



# FEDERAL ACTIONS



## Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

#### ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS REVISED:

Extensive revisions of the annual commercial fishing regulations for the 1956 season in Alaska were announced March 19 by the U. S. Department of the Interior. The regulations will be effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.



Salmon trollers off Ketchikan, Alaska.

Although most of the revisions were characterized by the Acting Secretary as "noncontroversial," he emphasized that five important changes will be in effect during the 1956 season. These he listed as follows:

1. Registration and limitation of fishing boats to one operating area to be selected by the operator;
2. Control of fishing on the high seas off the Alaska coast by United States nationals;
3. Limitation on the days per week of fishing in the Bristol Bay area, depending upon the number of units of gear operating;

4. Temporary closure during 1956 of 15 trap sites in the Prince William Sound area; and

5. Continuation during 1956 of the pink salmon restoration program in south-eastern Alaska involving temporary closure of traps accounting for 50 percent of the trap catch of the area, and closure of extensive seine areas in the immediate vicinity of important salmon streams.

The last three changes which refer only to fishing in territorial waters are incorporated in the revised regulations announced March 19. At the same time the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a "notice of intention" concerning the other two items. This was done to put the industry and fishermen on notice that such regulations would be issued at a later date, to be effective in 1956. Since these changes represent radical departure from established procedures in regulating the Alaska commercial fisheries, more time is required by the Service for study and review before issuance.

The first of these new regulations--so-called "area licensing"--will deal with limitation as to place of operation by fishing boats in Alaskan waters. Although previously untested in Alaska, this has been under study for the past five years and has been discussed at public fisheries hearings in Alaska and Seattle, Wash. Authorities on fisheries management concede that area licensing offers the most promise in solving the problem of spreading the fishing effort so that the proper balance between escapement and catch is maintained.

The second proposed regulation, designed to control fishing by United States nationals on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea adjacent to Alaskan waters, awaits the consideration and approval of the American sec-

tion of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission. The Commission has requested such a regulation. The purpose of the regulation is to prevent development of an American high-seas salmon fishery which would intercept the Alaskan salmon runs before they reach waters now under regulation. It has been demonstrated that salmon can be taken in commercial quantities on the high seas to such an extent that protective measures imposed within territorial limits could be nullified.

The proposed limitation on fishing time in Bristol Bay is somewhat different than it has been in the past. This year the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has included in the regulations a table showing the allowable number of days fishing each week with varying numbers of units of gear in operation. This will permit the operators to make more orderly plans for consolidation so as to tailor their operations to the number of fishing days per week they desire. The regulations will require registration of drift and set nets to be operated in each district 30 days before the fishing season opens by 6 p. m. Friday for the following week and each week thereafter.

Prince William Sound, which has been closed to pink salmon fishing for two years, will reopen this year. The operators have voluntarily offered to surrender 15 trap sites for 1956 which otherwise would be fished. Since this closure is in the interest of conservation and is similar, although less drastic than the trap-curtailment program in southeastern Alaska, it has been incorporated into the regulations for 1956.

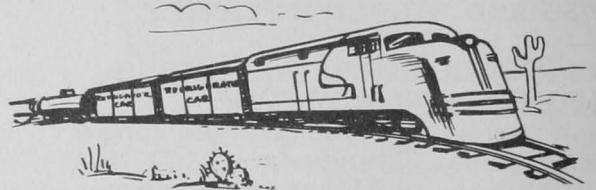
The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that definite gains have been achieved by the restoration program imposed on the southeastern Alaska pink salmon fishery in 1954 and 1955. The spawning escapements in both years were better than in the parent years but still not adequate to restore the runs fully. There is almost unanimous agreement that the restoration program should be continued at least through 1956.



## Interstate Commerce Commission

### FREIGHT-RATE INCREASES GRANTED:

The Interstate Commerce Commission granted another round of increases in freight rates in March 1956 to help the carriers meet increased wages and other operating costs. Early in 1956 the railroads filed a petition for a 7-percent increase and almost all other carriers



joined in the request. After hearings in the railroads' case, the I. C. C. granted a 6-percent increase in rail freight except for canned foods. The new rates for canned foods, including fish, were limited to a maximum of 6 cents a pound or about 3 to 4 percent.

Table 1 - Example of Freight Rates Per 100 Pounds of Fresh or Frozen Fish

	Before Increase	After Increase
Any Pacific Coast Railroad Terminal to New York City or Boston . . . .	\$3.16	\$3.35
Any Pacific Coast Railroad Terminal to Chicago . . . . .	2.01	2.13

Shortly thereafter the I. C. C. permitted for certain areas west of the Mississippi River a truck rate increase of 6 percent to go into effect without hearings, although many protests were filed.

Table 2 - Example of Freight Rates Per 100 Pounds of Canned Fish

	Before Increase	After Increase
Any Pacific Coast Railroad Terminal to New York City or Boston . . . .	\$1.76	\$1.82
Any Pacific Coast Railroad Terminal to Chicago . . . . .	1.49	1.55

The effective date of most of these increases was March 7. No increases were granted in carload refrigeration charges. Furthermore, the 15-percent increase in refrigeration charges recently granted the railroads, after a two-year fight, have not yet been published. Petitions have been filed with the I. C. C. seeking postponement and reconsideration of their decision.

The Railway Express Agency asked the Commission for a 7-percent increase effective March 20, but only for its first- and second-class rates. In addition, the increase would apply on return insulated containers and C.O.D. charges, effective April 2. No increase has been requested at this time on commodity-rate traffic, minimum charges therefor, or re-icing charges.



## White House

### CANNED TUNA IN BRINE IMPORT DUTY ADJUSTED:

An increase in the import duty of canned tuna in brine from 12½ percent to 25 percent ad valorem for such imports exceeding 20 percent of the previous year's United States pack of canned tuna is provided for in a Presidential proclamation signed March 16, 1956.



Canning tuna

The proclamation gives effect to an exchange of notes with Iceland which withdraws tuna canned in brine from the 1943 trade agreement with that country and to an invocation of the right reserved by the United States in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to increase the duty on tuna canned in brine.

In any calendar year the increased duty would apply only to those imports in excess of the stated 20 percent and only for the remainder of that year. Imports in any year up to the 20-percent breakpoint would be subject to the 12½ percent ad valorem rate. Because the President's proclamation will become effective on April 14, 1956, it provides that the increased rate of duty will apply this year if and when imports of tuna canned in brine after the April 14 date exceed 15 percent of last year's domestic pack of canned tuna. The quantity of

tuna canned in brine which may enter in 1956 after April 14 at the reduced rate of duty is estimated to be about 28,757,000 pounds.

In the 1955 trade agreement negotiations involving Japan's accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the United States agreed not to increase the existing rate of 12½ percent ad valorem applying to imports of tuna canned in brine, subject to the reservation of a right to impose a higher rate of duty on imports in any calendar year in excess of 20 percent of the domestic pack of canned tuna during the preceding year. This reservation has now been invoked.

Because annual imports of tuna canned in brine are not at present amounting to 20 percent of the domestic tuna pack, no immediate application of the increased duty will follow upon the President's action, a March 17 news release from the White House announces.

During the calendar year 1955, imports of tuna canned in brine totaled 34 million pounds. These imports were about 18 percent of the United States pack of canned tuna as reported by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The United States pack includes Puerto Rico and Hawaii, but excludes American Samoa.

In the 1943 trade agreement with Iceland, the United States reduced the duty on certain miscellaneous canned fish which were not packed in oil or in oil and other substances, dutiable under tariff paragraph 718(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. This concession was intended primarily to cover certain specialty canned fish produced in Iceland. When tuna canned in brine became an article of trade, United States imports were classified under the item of Paragraph 718(b) subject to the reduced rate of the Icelandic agreement.

Tuna canned in brine is a relatively new product, its production being stimulated to take advantage of the lower rate of the Icelandic concession and particularly in response to the change in duty on tuna canned in oil from 22½ percent to 45 percent at the termination of the Mexican trade agreement effective Jan-



uary 1, 1951. There is very little domestic production of tuna canned in brine.

In the 1955 trade agreement negotiations with Japan and other countries under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the United States agreed not to increase the existing rate of 12½ percent ad valorem applying to imports of tuna canned in brine subject, however, to a reservation of the right to impose a higher rate of duty on imports in any

year in excess of 20 percent of the previous year's domestic pack.

The withdrawal of this item from the Icelandic agreement in no way affects the concession granted on other fish items of primary interest to Iceland. United States imports of tuna canned in brine in 1955 came principally from Japan, other suppliers were Peru, Azores, Portugal, Angola.

TERMINATING IN PART THE ICELANDIC TRADE AGREEMENT PROCLAMATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTING PROCLAMATION NO. 3105 OF JULY 22, 1955

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

1. WHEREAS, under authority of section 350(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, the President on August 27, 1943, entered into a trade agreement with the Regent of Iceland, including two schedules annexed thereto (57 Stat. 1076), and by proclamation of September 30, 1943 (57 Stat. 1075), he proclaimed the said trade agreement, which proclamation has been supplemented by proclamation of October 22, 1943 (57 Stat. 1098);

2. WHEREAS item 718(b) of Schedule II of the said trade agreement reads as follows:

United States Tariff Act of 1930 Paragraph	Description of Article	Rate of Duty
718(b)	Fish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in air-tight containers weighing with their contents not more than fifteen pounds each (except fish packed in oil or in oil and other substances): "Any of the foregoing (except herring, smoked or kippered or in tomato sauce, packed in immediate containers weighing with their contents more than one pound each, and except salmon and anchovies)	12 1/2% ad valorem"

3. WHEREAS the Government of the United States and the Government of Iceland by an exchange of notes dated March 5 and 6, 1956, have agreed to the withdrawal, effective April 14, 1956, of tuna from said item 718(b), with the result that the said item shall thereafter read as follows:

United States Tariff Act of 1930 Paragraph	Description of Article	Rate of Duty
718(b)	Fish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in airtight containers weighing with their contents not more than fifteen pounds each (except fish packed in oil or in oil and other substances; except herring, smoked or kippered or in tomato sauce, packed in immediate containers weighing with their contents more than one pound each; and except salmon, anchovies, and tuna)	12 1/2% ad valorem

4. WHEREAS, under the authority of the said section 350(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, the President on June 8, 1955, entered into a trade agreement providing for the accession of Japan to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which trade agreement consists of the Protocol of Terms of Accession of Japan to the General Agreement, including Schedule XX contained in Annex A thereto, and by Proclamation No. 3105 of July 22, 1955 (20 F.R. 5379), he proclaimed the said trade agreement, which proclamation was supplemented by a notification of August 22, 1955 from the President to the Secretary of the Treasury (20 F.R. 6211);

5. WHEREAS item 718(b) in Part I of the said Schedule XX reads as follows:

"Tariff Act of 1930 paragraph	Description of Products	Rate of Duty
"718(b)	Fish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in air-tight containers weighing with their contents not more than 15 pounds each (except fish packed in oil or in oil and other substances): "Tuna . . . . . "NOTE: The United States reserves the right to increase the rate of duty on fish of the foregoing description which are entered in any calendar year in excess of an aggregate quantity equal to 20 per centum of the United States pack of canned tuna fish during the immediately preceding calendar year, as reported by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.;"	12-1/2% ad val.

6. WHEREAS on March 16, 1956 the Government of the United States notified the Executive Secretary to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade that it invoked the reservation contained in the note to the said item 718(b) set forth in the fifth recital of this proclamation, effective April 14, 1956; and

7. WHEREAS the first general note to the said Schedule XX specified in the fourth recital of this proclamation provides that the provisions of that schedule are subject to the following general note to Schedule XX to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, of October 30, 1947 (61 Stat. (pt. 5) A1362):

"4. If any tariff quota provided for in this Schedule, other than those provided for in items 771, becomes effective after the beginning of a period specified as the quota year, the quantity of the quota product entitled to enter under the quota during the unexpired portion of the quota year shall be the annual quota quantity less 1/12 thereof for each full calendar month that has expired in such period."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, President of the United States of America, acting under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes, including the said section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, do proclaim as follows:

Part I

In accordance with the exchange of notes specified in the third recital of this proclamation, I hereby terminate in part the proclamations of September 30, 1943, and October 22, 1943, referred to in the first recital of this proclamation, insofar as such proclamations apply to tuna provided for in the said item 718(b) set forth in the second recital of this proclamation, such termination to be effective at the close of business on April 14, 1956, with the result that the rate of duty specified in the said item 718(b) shall thereafter apply only to the articles provided for in the said item as set forth in the third recital of this proclamation.

Part II

In accordance with the notification specified in the sixth recital of this proclamation I hereby terminate in part, effective at the close of business on April 14, 1956, the said proclamation of July 22, 1955, and the said notification of August 22, 1955, referred to in the fourth recital, insofar as such proclamation and notification apply to tuna provided for in the said item 718(b) set forth in the fifth recital which are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption in the

calendar year 1956 after April 14, 1956 in excess of an aggregate quantity equal to 15 per centum of the United States pack of canned tuna during the calendar year 1955, as reported by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and in any calendar year after 1956 in excess of an aggregate quantity equal to 20 per centum of the United States pack of canned tuna fish during the immediately preceding calendar year, as so reported, with the result that such tuna in excess of such 15 or 20 per centum of the United States pack shall be dutiable at 25 per centum ad valorem, the full rate provided for in paragraph 716(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (46 Stat. (pt. 1) 633).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eightieth.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

By the President:

Herbert Hoover, Jr.

Acting Secretary of State.

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## Eighty-Fourth Congress (Second Session)

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

**GREAT LAKES FISHERIES TREATY:** S. 3347 (Thye, Potter, and Wiley) introduced in the Senate March 14, a bill to give effect to the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries signed at Washington, September 10, 1954, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Also S. 3524 (Magnuson) introduced March 23; and H. R. 9951 (Bonner), H. R. 9958 (Davidson), H. R. 10,001 (Rabaut), all introduced March 15; all similar to S. 3347.

**TRANSPORTATION TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN FISHERY PRODUCTS:** H. R. 9912 (McCarthy) introduced in the House March 13, 1956; a bill to exempt certain livestock, fish (including shellfish), and agricultural commodities from the tax on the transportation of property. The bill does not include manufactured products.

**TRADE COOPERATION ORGANIZATION:** House Committee on Ways and Means on March 26 ordered favorably reported, with amendments H. R. 5550, authorizing the President to accept membership on behalf of the United States in the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

**TRUCK TRIP LEASING:** Senate March 28 passed with amendments S. 898, to amend the Interstate Commerce Act with respect to the authority of the ICC to regulate the use by motor carriers of motor vehicles not owned by them, after adopting committee amendments, one with an amendment by Senator Magnuson exempting from certain regulation farmers' or cooperatives' trucks which are used regularly in transportation of processed or manufactured perishable products. The amendment provides that the trip-leasing benefits are available to a private carrier whose truck is used "regularly in the transportation of processed or manufactured perishable commodities of the character referred to in section 203(b)(6)." Section 203(b)(6) is the section of the Interstate Commerce Act that interprets the term agricultural commodities and exempts agricultural products, including livestock, poultry, and fish. So the amendment would extend the benefits of trip leasing to private carriers who transport processed or manufactured perishable products from agricultural commodities, livestock, fish, or poultry. In other words, a private carrier who uses his equipment regularly to haul dressed poultry, dressed meat, milk, butter, fish or similar perishables processed or manufactured from agricultural commodities could trip lease home in accordance with the provisions of the bill. The Interstate Commerce Commission about 5 years ago indicated that it would not permit the practice of trip leasing to continue, and it issued order MC-43, which provided that as of a certain date trip leasing would not be permitted unless the person who trip leased his truck to a particular carrier did so for a period of 30 days or more. S. 898 sets aside this ICC order.



### DRYING FISH BY INFRARED LAMPS

The Experimental Fisheries Station, Tateyama, Japan, has been using batteries of infrared lamps to dry fish at 40° to 45° C. (104°-113° F.). The drying takes two hours and can be accelerated by circulation of air. The final product is said to be free from odors produced by the conventional methods.

--Industria Conservera, April 1953.