



# FEDERAL ACTIONS



## Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

#### ALASKA 1956 HERRING CATCH QUOTA RAISED:

Improved conditions in the herring fishery of southeastern Alaska will permit the catch quota for reduction purposes to be increased to 17,500 tons (140,000 barrels) during the 1956 fishing season, the Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced February 16 in an amendment to the Alaska commercial fishing regulations. In 1955, the catch quota was limited to 100,000 barrels.

Of the 1956 total of 17,500 tons, a limit of 6,250 tons (50,000 barrels) will be permitted from the important Sitka populations. In addition, two small areas that were previously closed to fishing will be opened this year for the taking of herring for use as bait. One of these areas is in Silver Bay, at Sitka; the other at Fish Egg Island, at Craig. In each area herring fishing is restricted to a take of 125 short tons for bait purposes.

There is no change in the regulations for Prince William Sound and Kodiak.

The Director stated that Service biologists report that Alaska herring are increasing from their low numbers of past years. Natural conditions in Alaskan waters during the past 3 or 4 years have been favorable for the growth of herring, as a result of which an increase in the 1956 supply is indicated. After several public hearings and meetings in Alaska, at which recommendations by interested persons and the findings of Service biologists were discussed, substantial public support of the Service's proposals was voiced.

The Service's proposals for 1956 will prepare the stage for further research to test the effects of fishing on the conservation of Alaska herring by setting aside the Juneau herring population for study purposes. Purse-seining of these fish, except for bait, will be prohibited.

At the same time the Service is allowing limited fishing on the Sitka, Craig, and Ketchikan herring stocks. Careful studies of spawning and population growth will point up the effects on the fishery.

The five-year study program will be carried out with the active participation of herring fishermen, Alaska salmon trollers, and herring bait fishermen. By the end of that time, the southeastern Alaska herring catch will be on a maximum sustained yield basis, insuring the proper conservation of this valuable species.



## Eighty-Fourth Congress (Second Session)

Public bills and resolutions that directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries are listed--they are shown when introduced; then from month to month the more pertinent reports, hearings, or chamber actions on the bills listed are indicated; and bills, if passed, are then shown again when signed by the President.



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NATIONAL POLICY: H. R. 9552 (King of California) introduced in the House February 27; a bill to establish a sound and comprehensive national

policy with respect to the development, conservation for preservation, management, and use of fisheries resources, to create and prescribe the functions of the United States Fish Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Also H. R. 9700 (Pelly), 3/1/56, similar to H. R. 9552; both H. R. 9552 and H. R. 9700 are similar to S. 3275. See Commercial Fisheries Review, March 1955, p. 53.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT AMENDMENT: H. R. 8553 (Roosevelt), a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, introduced in the House January 17. Provides greater coverage for employees of food industries whose activities affect interstate commerce than does the now existing Act. This bill proposes to extend coverage to those persons in industries engaged in "activities affecting commerce." As stated in section 3, (p) of H. R. 8553, "activities affecting commerce" includes any activity in commerce necessary to commerce or competing with any activity in commerce, or where the payment of wages at rates below those prescribed by this Act would burden or obstruct or tend to burden or obstruct commerce or the free flow of commerce." In addition, H. R. 8553 would have a specific effect on the fishing industry of the United States. Certain exemptions from the minimum wage provisions and maximum hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, are removed by this Bill. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 is amended by H. R. 8553 by striking out subparagraph 5 of section 13 (a) which provides wage and hour exemptions for "any employee employed in the catching, taking, harvesting, cultivating, or farming of any kind of fish, shellfish, crustacea, sponges, seaweeds, or other aquatic forms of animal and vegetable life, including the going to and returning from work and including employment in the loading, unloading, or packing of such products for shipment or in propagating, processing (other than canning), marketing, freezing, curing, storing, or distributing the above products or byproducts thereof;" The Fair Labor Standards Act is further amended by striking out subparagraph (4) of section 13(b), which provides "any employee employed in the canning of any kind of fish, shellfish, or other aquatic forms of animal or vegetable life, or any byproduct thereof: "be exempt from the maximum hours provisions of the Act. Should the amendments provided by H. R. 8553 be put into effect, all

phases of the fishing industry would be covered by the minimum wage rate of \$1 which goes into effect March 1, 1956, and it would be necessary to compensate all employees in the fishing industry at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate for a workweek longer than forty hours, or a workday longer than eight hours.

February 29: S. 3310 (Mc Namara) introduced in the Senate and similar to H. R. 8553.

FISHERIES STABILIZATION CORPORATION: S. 3339 (Magnuson and Kuchel) introduced in the Senate March 1; a bill to provide for the stabilization of the domestic fisheries industry in the United States through the creation of a Fisheries Stabilization Corporation, to bring about a better balance flow of fish and shellfish and the products thereof in interstate and foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The Corporation provided for by this bill would be authorized to take steps to stabilize and revive the fishing industry through the making of loans to fishermen for boats and gear and to fish processors and others engaged in any phase of fisheries activities. The Corporation would have a capital of \$5 million fully subscribed by the Federal Government, and it would be authorized to issue bonds to obtain additional funds to carry on its work.

IMPORT QUOTAS: H. R. 9563 (Mollohan) introduced in the House February 27; a bill to regulate the foreign commerce of the United States by establishing import quotas under specified conditions and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means. Similar to 12 other companion bills introduced in the House.

NATIONAL FISH WEEK: Senate Committee on the Judiciary on February 27 indefinitely postponed further action on S. J. Res. 89, designating the period October 3-8, 1955, as National Fish Week. This resolution was introduced in the First Session of this Congress.

WATER POLLUTION: H. R. 9540 (Blatnik) introduced in the House February 27; a bill to extend and strengthen the Water Pollution Control Act; to the Committee on Public Works. Similar to several other bills introduced into the House.



### TRAMMEL NETS

Trammel nets are similar to gill nets, but have two or three walls of netting instead of one. They are sometimes called "tangle nets." Two or three sheets of netting are suspended from a common cork line and attached to a common bottom, or lead line. The outer nets are of fine mesh, loosely hung, while the inner guard nets are usually of much larger meshes. They are so constructed that a fish striking from either side pushes the fine-mesh net through the large meshes and is entrapped in a pocket. Fish caught in trammel nets are often alive when picked up, and may be of superior quality for this reason.

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