage to the Northwest Atlantic in May 1955. Advice that such aid would be provided free of charge to Canadian nationals was recently tendered the Canadian Department of External Affairs by the Portuguese Embassy in Ottawa. It will be of particular importance to fishermen operating on the Grand Banks where the Portuguese fleet obtains a large share of its catch.

The Portuguese cod-fishing voyages are conducted by both draggers using otter trawls and the picturesque white-hulled bankers which employ the traditional line gear in trawling from dories. The draggers, numbering about 25, leave for the western waters in February and the dory trawlers, totaling some 45, in April. All told, they carry a complement of approximately 5,000 men.

To assist them throughout the voyage, the Government of Portugal sends a mothership as a guarantee to the fishermen that they will not be abandoned during the voyage. In previous years that assistance was given by warships and later a merchant ship was transformed into a hospital ship and named the Gil Eannes. As this ship was growing too old for the purpose a new ship was especially built for this work and also named the Gil Eannes.

The hospital ship joins the fishing fleet on the Grand Banks in May and accompanies it in June when most of the vessels sail north for the waters off Greenland.

Many of the vessels, with the Gil Eannes, subsequently return to the Grand Banks in September for further fishing, and leave for their home ports during the early part of October.

Hospital facilities on the Gil Eannes include two well-equipped operating rooms, up-to-date therapeutical appliances, two isolation wards, and a glass-partitioned general ward with beds for 74 patients. In addition to the staff of doctors and male nurses aboard the ship, there are also a number of trained personnel distributed throughout the fleet who are available for service when called upon. The Gil Eannes is also the focal point of the fleet mail service and for the distribution of general supplies. The vessel is especially designed for the role of mothership and the sight of her gleaming white hull, sailing among the fishing vessels, strikes a note of confidence in the men.

During the fishing season all of the ships visit St. John's at least once, some on several occasions, to take on bait, fuel, and other supplies, have repairs made and attend to other chores that can be better done ashore than afloat. It is in gratitude for the facilities granted for many years by Newfoundland authorities to the fishing fleet and in appreciation for the friendly reception accorded the visiting fishermen that the Portuguese authorities and the Portuguese Ship Owners' Association have placed the services of the Gil Eannes at the disposal of Canadian fishermen, states the November 1955 issue of Trade News, a publication of Canada's Department of Fisheries.

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TAX ON OFFSHORE TUNA CATCH REDUCED: In a move to assist the Portuguese tuna canning industry, the tax on the catch of tuna and tunalike fish by off-shore vessels has been reduced by the Government from 7 percent ad valorem to about US\$1.23 a metric ton. This new rate will apply only to the September 1955-April 1956 season, states a November 25, 1955, dispatch from the United States Embassy at Lisbon.

Replacement of the ad valorem rate by the lower rate is designed to enable off-shore tuna-fishing vessels to sell the catch profitably in the domestic market for canning or for export as frozen tuna. Heretofore, the relatively high ad valorem rate usually forced operators of seagoing-tuna vessels to sell their catch in foreign markets, chiefly in Italy. Sales of frozen tuna direct to foreign markets by operators of the two seagoing Portuguese fishing vessels which are known to have sold tuna abroad in 1954 totaled 958 metric tons, all of which was sold in Italy. Frozen fish landed in Portugal in 1954 and later exported to foreign countries and to the Portuguese overseas territories in that year totaled 625 metric tons.

The two fishing vessels which will apparently benefit from the new tax reduction are both converted Diesel-engined submarine chasers of 840 gross tons each, operated from the port of Aveiro near Oporto. Both vessels have refrigeration facilities, radio, modern depth-sounding equipment, and gyrocompasses.

The new tax measure includes provisions authorizing the establishment of cold-storage facilities ashore in the Azores Islands for the tuna catch, and regulations covering customs control of the catch.



## South-West Africa

PILCHARD-MAASBANKER FISHERY: The South-West Africa annual catch quota of 250,000 short tons for the pilchard-maasbanker fishery is allocated to commercial fishing companies on the basis of their annual intake of raw fish. Four companies have an annual allotment of 45,000 tons each, and these same companies are able to process 30 tons of fish an hour for the production of fish meal. Two other companies have an annual quota of 35,000 tons each and are able to process 20 tons of fish an hour for fish meal.

The 1956 pilchard-maasbanker fishery season in South-West Africa will be changed, reports a November 28, 1955, United States consular dispatch from Cape Town. The season formerly was from February 1 until November 30, provided the quota of 250,000 tons had been caught, and if the quota had not been caught, fishing continued until the quota had been reached. Effective January 1, 1956, fishing in South-West Africa will not begin until March 1 and will continue until November 30 or until such time as the fishing quota is attained.



## Thailand

SHRIMP FISHERIES: The Thai shrimp fishery at present is confined to shore and estuaries of the Gulf of Siam and to Lagoons bordering the Gulf. One recently-started Japanese-type bull-trawl operation catches shrimp in offshore areas of the Gulf; this operation being incidental to other fishing.

While shrimp fishing is scattered extensively throughout the coast, principal fishing areas at present are: (a) off the mouth of the Menam Chao Phya; and (b) at Songkhla within the Inland Sea (Thale Luang) and its outlet to the Gulf.

The Chao Phya fishery is conducted during the dry season--February to June or July by approximately 100 small boats of no regular type (sampans and other small craft many of which are powered by semi-Diesel or Diesel engines). Each of these boats employ one or two small locally-made beam trawls, reports the United States Embassy at Bangkok in a December 7 dispatch.

The Songkhla fishing is carried on throughout the year by cast nets, beach seining, and traps. No trawls are used.

There are no canneries engaged in packing shrimp, but shrimp drying and shrimp-paste manufacture is important and very widespread. Although freezer space is available, no shrimp are frozen and there is no commerce in this product. Shrimp-flavored chips (Krupoek) are manufactured in considerable quantity for local use.

There are no reliable data on which to base production figures, but it is believed that the total catch (all types of shrimp for all purposes) is at least 44 million pounds annually with production definitely increasing.

Many species make up the commercial catches. For shrimp paste, very small types (Acetes sp.) almost planktonic in size are used. The largest shrimp, a Pen-eid type, runs 4 or 5 per pound heads on. In between are other species of varying sizes.

No official figures are available concerning export movements of shrimp or shrimp products. Fresh or iced shipments are very small and are made only occasionally to Malaya from areas near that territory. No frozen shrimp and no

canned shrimps produced or exported. Exports of dried shrimp are made to neighboring countries and to Hong Kong. The quantity of such exports being estimated at 1.1 million pounds a year. There are probably small exports of shrimp paste (Kapi) to countries bordering on Thailand.



## Union of South Africa

**FISHERY TRENDS, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1955:** Production of fish in South African waters was disappointing in October and November 1955 and the pack of canned fish (which enjoys a firm market overseas) has been low. According to a Cape Town fishery firm, catch of pilchards is still about 13,000 short tons below the annual quota of 250,000 tons for the Union of South Africa.

It is understood that the output of fish meal and fish oil in the Union of South Africa also has been affected by poor fishing. Only a limited amount of fish meal has been sold on overseas markets, and at high prices.

The production of spiny lobster, however, has been considered satisfactory by the local trade, but with a strong overseas demand for canned and frozen packs, stocks of this commodity held by local fishing companies reportedly remain low.



## Venezuela

**JAPANESE TUNA LONG-LINER STARTS FISHING:** The Venezuelan-Japanese company tuna long-liner Bozo Maru operated by the Japanese started fishing on December 14, 1955, according to Nippon Suisan Shimbun, a Japanese trade publication. The United States Embassy at Caracas reported on November 8, 1955, that the Bozo Maru would operate off the Island of La Blanquilla.




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