



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Federal Trade Commission

COMPLAINTS ISSUED AGAINST FOUR SALMON PACKERS ON ALLEGED ILLEGAL BROKERAGE PAYMENTS:

Attacking selling practices in the canned salmon industry, the Federal Trade Commission on October 21, 1957, issued four complaints (6904, 6905, 6906, 6907, Canned Salmon) against four Seattle, Wash., packers alleging illegal brokerage payments were made to some customers.

The complaints charge the packers with granting large grocery chains discounts or allowances in lieu of brokerage in violation of Sec. 2(c) of the Clayton Act, as amended by the Robinson-Patman Act.

The complaints allege, among other things, that on direct sales which do not involve brokers, these packers reduce the market price to these chains by 5 percent—the amount of the normal brokerage fee.

In other transactions where sales are made through brokers, the complaints say the packers give these customers lower than market prices. As an example of this, the complaints cite the practice of giving a 2.5-percent reduction when only one broker is used, either a primary or field broker, and taking the price differential out of the broker's commission.

According to the complaints, the packers generally sell their canned salmon through both primary and field brokers. Primary brokers are the selling agents for the Seattle area while field brokers are those employed by the primaries to handle transactions in other market areas. A primary broker is usually paid 5-percent commission, except where a field broker is employed. In the latter instance, the complaints say, each receives a 2.5-percent split.

The parties are granted 30 days in which to file answers to the complaints. Hearings before a Federal Trade Commission hearing examiner were scheduled in Seattle in January 1958.

U. S. Tariff Commission

TUNA INVESTIGATION HEARING:

The U. S. Tariff Commission ordered a public hearing in connection with the supplemental investigation instituted August 26, 1957, under section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930, in accordance with a resolution of the Committee on Finance, United States Senate, relating to tuna fish. The hearing started on December 11, 1957. The announcement regarding institution of the supplemental investigation appeared in the Federal Register (22 F. R. 7008). The Commission is studying the effects of tuna imports on the domestic tuna industry.

NOTE: ALSO SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1957, P. 41.



Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

LABEL DECLARATION OF INGREDIENTS FOR CANNED CLAMS, FISH ROE, AND SHRIMP WILL BE REQUIRED IN ONE YEAR:

Effective in one year, lists of ingredients on the labels of certain nonstandardized food products will be required, the Food and Drug Administration announced in a statement of policy published in the September 17, 1957, Federal Register.

The action applies to food products which had previously been exempted from the labeling requirement. Among the products affected by the new statement of policy are canned clams, canned fish roe, and canned shrimp (dry and wet pack).

The new policy will be effective after one year in order that existing stocks of labels may be used up.



Eighty-Fifth Congress (First Session)

Public bills and resolutions which may directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries are reported upon. Introduction, referral to committees, pertinent legislative actions, hearings, and other chamber actions by the House and Senate, as well as signature into law or other final disposition are covered.



The following reports were overlooked in previous issues of Commercial Fisheries Review and are being reported to complete the history of action on those bills that directly or indirectly affect the fisheries.

ALASKA STATEHOOD: Senate Report No. 1163, Providing for the Admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, to accompany S. 49, 101 pp., printed August 29, 1957, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 85th Congress, 1st Session.

This report gives the majority views which recommend the passage of the bill. The minority views are presented in Senate Report No. 1197 (see Commercial Fisheries Review, October 1957, p. 42). The report explains the purpose of the bill; the major provisions of the bill and how they apply to the facts in Alaska, such as property grants, financial provisions, and the judicial system. Under the heading "financial provisions," the new state would be granted 70 percent of the net proceeds from the sales of fur-seal and sea-otter skins. On the basis of past revenues to the United States, the new state would receive about \$1,100,000 yearly from this source. Other sections of the report give historical and general information, reasons for statehood, readiness for statehood, and arguments against statehood are refuted. Each of the sections are discussed in some detail and the Appendix includes a Constitution for the State of Alaska.

FISHING VESSEL RIGHTS ON THE HIGH SEAS: House Report No. 1177, Protecting the Rights of United States Vessels on the High Seas, to accompany H. R. 5526, 7 pp., printed August 15, 1957, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, 85th Congress, 1st Session. Gives a favorable report on the bill with amendments. States the purpose of the bill, which is to provide additional protection to American fishermen from the illegal acts of foreign governments. Also included are statements on the provisions of the bill by various Government Departments and changes in the existing law (Public Law 680, 83d Congress, 2nd Session, approved August 27, 1954, 68 Stat. 883). Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, October 1957, p. 42.



MEAT OF ALL KINDS OF WHALES EDIBLE

The meat of all species of whales is edible, although some claim that the meat of sperm and bottlenose whales is unpalatable. Both are used as food by the Japanese, however.

Whale meat resembles beef chemically but it has less fat and contains more amino acids. Fishiness and oiliness possibly due to staleness may be objectionable characteristics, otherwise the meat tastes like coarse beef, veal, pork, or venison.

-- Sea Secrets, The Marine Laboratory,
University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.