



## International

### NORTHWEST PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

#### RUSSIA MODIFIES PROPOSALS FOR JAPANESE NORTHWEST PACIFIC SALMON FISHING:

On March 25 and 26, 1959, the Soviet delegates to the Northwest Pacific Fisheries Commission added to the four salmon fishing areas already offered to the Japanese a fifth, extending from 175° E. to 175° W. longitude; dropped their earlier demand that starting dates for fishing be prescribed; and made an initial catch quota of 50,000 metric tons to the Japanese, who had asked for 165,000 tons. The Japanese promptly termed the Soviet proposals unacceptable, but will continue to discuss them within the Commission.

On March 7 the Soviet delegation to the Japan-Soviet Commission for the Northwest Pacific Fisheries, currently holding its annual meeting at Tokyo, proposed a plan under which Japanese high-seas salmon fishing in 1959 would be confined to four areas west of 170° E. longitude. Both the opening and closing dates for fishing in these areas were to be prescribed, and in no case would the fishing period be longer than from June 1 to July 31.

The Japanese rejected this plan out of hand, claiming that it was contrary to the spirit of the fisheries treaty, that the establishment of closed areas far off shore is without any sound basis in salmon conservation practice, and that the closing of large areas of the ocean is an infringement of "the freedom of the high seas." The Soviet delegation estimated that the Japanese would be able to catch as much as 70 percent of their average salmon catch of the past three years within the proposed fishing areas. The Japanese, on the other hand, estimated that they could not catch more than 30,000 to 40,000 tons within the proposed area and time limitations.

The negotiations were stalemated at this point for about two weeks, the Japanese refusing to discuss the Soviet proposal seriously until the Russians agreed to reveal their ideas on the total salmon catch quota for the Japanese fishery, and the Soviet delegation declining to talk catch quotas until the Japanese came to terms on fishing restrictions.

On March 25 the Soviet delegation moved to break the deadlock by offering a modification of their original proposal. This modification, which was placed before the Commission in the morning and explained at a press conference in the afternoon by the chief Soviet spokesman, would more than double the area open to Japanese fishing under the first Russian plan. Not only would the original four areas in the west be slightly enlarged, but the whole area between 175° E. and 175° W. longitude would be added as a fifth fishing zone. As an additional concession, the Russians dropped their proposal to set dates for the beginning of fishing and set back the closing date for one fishing area by 5 days.

The Japanese again rejected the new Soviet plan, stating that the same objections applied to it as to the original proposal. "Japanese experts" were quoted as saying that the newly proposed fifth fishing area, next to the Provisional Abstinence Line of the International North Pacific Fisheries Convention, is one into which few salmon migrate, so that operations there could not be expected to add more than about 10,000 tons to the total catch. The Japanese delega-

tion countered with a proposal that the restrictions imposed on fishing areas last year be continued unchanged this year. These restrictions are simply closed zones 20 to 40 miles wide along the coasts of Soviet territory.

Among the main Japanese arguments against the Soviet-proposed restrictions are the following: (1) Closed areas for conservation are biologically justified only in coastal areas, where the fish are densely congregated for their ascent of the spawning streams; (2) The arbitrary opening of passages for the migrating salmon between fishing areas to the coast is of little use because the paths of migration of the fish vary unpredictably from year to year; (3) It is more rational and puts less pressure on the salmon stocks to disperse the mothership fleets widely, rather than concentrate them within small areas; (4) At last year's conference, Japan agreed that the Sea of Okhotsk be closed to high-seas salmon fishing as a conservation measure from 1959 on. No more closed areas should be established until the effects of the Okhotsk closing have been seen.

At his press conference, the second that he has held during this year's negotiations, the Soviet spokesman complained of the negative attitude shown by the Japanese side in rejecting all Soviet proposals without full discussion. He stressed that before the war Japan had imposed on the high-seas salmon fishery considerably more severe restrictions than those which the U.S.S.R. is now proposing. At that time, he said, the number of motherships was limited to eight, the number of catch boats to 300, and the restrictions on net mesh sizes and the number and dimensions of nets set were stricter than those now in force.

The point of the Soviet spokesman's statement which attracted greatest attention was his revelation that Russia plans to take only 95,000 tons of salmon in the Far East in 1959, as compared with catch goals of 120,000 tons in 1958 and 140,000 tons in 1957. The Japanese press, which is always looking for a hint of the Russian intentions with regard to the Japanese catch quota, seized on this datum as a base point for speculation. On the grounds that in past years' negotiations the Soviet delegation has attempted to hold the Japanese catch quota 10,000 to 20,000 tons below the planned Soviet catch, it was predicted that the Russians would offer Japan a total quota of 80,000 to 90,000 tons of salmon.

However, when the Soviet delegation, on March 26, made its first catch quota offer, the figure was only 50,000 tons, and this was coupled with a demand that the Japanese Government also take steps to restrict the catch in waters south of the treaty area. So meager a quota, in contrast with the original Japanese demand for 165,000 tons, was immediately labeled as unacceptable by Japanese spokesmen, who pointed out that it would mean a cut of more than 50 percent in the scale of the high-seas salmon fishery.

The Japanese Foreign Minister, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, and the Minister of Agriculture all were quoted as saying that the time had not yet come to abandon hope of reaching a settlement within the Fisheries Commission, a type of statement which has of late become an almost automatic followup to each new development in the negotiations. Apparently neither side wants to be the first to call for "political" negotiations. In view of the wide separation of the positions of the two national sections, however, it is being generally predicted that the final agreement will have to be reached at a higher level than the Commission. (United States Embassy dispatch from Tokyo, dated April 1, 1959.)

International (Contd.):

TERRITORIAL WATERS

**FAROE ISLANDS FISHING LIMITS AGREEMENT WITH UNITED KINGDOM APPROVED BY DENMARK:**

The Danish Folketing with no dissenting votes approved the Faroe Island-United Kingdom territorial waters fishing limits agreement on March 20. The agreement designates how close to the Faroe Islands coast British trawlers can fish and is based on fishing limits of 6 plus 6 miles. Following a week of negotiations, the Faroese Premier and his party returned to the Faroe Islands with the general agreement in their pockets not only for a substantial loan from Danish sources (exact amount undisclosed) for the Premier's development projects, but a commitment to introduce into the Faroe Islands the people's pension system now in force in Denmark and plans for improving other social legislation for the Faroes. (The United States Embassy of Copenhagen reports in a March 24, 1959, dispatch.)

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, May 1959, p. 52.

WHALING

**ANTARCTIC WHALE OIL PRODUCTION LOWER IN 1958/59:**

Preliminary production data from 19 of the 20 whaling expeditions operating in the Antarctic in 1958/59 indicate a small decline in Antarctic whale-oil production despite an increase in the catch limit this year. The 1958/59 catch limit was 15,000 blue-whale units, 500 above 1957/58. Antarctic production by country (excluding the Soviet Union) for the 1957/58 and 1958/59 seasons was as follows:

Country and No. of Expeditions	1958/59	1957/58
	(1,000 Short Tons)	
Norway (9) . . . . .	132	137
Japan (6) . . . . .	103	97
United Kingdom (3) . . . . .	41	54
Netherlands (1) . . . . .	21	19
South Georgia land stations . . . . .	30	29
Total . . . . .	327	336

All 3 South Georgia land stations (Norwegian, British, and Argentine) operated this season. The Norwegian station was inactive in 1957/58, reportedly for economic reasons. Output of the reactivated

station tended to offset the production decline by the 9 Norwegian factory-ships.

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**JAPANESE ANTARCTIC WHALING FLEETS HAVE SUCCESSFUL SEASON:**

The Antarctic baleen whaling season, which began January 7, 1959, came to an end on March 16 in east longitudes and on March 17 in west longitudes, with 20 fleets from five nations taking a total of 15,288 blue-whale units as against a planned limit of 15,000. By next season the whaling nations are expected to agree on a system of assignment of national catch quotas.

The six Japanese fleets captured about 5,038 blue-whale units, nearly one-third of the total catch, and three of the Japanese factoryships exceeded their catch goals. In the sperm whaling season, which preceded the baleen season, the Japanese fleets also made a good record, taking 1,911 whales as compared with a goal of 1,700 whales (United Embassy in Tokyo, March 27, 1959).



**Angola**

**PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF FISH MEAL AND OIL, 1957-1958:**

Production: Angola's production of fish meal and oil dropped sharply in 1958 due primarily to a shortage of fish for reduction into meal and oil. In 1958 only 45,034 metric tons of fish meal and 3,505 tons of fish oil were produced as compared with 85,205 tons of fish meal and 7,209 tons of fish oil in 1957.



Exports: Fish meal exports (see table) by Angola in 1958 amounted to 81,243 tons (value US\$10.1 million) and in 1957 totaled 94,149 tons (value US\$11.4 million). Exports of fish oil in 1958 totaled 8,559 tons, down 3,625 tons from



## Angola (Contd.):

the 1957 exports of 12,184 tons. Average prices f.o.b. Angola for fish meal in 1958 were about US\$124 a ton, slightly higher than the average of \$121.31 a ton for 1957. The reverse was true for 1958 fish oil exports--average f.o.b. prices in 1958 were about \$145.09 a ton, down about \$28 a ton from the 1957 average of \$173 a ton.

Table 1 - Angola's Exports of Fish Oil and Meal in 1958 by Country of Destination

Product and Destination	Quantity	Value	
		Metric Tons	1,000 Escudos
<b>Fish Oil:</b>			
Germany . . . . .	7,315	30,200	1,050
Denmark . . . . .	855	3,751	130
Norway . . . . .	43	164	6
Portugal . . . . .	15	60	2
Other countries . . .	331	1,527	53
Total Fish Oil . . .	8,559	35,702	1,241
<b>Fish Meal:</b>			
United States . . . .	26,954	94,407	3,284
Holland . . . . .	23,935	86,651	3,014
Belgium-Luxemborg	9,681	34,330	1,194
Portugal . . . . .	5,111	19,202	668
Germany . . . . .	4,818	17,843	621
Austria . . . . .	4,317	15,244	530
Italy . . . . .	2,480	8,701	303
Mozambique . . . . .	290	1,100	38
Other countries . . .	3,657	12,121	422
Total Fish Meal . .	81,243	289,599	10,073

1/Values converted at rate of 28.75 escudos equal US\$1.

In 1958, Germany was far the most important buyer of Angola's fish oil--it bought 7,315 tons (value \$1,050,000) or 85.5 percent of the 1958 total exports of 8,559 tons. Denmark was the only other important buyer of Angola's fish oils.

The United States was the leading buyer of Angola's fish meal in 1958 with 26,954 tons or 33.2 percent of the 81,243-ton exports. In 1958, the Netherlands followed the United States with imports of 23,935 tons (29.5 percent) and Belgium-Luxemborg imported 9,681 tons or 11.9 percent, the United States Consul in Luanda reported on March 31, 1959.



## Brazil

## FISHING INDUSTRY EXPANDING RAPIDLY:

The increased catch of Brazil's expanding fishing fleets has reached such large proportions that Brazil has now become an exporter of fishery products.

In only two years, fishery production of the Rio Grande de Sur area has increased tenfold.

During the first half of 1958, Brazil exported to the United States some 500 metric tons of frozen tuna, valued at US\$300,000. In 1957, Brazil exported a total of US\$400,000 worth of spiny lobsters to the United States.

The Brazilian Government has established a program to increase fishery production, and fishery products exports. The Government plans to increase exports of tuna in 1959 to 15,000 tons, valued at US\$9 million. The revenue from more exports will in turn further increase production. This increase in production is based on the use of modern fishing vessels manned by well-trained technicians, and continuing studies of Brazil's marine fauna.

Brazilian fishermen are presently being instructed in the use of modern fishing equipment by Japanese technicians from the five Japanese fishing companies now operating in Brazil. The contracts signed between the Japanese companies and the Brazilian Government stipulate that the Japanese must register their fishing vessels in Brazil after two years and that subordinate officers and two thirds of the crews of the fishing vessels must be Brazilian.

Brazil also plans to expand its whaling industry. The whaling fleet captured 125 whales last season. The take during the coming season is expected to total 500. (Boletín de Informacion, No. 5, February 1959, Sindicato Nacional de la Pesca, Madrid, Spain.)



## British Guiana

## FISHERIES TRENDS, MARCH 1959:

The fishing industry is not yet making a major contribution to the British Guiana economy; however, Government efforts to improve the industry appear to have been speeded up. The fact that imports of fish and fish products are substantial, and in 1958 totaled almost 6 million pounds, has enhanced the desire to increase local production.



## British Guiana (Contd.):

The annual production of fish has been estimated arbitrarily to be about 20 million pounds, and it is believed that about 4,000 persons are employed in the industry. The main sources of fish production are the coastal mudflats and estuaries. Offshore fishing grounds (except for snapper) and inland river fisheries are relatively untouched. The principal means of fishing are "pin" seines, "Chinese" seines, lines, and trawlers.

The research vessel Cape St. Mary, has been continuing its survey operations. This modern ship carried out a trawling survey of the continental shelf between 10 and 20 fathoms. A preliminary review of the ship's work has resulted in an estimate that the most productive waters are at the shallower depths.

The Government Wholesale Fish Marketing Centre continued to be the hub of the industry by purchasing all fish brought to it at fixed prices. With the Cape St. Mary bringing in trips averaging 35,000 pounds, however, the capacity of the Centre frequently was overtaxed. In particular, it was found that the cold-storage and ice-making facilities were very inadequate. As a result of the relatively greater supply of fish, local prices of fresh fish were down from previous levels during most of the year.

An United States enterprise continued shrimp trawling operations throughout the year. Due to a lack of success in finding adequate quantities of shrimp (only 1,839 pounds in 1958), however, activities were sharply curtailed in the latter half of the year.

As regards inland fisheries, the emphasis continued to be on expanding the Government fish culture station at Onverwagt on the west coast of Berbice and encouraging the establishment of small brackish-water fish ponds. By the end of 1958, some 440 fish ponds were in existence. These were stocked principally with Tilapia from the fish hatchery near Georgetown. Efforts continued, also, to encourage the establishment of large cooperative fish ponds.

In July 1958 the Fisheries Sub-committee of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee submitted a report which has been accepted as the basis for future fisheries development. The principal recommendations included government grants and loans for the construction of trawlers; income tax and import duty concessions to fishermen; continuation of a guaranteed market; increased cold-storage and ice facilities; encouragement of fish cooperatives; the further development of fish culture and inland fish ponds; and further efforts to obtain additional International Cooperation Administration (ICA) assistance. The subcommittee also considered but failed to make a definite recommendation concerning the proposal that the Government construct one or more fish processing plants for producing fish meal and salted, smoked, or canned fish.

An ICA fishing expert, an experienced long-line snapper fisherman, visited British Guiana during October and November to demonstrate the use of high-speed fishing reels and teach more efficient use of lines and ancillary equipment.

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#### HOPE FOR SHRIMP FISHERY REVIVED:

Virtually lost hopes for shrimp fishing in the waters off British Guiana were revived by a recent announcement by a British Guiana company that it is planning to undertake a new survey for shrimp off the coasts of the Guianas and northeast Brazil. The improved prospects, it seems, are based on a few good catches of shrimp which were made in March, suggesting the possibility that shrimp may be making an appearance in this area.

According to the company's manager, the six-months survey will be made in association with several other United States shrimp fishing concerns. Reportedly, the companies will provide 12 shrimp trawlers, all of which will operate from Georgetown basing themselves at the facilities of the British Guiana company. On April 8 and 9, four of the trawlers arrived at Georgetown amid a fair amount of publicity.

The possible significance of a shrimp "strike" came in for some discussion in the press. A good shot-in-the-arm would



British Guiana (Contd.):

be provided to the struggling British Guiana fishing industry if shrimp are found in commercial quantities, states a United States Consul dispatch from Georgetown, dated April 13, 1959.

British Honduras

FISHERY PRODUCTS EXPORTS, 1958:

Exports of fishery products by British Honduras in 1958 amounted to 493,379 pounds (value US\$173,512), higher by about 31.3 percent in quantity and 29.0 percent in value as compared with 1957. Spiny lobsters (whole and tails) exported to the United States in 1958 totaled 369,028 pounds valued at \$157,760. During 1957, 195,639 pounds (value \$110,601) and in 1956, 125,251 pounds (value \$81,608) of whole and spiny lobster tails were exported to the United States.

British Honduras Exports of Fishery Products, 1958 (Total Exports & Exports to United States)		
Products	1958	
	Quantity Lbs.	Value US\$
<b>Fresh, frozen, or live fish:</b>		
Total exports . . . . .	53,377	6,701
Exports to U. S. . . . .	26,608	3,764
<b>Salted, dried fish, etc.:</b>		
Total exports . . . . .	58,208	6,108
Exports to U. S. . . . .	-	-
<b>Spiny lobster, whole and tails:</b>		
Total exports . . . . .	369,028	157,760
Exports to U. S. . . . .	324,768	149,740
<b>Conchs:</b>		
Total exports . . . . .	2,125	174
Exports to U. S. . . . .	500	60
<b>Tortoise shells:</b>		
Total exports . . . . .	696	1,844
Exports to U. S. . . . .	-	-
<b>Unclassified:</b>		
Total exports . . . . .	9,945	925
Exports to U. S. . . . .	320	134
<b>Total all fishery products:</b>		
Total exports . . . . .	493,379	173,512
Exports to U. S. . . . .	352,196	153,698

Exports of fish and shellfish to the United States from British Honduras in 1958 accounted for 71.4 percent of the volume and 88.6 percent of the value. In 1957 exports to the United States made up 62.0 percent of the volume and 87.7 percent of the value. (United States Consulate in Belize, March 24, 1959.)



British West Indies

SPINY LOBSTER FISHING PERMIT GRANTED FOR ST. VINCENT ISLAND:

The St. Vincent Island Government has granted a permit for one year to a Trinidad company to fish for spiny lobsters in waters adjacent to the Island. The company will be allowed to fish for spiny lobsters with pots only and has permission to fish out of and purchase spiny lobsters from the Grenadines. The fishing permit will be reviewed after one year.



Canada

NEWFOUNDLAND FISH PLANT PURCHASED BY UNITED STATES FIRM:

The Newfoundland Minister of Fisheries announced in the House of Assembly on March 18, 1959, that the Fortune Fish Plant, located at Fortune on the south coast of Newfoundland, Canada, had been sold to a large United States fisheries firm with headquarters in Chicago, Ill.

The Fortune Fish Plant, built in 1952, was closed in September 1956. It was financed principally by government funds. Its closing caused much criticism and approximately 225 persons were unemployed. The construction of the fish plant increased the population of the small town of Fortune by 300 persons, many people in the surrounding district leaving their homes in isolated villages and bays to build new homes in the then thriving town of Fortune. It is expected that the plant will start operating in May 1959, and provide employment for between 200 and 300 people, states a United States Consul dispatch from St. John's, dated March 24, 1959.

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NORTH PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS FOR 1959 APPROVED:

The Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations for 1959, as adopted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, were approved by the Canadian Government by Order-in-Council No. PC 1959-255 of March 5, 1959. (United States Embassy in Ottawa, April 7, 1959.)

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, April 1959, p. 60.



## Cuba

### CLOSED SEASON FOR BULLFROGS AND CERTAIN FINFISH:

The Cuban National Fisheries Institute by Ministry of Agriculture resolutions published in the Official Gazette of April 1, 1959, imposed a closed season on the capture of mojarras (perch), joturo, biajaca (tripletail), dajao, and bullfrogs. The closed seasons were effective on April 1, 1959, and will remain in force until cancelled by subsequent resolutions.

According to press reports, a group of bullfrog fishermen from the provinces of Las Villas and Habana requested that their union petition the Government to suspend the closed season on the capture of bullfrogs, since such closed seasons had never been imposed in prior years before the end of the month of May. In addition to complaints that the closed season was premature and would deprive them of a source of income, the fishermen protested that they were underpaid for fresh bullfrogs which could be sold at high prices in the United States by Cuban freezing plants (United States Embassy in Havana, April 10, 1959).



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### CLOSED SEASONS FOR SHRIMP AND SPINY LOBSTER:

The Cuban National Fisheries Institute by a Ministry of Agriculture resolution published in the Official Gazette No. 40 of March 9, 1959, imposed a closed season on the capture of ocean shrimp and spiny lobster effective March 15, 1959. The closed spiny lobster season will remain in effect until cancelled by a subsequent resolution.

A later resolution (Official Gazette March 18, 1959) canceled the closed season for shrimp effective March 16, 1959. The reason for the cancellation of the shrimp closed season was that the necessary studies warranting a closed season had not been realized (United States Embassy in Havana, dispatches dated March 12 and 25, 1959).



## Denmark

### GREENLAND PERMITS ADDITIONAL FAROESE VESSELS TO FISH IN ITS WATERS:

The Greenland National Council in Godthaab has agreed to grant their fellow Nationals from the Faroes the right to increase from 60 to 180 the number of Faroese boats fishing in Greenland waters and the right to erect a number of temporary stations on both coasts. The agreement is valid for only one year and the Faroese must observe certain conservation regulations.

Negotiations for long-range joint exploitation of the waters on an equal basis will take place this summer. The Greenland Council also gave notice of a desire for more money for its own vessels and canneries. (United States Embassy in Copenhagen, March 17, 1959.)



## Egypt

### CONTRACT WITH JAPAN FOR SHRIMP-FREEZING AND SARDINE-CANNING PLANTS SIGNED:

An Egyptian Industrial Mission to Japan, according to press reports, has signed contracts with the Japanese for the construction of a shrimp-freezing plant (estimated cost about US\$63,000) and a sardine preservation and canning plant. The contract for the plants was signed under an Egyptian-Japanese economic agreement, the United States Embassy in Cairo reported on March 19, 1959.

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### JAPANESE RESEARCH VESSEL TO STUDY TUNA RESOURCES:

The Japanese research vessel Shoyo Maru arrived at Alexandria, Egypt, during March to conduct exploratory fishing for tuna between Alexandria and Sollum (Libyan border). The project was arranged by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and the Japanese Ministries of Commerce and Industries. The Shoyo Maru was scheduled to explore for tuna between March 17-20 and later on to operate in the Red Sea, the United States

## Egypt (Contd.):

Embassy in Cairo reported on March 19, 1959.

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MARKET FOR CANNED SARDINES:

A market for California sardines (pilchards) in Egypt in the near future is not promising due to the scarcity of dollar exchange. Before the exchange problem became acute, California sardines were well known and liked in Egypt.

1959. At present, therefore, the market seems well supplied with this commodity.

The most popular packing medium is natural, approximately 90 percent of all imports. The most popular sizes of cans are the 5-oz. tall (about 60 percent), the 15-oz. tall (about 30 percent); all others about 10 percent.

Although Japanese canners are generally able to quote better prices than their competitors in the United States, this is not the real problem of the inability of the United States firms to sell canned pilchards to Egypt at this time. The biggest marketing problem is the scarcity of dollar exchange with which to buy canned sardines from the United States.

Table 1 - Egypt's Imports of True Sardines, 1957 and January-June 1958

Country of Origin	January-June 1958			1957		
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value	
	1,000 Lbs.	£E.1,000	US\$1,000	1,000 Lbs.	£E.1,000	US\$1,000
Japan . . . . .	-	-	-	149	11.6	33
Portugal . . . . .	4	0.3	1	123	12.6	36
Spain . . . . .	247	27.8	80	200	23.2	67
Yugoslavia . . . . .	142	13.7	39	86	8.3	24
Lebanon . . . . .	61	8.0	23	53	6.8	20
Other . . . . .	13	1.1	3	2	0.2	1
Total . . . . .	467	50.9	146	613	62.7	181

There is at present no production of canned sardines in Egypt, although, according to reports, a sardine canning plant is to be established in Egypt with the technical assistance of the Japanese.

Canned sardines imported into Egypt are classified into two distinct groups: True sardines; and other canned fish

Comparative prices prevailing for Japanese canned mackerel late in 1958 were as follows: 48 15-oz. tall, natural, US\$7.10 per case, c.i.f. Port Said; and 100 5-oz. tall, natural, US\$7.00 per case, c.i.f. Port Said.

Although the above were the original prices quoted by the Japanese late in 1958, a severe competition ensued

Table 2 - Egypt's Imports of Other Canned Fish,<sup>1/</sup> 1957 and Jan.-June 1958

Country of Origin	January-June 1958			1957		
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value	
	1,000 Lbs.	£E.1,000	US\$1,000	1,000 Lbs.	£E.1,000	US\$1,000
Greece . . . . .	4	0.6	2	53	2.7	8
Japan . . . . .	1,485	76.4	219	15,581	822.7	2,363
Portugal . . . . .	1	0.1	-	22	2.3	7
Spain . . . . .	55	7.7	22	76	9.4	27
Other . . . . .	-	-	-	24	2.9	8
Total . . . . .	1,545	84.8	243	15,756	840.0	2,413

<sup>1/</sup>Mostly mackerel, and including pilchards, anchovy, and herring but not including salmon and tuna.

Note: Values converted at rate of one Egyptian pound equals US\$2.872.

including pilchards, mackerel, anchovy, and herring, but not including tuna and salmon. Under normal import conditions, true sardines are imported largely from Portugal. However, in recent years, because of the scarcity of Portuguese foreign exchange, imports of true sardines from Portugal have dropped considerably.

Because of Egypt's policy of preserving its limited supply of dollar exchange for more essential goods, no import licenses were issued in 1957 and in 1958 for the importation of pilchards, or other canned fish, from the United States. Although Japan is a normal source of canned fish for Egypt, imports of this commodity from that country dropped to a very low figure in 1958, also because of the scarcity of foreign exchange to pay for such imports. On November 8, 1958, however, Japan and the United Arab Republic signed a new Trade and Payments Agreement, as a result of which substantial orders of canned fish (mostly mackerel) were booked for immediate shipment to Egypt.

Stocks of canned sardines at the end of 1958 were very low. However, as a result of the trade agreement with Japan, new supplies of canned mackerel began to arrive early in

later among Japanese exporters resulting in the granting of additional discounts averaging 10 percent. South African sardines were quoted as follows: 48 1-lb. tall, natural, about US\$6.53 per case, c. & f. Port Said. No business was concluded because of the lack of import licenses. (United States Consulate in Cairo dispatch dated March 24, 1959.)



## El Salvador

### FISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPS SLOWLY:

Fishing is probably El Salvador's most neglected available natural resource. The present fishing fleet consists of only 16 sizable fishing boats.



## El Salvador (Contd.):

Although this is four times as many as there were a year ago, the Government is avoiding issuing any additional licenses pending a proposed technical study to determine whether operation of additional boats would deplete shrimp beds.

Up to the present, the country has limited its fishing to shallow-water operations, specializing in shrimp. Lack of refrigeration in the coastal area has been a serious handicap but refrigeration installations are being established and so it may be expected that fishing as a source of cheap food and of foreign exchange will expand within the next few years. There is no indication that deep-sea fishing will be developed soon by Salvadorans. (United States Embassy in San Salvador, February 16, 1959.)



## France

## INSPECTION CONTROLS ESTABLISHED FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS:

The French Government recently issued an edict which imposes inspection controls on the preservation of fish and shellfish. The inspection will be carried out by the Scientific and Technical Institute of Marine Fisheries.

No shipments of preserved fishery products will be allowed without certificates of inspection. The inspections will cover the freshness of fish and shellfish and also the additives and ingredients used in the various types of processing.

Violators of the new inspection controls will be subject to punishment ranging from 10 days to three months in prison, and fines of 36,000 to 2,000,000 francs (US\$734 to US\$40,791). (*Boletin de Informacion, Sindicato Nacional de la Pesca, Madrid, Spain, January 1959.*)

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## SARDINE FISHERY AND PROSPECTS FOR EXPANSION:

The French Government's bureau for maritime fish research, "L'Institut Scientifique et Technique des Peches Maritimes," has announced that one of its laboratory ships has reported the presence along the French Mediterranean coast of much larger schools of sardines than had previously been thought to exist there.

French trade sources indicate that further expansion of production in the Mediterranean, even in the presence of greatly increased resources of sardines, is severely limited by several factors. First, there is a shortage of canning facilities (in 1957, about three-quarters of the catch was consumed as fresh fish). Second, there is insufficient equipment, including a paucity of refrigerator ships, to handle large catches. Third, it is unlikely that a greatly increased catch could be disposed of profitably.

France's Sardine Landings (both Atlantic and Mediterranean Ports), 1955-58				
	1958 <sup>1/</sup>	1957	1956	1955
	(Metric Tons) . . . . .			
Atlantic ports . . . . .	21,300	10,700	40,700	16,400
Mediterranean ports . . . . .	3,500	3,800	2,600	2,400
Total . . . . .	24,800	14,500	43,300	18,800
<sup>1/</sup> Estimated.				

One of the elements in several French bilateral trade agreements, notably with Morocco, has traditionally been an engagement to import sardines, in return for which the other country agrees to import some product which would probably otherwise have a difficult time entering that market. The lower price offered for sardines by other countries also has its effect on their inclusion in bilateral treaties. In addition, it is not unusual for fishing boats to limit their catch, since the presence on the market of larger quantities might have a depressing effect.

For the above reasons, trade sources do not believe that the French fishing industry will in the foreseeable future supply a much greater percentage than at present of the 40,000 metric tons of sardines consumed annually in France. (United States Embassy, Paris, report of March 11, 1959.)



## French West Africa

## DAKAR'S TUNA FISHING INDUSTRY PROSPECTS UNFAVORABLE FOR SUMMER SEASON:

In France there have been discussions on whether or not owners of vessels based in France fishing for "white" tuna should be allowed to participate in tuna fishing off Dakar.

France's Comite du Thon (Tuna Committee) does not oppose letting the tuna vessels fish off Dakar if two problems can first be solved. The problems are (1) the prices that canners would be willing to pay for tuna in Dakar or French mainland ports and (2) how much tuna the canners could absorb in Dakar and the French mainland.

The price problem results because the final retail price of canned tuna must not exceed 160 francs (38 U.S. cents) for a 212-gram (7.5-oz.) can. Dakar's canneries have a capacity for approximately 5,000 metric tons of tuna for canning and subsequent shipment to the French main-

### French West Africa (Contd.):

land. In order to sell at the prescribed retail price, the canners cannot pay the fishermen for tuna more than 40-50 francs per kilogram (4.5-5.5 cents a pound). Also, the canned tuna produced to sell at the stipulated retail price will still be more expensive than the canned tuna offered by the competitive products from Japan and Peru.

It is thought that only 2,000-3,000 tons of tuna caught off Dakar during the 1959 fishing season can be absorbed by French mainland canneries. This is a reduction in demand caused by a large 1958 production of canned tuna by French mainland canneries, which used some 13,000 tons of "white" tuna in the summer of 1958.

Decisions will soon be made on whether French tuna fishing vessels will be allowed to fish off Dakar. Regardless of the decisions made, and despite the fact that Japan has raised its prices of canned tuna, Dakar's tuna industry prospects for the 1959 season do not look favorable. (*Industria Conservera*, November 1958.)



### German Federal Republic

#### FISHING INDUSTRY AND EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:

At the invitation of the Bremerhaven Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the West German Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture spoke on March 9, 1959, about European economic integration and the position of the fishing trade.

In his remarks to the fishing industry, the Undersecretary pointed out the multitude of problems prevailing at present in the West German fishing trade, resulting primarily from the necessity of fishing in distant waters, and the obsolete fish marketing system in West Germany. The speaker stated that essentially the fishing trade should solve its own problems rather than look for government support. In this connection, he suggested (1) the development of new types of factoryships and closer cooperation among the fishing companies to ensure not only a more uni-

form fish supply to the West German market, but also more stable prices; (2) a reform of the present marketing system to speed up the handling of fish and to achieve an improvement of the quality of fish and fish products; and (3) the expansion of deep-freezing facilities. The Undersecretary agreed that in some phases of such a wide-flung development program, limited government support might be inevitable to insure speedy results.

He also stated that the position of the West German fishing trade within the European Economic Community is a strong one. However, he said, the German fish trade will include some formidable competitors, such as England, Norway, and Iceland, which have an export surplus of fish that equals about the entire West German fish production. While there is still time, the West German fishing trade should prepare itself for such keen international competition. However, it will be essential for the West German Government, the speaker said, to avoid proceeding rashly in seeking to bring about such international competition. Bilateral agreements may provide a means of adjusting West German fish imports to its own production. (United States Consul dispatch from Bremen, dated March 16, 1959.)

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#### MARKET FOR CANNED SARDINES:

In West Germany, canned California sardines (pilchards) are classified separately from other sardines. Although under existing legislation, pilchards may be sold as sardines, fish traders in West Germany prefer to market them as "California Pilchards." They believe that these large sardines do not meet the German consumer's specifications for a sardine, and are anxious not to upset the carefully-cultivated brisling or sild-type sardine market in West Germany.

California sardines were first marketed in Germany after World War I. In subsequent years, a modest market was created for this product. However, through the introduction of foreign-exchange controls by the Third Reich, imports of California sardines were discontinued in 1934. As a result of the liberalization of sardine imports by West Germany in 1956, California sardines have reappeared on the German market.

As California sardines are not considered comparable with the sardine products imported from Portugal, French Morocco, and Yugoslavia, there is practically no competition from other imports. However, California pilchards must compete with the abundant domestic supply of canned filleted herring offered in a large variety of packs, including tomato sauce. The German products are offered at prices which are substantially below those quoted for approximately comparable packs of California sardines; an oval can of German-packed filleted herring in tomato sauce, containing 270 grams (about 9-1/2 ozs.) of fish, is sold at a wholesale price of DM 0.60 to 0.68 (about 14.4-16.3 U. S. cents) per can, and a can containing 200 grams (about 7 ozs.)

### German Federal Republic (Contd.):

of filleted herring sells for DM 0.47 to 0.55 (about 11.3-13.2 U. S. cents). An 8-ounce (about 227 grams) oblong can of California sardines packed in tomato sauce would sell for approximately DM 0.80 (about 19.2 U. S. cents) wholesale.

In spite of the higher cost, there appears to be a limited market for California sardines in West Germany, but only as a delicatessen item. Import trade sources stated that German fish dealers prefer one particular American brand of canned California sardines. They claim that this brand accounts for well over 90 percent of California sardines at present on the West German market. Although repeated attempts have been made to sell other American brands, this has been found extremely difficult because of the un-receptive attitude of wholesalers and retailers.

West German canned fish importers state they have met with considerable difficulties in developing even a modest market for canned California sardines in the past few years. The first postwar deliveries in 1956 amounted to some 900 cases of 15-ounce cans of sardines, which were sold with considerable effort. In the following year no deliveries of California pilchards were made, allegedly because of greatly reduced catches. In spite of this interruption in the supply, West German importers in the fall of 1958 bought 500 cases of California sardines packed in 15-ounce cans at \$9.50 per case, c.i.f. Hamburg, and 350 cases of 8-ounce cans at a price of \$7.30 per case, c.i.f. Hamburg. These imports are selling slowly. The larger part of the shipment containing the 8-ounce cans is still unsold. In the meantime, the prices for these two types of packs have dropped to \$8.50 and \$7.10 c.i.f. Hamburg, respectively, much to the annoyance of the importers who had stocks on hand. Importers have not been able to expand the market even at the reduced prices.

At present, South African or Japanese sardines are not sold on the West German market because the quality of some trial shipments received in 1957 and 1958 was not satisfactory.

Country of Origin	Jan.-Nov. 1958			Jan.-Nov. 1957		
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value	
	Metric Tons	1,000 DM	US\$ 1,000	Metric Tons	1,000 DM	US\$ 1,000
Portugal . . . . .	9,086.5	19,700	4,717	7,937.9	19,520	4,674
French Morocco	4,605.7	9,297	2,226	3,504.7	7,788	1,865
Yugoslavia. . . . .	1,473.0	2,524	604	244.4	489	117
United States . . . . .	-	-	-	28.2	45	11
South African Union. . . . .	-	-	-	17.3	19	5
Other countries (not specified)	27.0	51	12	6.7	13	3
Total . . . . .	15,192.2	31,572	7,559	11,739.2	27,874	6,675

<sup>1/</sup>West German statistics do not differentiate between "Sardines" and "Pilchards."

West German importers stated unanimously that given a steady supply and more or less stable prices, it might be possible to develop a market in West Germany for about 1,500 to 2,000 cases of 48 15-ounce cans per year of California sardines packed in tomato sauce. In their opinion, the price per case should not be much higher than \$7.60 to \$7.80 c.i.f. Hamburg. This would enable the West German fish trade to sell the imported product at a retail price of about DM 1.50-DM 1.60 (35.9-38.3 U.S. cents) a can and thus compete with domestically-packed herring fillets. (United States Consul dispatch from Bremen dated March 20, 1959.)

### Greece

#### LOBSTER FISHERIES:

There are three types of lobster genera found in Greek waters--Homarus vulgaris (two-claw Maine type), Astacus sp. (fresh-water crayfish), and Palinurus vulgaris (spiny lobster).

The spiny lobster is found in all Aegean and Ionian Sea waters and is caught with both pots and nets. The lobster pots, baited with mackerel or octopus, are used for night fishing in calm waters. Nets are used with a mesh size of about 110 mm. (about 4.3 inches) and are set out early in the morning and lifted about four hours later and reset again and hauled back before the end of the day. At the Island of Corfu long lines are used as well as pots, both of which are baited with fish. At a number of fishing ports, the spiny lobsters are maintained alive in natural holding pounds and are fed with small fish and sea urchins (Alieia, March 1959).



### Indonesia

#### JAPANESE TO AID IN ESTABLISHING A FISHING AND CANNING INDUSTRY IN WEST SUMATRA:

Two Japanese fishing experts during March 1959 were making a survey of the Padang region of West Sumatra with an objective of establishing a sea fishing and canning industry in that area. The industry is to be financed by Japanese reparations and is sponsored by the Indonesian Ministry of Veterans Affairs, which sent the technicians to make the survey. Basic equipment and supplies will include a 30-40 ton vessel with a 100 hp. engine, three 70 ton vessels of 200 hp., an ice plant with a daily capacity of ten tons, two freezing rooms, a cannery with a capacity of 200 cases of canned fish a day, and a fish meal factory.

One of the Japanese technicians said the reason for establishing the industry in the Padang area was that West Sumatra suffers an acute shortage of fish, with prices twice as high as in Djakarta (United States Embassy in Djakarta, March 25, 1959).





**Italy**

**CANNED FISH PRICE TRENDS:**

Acute competition prevails within Italy's canned fish trade. Portuguese canned sardine prices have been lowered continually to meet Moroccan competition. Canned tuna from Japan is expected to sell at prices higher than the Italian product which is priced at 550 to 580 liras per kilo (40-42 U.S. cents a pound).

Italy's demand for canned fish centers mostly on "extra" quality merchandise. Spanish canned tuna sells for 790 liras per kilo (58 cents a pound) in Italy. The best quality canned anchovy is very high-priced in Italy due to a shortage of stocks. Italian stocks of canned cod have diminished considerably. (Boletin de Informacion, Sindicato Nacional de la Pesca, Madrid, Spain, January 1959.)

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**PURCHASES OF JAPANESE-CAUGHT TUNA:**

In Italian fishing circles there is concern about Japanese vessels that have been fishing for tuna off the Canary Islands and selling it in Italian ports for prices below those asked by Sicilian tuna fishermen.

Since it has become more difficult for the Japanese to sell tuna to the United States, the Japanese have arranged to sell tuna to Italy by means of compensating tuna for rice. The Japanese sold about 10,000 metric tons of tuna to Italy in 1957, and considerably more in 1958. The tuna sold to Italy comes from Japanese fishing operations in equatorial waters of the Atlantic. (Industria Conservera, November 1958.)



**Japan**

**ATOMIC-POWERED FISHING VESSEL PLANNED:**

Plans for building the first atomic-powered fishing vessel for experimental purposes were announced at the second World Fishing Boat Congress, Food and Agriculture Organization Headquarters, Rome, by Professor Atsushi Takagi of the Department of Naval Architecture of the University of Tokyo.

The vessel will have a displacement of 3,000-4,000 tons and will be powered with an American-type reactor. It

will have a complement of 100, of which 50 would be sailors and 50 research experimenters. Of the research crew, 20 will act as observers and 30 will be responsible for handling the reactor.

The reactor will be installed in a container and will use as fuel 29-percent condensed dioxidized uranium. For emergency use, a 120 hp. Diesel will be installed so that the boat can be navigated should the reactor be put out of use.

Professor Takagi said that this was "our trial design which we hope will be as economical as possible, but it is up to the Japanese Government whether or not we shall get the necessary appropriation to construct the vessel. It is a very expensive project even for our proposal which is on a modest scale."

Professor Takagi went on to say that he believed that high-speed fishing boats driven by reactors will be coming into general use before 1970 and that the atomic energy in them would be used directly as power rather than through the use of boilers.

"We can compare this transition with the change that took place when steam engines were replaced by Diesel engines," he continued. "If the new atomic plant is compact and of light weight, it will certainly be used in fishing boats. We can also imagine that such an atomic plant would enable us to build subsurface fishing boats as the power required to drive them would not consume oxygen. Furthermore, the development of electronics will be the means of introducing superior automatic control systems and with such boats will be able to trawl any depth in the sea, and submerge to the calm bottom in rough weather."

Earlier in his address Professor Takagi referred to the formation of the first atomic-powered industrial group in Japan which has been conducting research on a trial design of the smallest unit reactor for use in smaller vessels. The use of such reactors in experimental vessels would help to develop the technology involved in propelling boats by atomic energy.

The American-type reactor (PWR), which the Japanese propose to use, has been selected because "it has already proven its value in vessels."

The reactor will be used to drive a 2-step reduction steam turbine developing 8,000 ship hp. at 200 revolutions per minute. The total weight of the reactor and its screen would be about 1,100 tons, of which 795 tons would be the weight of the shield.

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**CANNED FISHERY PRODUCTS EXPORTS, 1958:**

Japanese exports of canned fishery products in 1958 totaled 9,197,450 actual cases as compared to 7,459,632 cases in 1957. This means that 73.4 percent of all canned food exports in 1958 were fishery products while the balance consisted of agricultural and meat items. Total canned food exports in 1958 totaled 12,521,944 actual cases, 18 percent

Table 1 - Japanese Exports of Canned Fishery Products, 1957-58		
Product	1958	1957
. . . . .(Actual Cases) . . . . .		
Crab meat . . . . .	621,278	601,343
Tuna in oil . . . . .	1,299,145	1,547,924
Tuna in brine . . . . .	2,031,584	1,744,260
Tuna, other . . . . .	174,536	33,287
<b>Total tuna . . . . .</b>	<b>3,505,265</b>	<b>3,325,471</b>
Sardine . . . . .	669,492	789,973
Salmon . . . . .	2,786,588	1,540,211
Other fish . . . . .	288,857	309,845
Shellfish . . . . .	339,333	222,842
Other fishery items . . . . .	986,637	669,947
<b>Total all fishery items . . . . .</b>	<b>9,197,450</b>	<b>7,459,632</b>

## Japan (Contd.):

more than in 1957. The Japan Canned Food Exporters Association says that 1958 canned food exports set a new all-time record, and the value of those exports in 1958 was up 40 percent, chiefly because a large amount of high-priced salmon was exported.

Canned tuna in oil was the only important fishery product which showed a drop in exports in 1958 as compared with 1957. The biggest increase was in canned salmon, exports of which in 1958 were 1,246,377 actual cases more than in 1957. Exports of canned tuna in brine, canned saury, and canned shellfish also increased substantially in 1958.

Prior to 1958 the United States was the principal buyer of Japanese canned foods, but in 1958, because of Britain's relaxation of import restrictions on canned salmon, Mandarin oranges, and other items, the United Kingdom became Japan's best canned foods customer. The United States was second followed by the Philippines and West Germany.

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#### CANNED WHITE MEAT TUNA IN BRINE PRICE CUT PROPOSED:

A price cut on white meat tuna canned in brine sold to the United States was discussed on April 3, 1959, at a joint sales committee meeting of the Japan Canned Food Exporters Association in Japan. The problem of the next "sale-out" was also discussed.

New York importers of Japanese canned tuna have been asking for a \$1.00 per case cut on canned white meat tuna in brine in order to promote the sale of that product. But the Japanese packers have been talking of a cut of 50 cents a case because the ex-vessel price for the fish is high. The decision was scheduled to be made about mid-April.

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#### DROP IN RAINBOW TROUT EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES CAUSES CONCERN:

The recent substantial drop in Japanese exports of frozen rainbow trout to the United States is causing concern among exporters of that product in Japan. The export price has dropped by about 13 cents a pound from the 49 cents a pound c.i.f. prevailing in the summer of 1958. For the first three months this year only about 150 metric tons have been shipped to the United States. In all of 1957 a total of 1,200 tons were shipped to the United States, but in 1958 exports dropped to 900 tons.

The Japanese contend that the drop in sales to the United States is due to the

improved sales methods and incentives by Danish exporters of rainbow trout. Because of this, the Japanese are considering the need of setting up a sales system, agreeing on export prices, or establishing an export quota for rainbow trout.

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#### EXPORTS OF FROZEN TUNA TO EUROPE EXPANDING:

A direct export of frozen tuna to Yugoslavia was reported in March by a Japanese fishery company. The same company, according to reports, has also concluded a similar contract with a buyer in Greece. In addition, two other Japanese firms are accepting offers from Turkey. A sample of frozen tuna early this year was shipped to West Germany and the Netherlands.

The price of these offers to Europe is \$280-290 a metric ton c.i.f. the European country. The Japanese are enthusiastic about this new outlet for frozen tuna, and it is considered a blessing to Japanese Atlantic tuna clippers because their landings in Italy have been restricted to only two times a year on the basis of the latest agreement.

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#### KING CRAB PRODUCTION PROSPECTS, 1959:

The Japanese 5,000-ton king crab factoryship Tokei Maru, sailed from Hakodate, Japan, on April 1 for her annual trip to the fishing grounds off the north shore of the Alaska Peninsula. The Tokei Maru is the only Japanese king crab factoryship operating in the Bristol Bay area. As in the past, the factoryship (operated jointly by three large Japanese fishing companies) will employ two 108-ton fishing vessels and 8 Kawasaki boats, and will be fishing until about July 15, 1959.

In their license application, submitted on March 24, 1959, the operating companies asked for an increase in the quota from the 57,000-case limit of the past two years to 70,000 cases. Since the permitted five-percent allowance for error has resulted in a pack of 59,850 cases in each of the past two years, it is expected that the pack this year will be about 73,500 cases. As reasons justifying their request

## Japan (Contd.):

for an increase, the companies cited last year's satisfactory catch rate of about 11 crabs per shackle of net, the good recovery rate of 18.9 crabs per case, and the fleet's ability to attain its catch goal well within the scheduled time. The Japanese Fisheries Agency, in granting the request, agreed that the Bristol Bay king crab resource appears to be in a healthy condition. The Agency further noted that, since last year, American crab trawlers, who had been fishing the same grounds as the Japanese shifted their efforts to new grounds south of the Aleutians, thus removing some fishing pressure from the resource exploited by the Tokei Maru. The Agency emphasized that the new pack quota limit has been granted for one year only and that the effect on the king crab population will be studied carefully before any decision is made to continue fishing at the new high level.

In the other Japanese king crab factoryship fishery, that of the Sea of Okhotsk, prospects are less bright. On March 31, in the first session of the Japan-Soviet Fisheries Commission to deal with king crab, the Soviet delegation proposed that the Japanese catch be cut to 200,000 cases from last year's 320,000 cases, at the same time offering to reduce their own production from 340,000 to 300,000 cases. The Soviets also proposed allocation of definite fishing areas to the fleets of each country, shortening of the fishing period, cutting down the amounts of net set, and shortening the length of time that nets can be left in the water. The Japanese delegation, while admitting that the king crab population of the Sea of Okhotsk shows signs of a decline, rejected the Soviet proposals as unnecessarily severe and unwarranted by conservation considerations. The press quoted industry sources as saying that the proposed allocation of fishing grounds gave all of the good grounds to the Soviet fleets.

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PROBLEMS ARISE IN INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES:

King crab: During the second week of April the Japanese-Soviet Northwest Pacific Fisheries Commission came to agreement on king crab catch quotas and fishing restrictions for the grounds west of Kamchatka in the 1959 season.

The Japanese industry was forced to accept a cut of more than 10 percent in its production quota to 280,000 cases as compared with 320,000 cases last year, but it will be able to continue operating four fleets as in past years. Although Japanese king crab fishermen have gained a 20-percent increase in their catch quota for the eastern Bering Sea this year, they seem to be facing serious trouble elsewhere. Land-based vessels from Hokkaido, which recently opened their regular seasonal fishing off the Maritime Province, were reported to have found crabs abundant and to be making fine catches. The Japanese fisheries press has carried reports that four Soviet fleets of fast vessels have appeared on the same grounds and are systematically raiding and sabotaging the Japanese nets. Two of the Japanese companies report more than 8,000 units of crab not damaged or lost already, and it is being predicted that the Japanese fishermen may have to abandon the grounds until the Russians leave.

Salmon: In negotiations on the Northwest Pacific salmon mothership fishery, the Soviets have raised their catch quota offer from 50,000 to 70,000 metric tons (the 1958 Japanese quota was 120,000 tons) and have modified their demands for establishment of new areas closed to fishing. They are still insisting, however, on a large closed area east of the northern Kuriles to allow salmon to migrate from the Pacific into the Sea of Okhotsk, and the Japanese seem to be faced with a choice of accepting new area restrictions, which might prove to be permanent, or resigning themselves to a drastic cut in their catch quota. A Japanese newspaper on April 16 stated that the three largest mothership operating companies are planning to withdraw one fleet each from service this year, cutting the Japanese high-seas salmon fishing fleets from 16 to 13.

Tuna: One consequence of the increasingly slim future in prospect for the Japanese mothership salmon fishery has been a determined movement by salmon boat operators to get government approval to engage in mothership-type tuna fishing. Beginning in Hokkaido about a month ago, this movement has met strong opposition from tuna boat owners, who fear overproduction of tuna. In its statement of tuna mothership fishery licensing policies for 1959, announced on April 8, the Japanese Fisheries Agency approved for the first time participation in mothership fleets by vessels primarily licensed for other fisheries. It was made clear at the same time, however, that there would be no increase in the over-all catch limit of 13,600 tons for the mothership tuna fishery.

Pearl Shell: A cutback is also in prospect for the pearl-shell fishery of the Arafura Sea off Australia, a relatively small-scale operation but one which is of local importance to the port of Kushimoto in Wakayama Prefecture. The Australian Government is reportedly asking that the Japanese catch be cut to 375 tons from last year's 470 tons. The matter was discussed at Tokyo in March between the Foreign Ministers of Japan and Australia, and the Australian position is said to have been very firm. It is estimated that the catch limit proposed by Australia will mean a reduction of the Japanese pearling fleet from 15 to 12 or fewer boats, the United States Embassy in Tokyo reported on April 17, 1959.

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TARGETS FOR 1959 FISHERY PRODUCTS EXPORTS REVISED:

On March 31, 1959, the Japanese Agricultural and Fisheries Products Export Committee of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry set export goals for the 1959 export year of US\$117,348,000 worth of canned fishery products and \$60,612,000 worth of other fishery products (exclusive of fats and oils). The total, \$177,960,000, is about 10 percent above the 1958 goal, but is little, if any,



## Japan (Contd.):

above last year's actual exports, as indicated by preliminary estimates. These estimates were revised upward from preliminary estimates.

The following figures are the targets for major canned fish products exports in 1959: canned tuna, 3,445,000 cases (\$27,757,000); salmon, 2,210,000 cases (\$55,250,000); crab, 555,000 cases (\$11,460,000), sardines and saury, 1,845,000 cases (\$11,849,000). For other important fishery exports, these goals have been set: frozen tuna, 118,300 tons (\$27,776,000); frozen swordfish, 5,000 tons (\$3,500,000); cultured pearls, 74,430 pounds (\$20,250,000); agar-agar, 1,500,000 pounds (\$1,800,000); salted and dried fishery products, 17,000 tons (\$7,286,000).

Somewhat more detailed figures on the canned goods categories were published about a week before the committee meetings. It is interesting to note that almost all categories were revised upward during the meetings. The preliminary figures were: 2,206,000 cases of tuna in brine and 1,100,000 cases of tuna in oil; 2,100,000 cases of salmon; 500,000 cases of crab; 900,000 cases of sardines; and 1,000,000 cases of saury.

The Committee made a number of interesting recommendations, among them the formation of a joint Government-industry headquarters for fighting import restrictions against frozen products; inclusion of sardines and saury in reparations for the Philippines, Indonesia, and Burma; increased Government efforts to secure larger import quotas for canned fish in Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern countries; increased canned salmon and crab quotas in the new Japan-France trade agreement; efforts to get the United States canned tuna "global quota" allotted among exporting countries on the basis of past records; and simplification of procedures for sending money abroad needed to pay expenses of fighting import restrictions and tariff increases. (United States Embassy dispatch from Tokyo, dated April 9, 1959.)

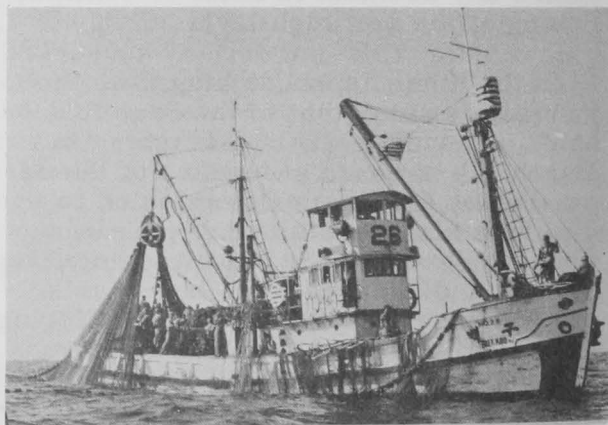
Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, May 1959, p. 64.



## Korea

## FISHERY PRODUCTS EXPORT PROGRAM FOR 1959:

The Korean Fishery Bureau of the Office of Marine Affairs has announced its target for the export of fishery products in 1959 as 14,500 metric tons (26 different categories) valued at US\$7.5 million, more than double the 1958 export value. Dried cuttlefish (4,200 tons--\$1.5 million), agar-agar (500 tons--\$1.5 million), fresh and live fish (4,000 tons--\$960,000), laver or edible seaweed (200 tons--\$800,000), and canned fish (823 tons--\$722,000) account for 72 percent of the exports programmed. Increasing exports (from 5,065 tons in 1955 to 11,048 tons in 1958) of seafood in recent years have constituted a bright spot in the generally unsuccessful efforts of Korea to better its balance of trade.



A Korean mackerel seiner equipped with a power block for hauling in the huge net.

Financing has been one of the key difficulties in expanding the potential of Korean fishery production and exports. A leading frozen shrimp processing firm, with modern facilities, is ready to export to the United States market if requisite loans to finance initial exports can be obtained, the United States Embassy in Seoul reported on March 27, 1959.

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## FISHING INDUSTRY EXPANDS WITH HELP OF FOREIGN AID:

The U. S. Office of Economic Cooperation (OEC) fisheries program, carried out jointly with the Korean Bureau of Marine Affairs, benefits almost exclusively individual fishermen and their guild associa-

Korea (Contd.):

tions. Among the many activities which serve to strengthen the Korean fisheries industry are the construction of 359 boats up to 80 tons in size (most of them in private shipyards in Korea), establishment, from counterpart funds, of a Fisheries Revolving Fund to supply short-term operating capital to fishery activities; construction of modern buildings for storage and equipment; improvement of methods of processing of fishery products (including exports); and instruction in the use of new types of fishing gear. With these and other activities, the OEC has helped the Korean fishing industry to expand rapidly.

The annual landings of fish and other seafood by Republic of Korea fishing vessels were about 500,000 metric tons in 1958, as compared to only 250,000 tons in 1954. During 1958, the fishing industry exported US\$2.2 million worth of products out of a total of \$16.3 million of exports.



Mexico

ENSENADA AREA PRODUCTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS, 1957-58:

Landings of finfish in the Ensenada area (Baja California) of Mexico were up about 82.3 percent due to sharply higher

Mexico's Ensenada Area Production of Fish, Shellfish, and Other Marine Products, 1957-58		
Products	Quantity	
	1958	1957
	.. (1,000 Lbs.) ..	
<b>Finfish Landings:</b>		
Sardines	32,594	17,924
Tuna	4,768	890
Pacific mackerel	785	2,339
Jack mackerel	662	11
Rock cod	145	131
Barracuda	58	30
Bonito	37	-
Pollock	33	88
Other	38	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,120</b>	<b>21,462</b>
<b>Shellfish Landings:</b>		
Abalone	5,154	5,734
Spiny lobster	2,140	2,207
Shrimp	702	-
Clams	292	507
Turtles	235	436
Other	5	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,528</b>	<b>8,894</b>
<b>Production of Other Marine Products:</b>		
Marine algae	11,329	22,198
Fish meal	3,025	2,380
Fish oil	300	375
Fertilizer	65	402
Abalone shell	115	131
Other	2	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,836</b>	<b>25,506</b>

landings of sardines (pilchards) and a fourfold increase in the landings of tuna. Landings of shellfish dropped slightly (about 4.1 percent). Production of processed or manufactured fishery products was down about 41.8 percent due to much lower production of seaweed or kelp (down 49.0 percent). The production of fishery products in 1958 reflects the situation prevailing in Southern California--more plentiful supplies of sardines and the increasing shortage of available beds of marine algae.

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WEST COAST SHRIMP FISHERY TRENDS, MARCH 1959:

The shrimp fishery off the Mexican west coast of Sinaloa and Sonora experienced a steady decline in catches during the first quarter of 1959. Catches at Mazatlan, for example, amounted to only 244 tons in February as compared with 900 tons in November of 1958. A similar drop was experienced during the first quarter of 1958 and the industry is at loss to explain this seasonal decline. Some hope has been expressed that the Federal Government announced change of the "closed season" from March 25-May 15 to July 15-September 15 might result in both increased catches and larger shrimp (United States Consul in Nogales reported on March 31, 1959).



Morocco

FISHING OF SPINY LOBSTERS BY VESSELS OVER 20 TONS PROHIBITED:

A two-year prohibition against the capture of spiny lobsters and related species in Moroccan territorial waters by vessels over 20 tons was announced by the Government on February 28, 1959. The regulations were effective on March 10, 1959.

The regulations restricting the spiny lobster fishing to small vessels was adopted as a conservation measure. The small size of the spiny lobsters taken in Morocco's territorial waters indicates overfishing.

In October 1958 rules and regulations were established for inland waters, pertaining to fishing preserves, sport and commercial licenses, species of fish that can be legally caught, legal lengths, and daily catch quotas.

The new regulations are the first major revision of Morocco's fishing laws

## Morocco (Contd.):

and regulations since 1922. (The United States Consul dispatch dated March 20, 1959, from Casablanca.)



## Netherlands

BUILDING 32 STEEL FISHING VESSELS FOR DENMARK:

A Netherlands shipbuilding company of Monnikendam, near Amsterdam, with the assistance of several small shipbuilding firms, has received an order for 32 steel vessels for delivery to Denmark. The cutters will be about 82 feet long, of 90-95 tons, and powered with 260-300 horsepower engines. The cutters will be used in the Danish fishing industry which is presently changing over from wooden fishing vessels to steel vessels. (United States Consul dispatch from Amsterdam, dated March 20, 1959.)

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NEW FACTORYSHIP TRAWLER:

The new 572-ton factoryship trawler, the Rotterdam, will join the Netherlands fishing fleet in July 1959. This will be the first vessel of this type to fly the Dutch flag. The vessel will have a capacity of 5,000 crates of fish, 980 of which can be stored in the cold-storage hold and 4,020 in the cooler-hold. In addition, the vessel will be able to carry 56 metric tons of fish oil and 60 tons of fish meal. The Rotterdam will be able to stay at sea for 35 days. (United States Consul dispatch from Amsterdam, dated February 19, 1959.)

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NORWAY'S OFFER FOR WHALING FACTORYSHIP UNACCEPTABLE:

The President of the Netherlands Whaling Company has termed the Norwegian offer of fl. 30 million (about US\$7.9 million) for the factoryship Willem Barendsz unacceptable. The Norwegian offer, he said, did not include purchase of the whale catchers and the tanker Bloemendael which also belong to the company. The replacement cost of the Barendsz today is about fl. 42 million

(US\$11.1 million). Moreover the Bloemendael, under the Norwegian terms, could not be used for whaling again and the whole offer was too doubtful since it was based on Norwegian take-over of the Dutch blue-whale quota under the International Whaling Agreement. (The United States Consul dispatch from The Hague, dated March 20, 1959.)



## New Hebrides

TUNA INDUSTRY AIDS ECONOMY:

The only significant economic advance made during 1958 in the New Hebrides was the opening of a fish cannery at Santos. Frozen tuna valued at LSt. 382,156 (about US\$964,000) accounted for the major portion of the increase of exports from the Condominium in 1958. The cannery, in operation most of the year, proved to be an excellent source of overseas earnings for the Territory and is one of the few important and successful industrial or commercial developments in the South Pacific area in recent years.

In 1958 the New Hebrides exported 3,509 metric tons of frozen fish (valued at US\$964,000) and imported 210 tons of canned fish valued at about US\$69,400, the United States Consul at Suva, Fiji, reported on March 11, 1959.



## Nicaragua

SHRIMP FISHERY TRENDS, DECEMBER 1958:

By the end of December 1958, eight companies had applied to the Nicaraguan Office of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Economy for fishing exploitation licenses. Previously fishing was done under exploration licenses that expired December 31. Six of the applying companies are American; one is incorporated in Panama, but believed to be American capital; and the eighth is incorporated in Nicaragua, but believed to be French capital. The Nicaraguan corporation also has applied for a license to grow oysters in Laguna de Perlas north of Bluefields.



## Nicaragua (Contd.):

Shrimp exports during the last quarter of 1958 amounted to 314,000 pounds, valued at \$162,700. As many as 80 boats were fishing at one time, according to a February 13, 1959, dispatch from the United States Embassy in Managua.



## Norway

### DISPUTE OVER ENDING SUBSIDY ON FISH FOR FILLETING AND FREEZING CONTINUES:

The dispute between the fish freezing and filleting industry and the North Norway Fishermen's Marketing Association (Norges Raafisklag) over the discontinuance by the Association of the subsidy on fish sold to the frozen fish industry has assumed wider proportions and, according to the industry, has affected the sales prospects of Norwegian frozen fillets in foreign markets. The Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Norway, and also Chairman of the Commission which recently investigated the profitability of the fisheries, has now entered the dispute.

According to a press account of an address he made in Trondheim on April 15, 1959, he spoke critically of the Association's action, describing it as discriminatory and shortsighted. He intimated that there are many who question whether the organization should continue to have the right to establish the prices fishermen shall receive for their catches. He conceded that the freezing and filleting industry, because of its higher quality requirements, should pay a somewhat higher price than the drying and salting sector, but argued that the price should take into account changes in the volume of fish supplies and in the market conditions for frozen fish fillets. He also stated that the fishermen should, in the long run, be able to operate profitably without Government price supports, but that, for the time being, such support is absolutely necessary, according to an April 17, 1959, dispatch from the United States Embassy in Oslo.

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### FISH CONSUMPTION UP IN 1958:

Norwegians consumed 130,000 metric tons of fish in 1958, an average of about 82 pounds a person, according to a Norwegian Government press release, an increase of 3 percent over 1957.

Norway exported 525,000 tons of fish and fish products in 1958, about 14 percent less than in 1957.

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### FISHERMEN SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT:

Representatives of the Norwegian fishermen's organizations and the fishing industry have met with officials of the Ministry of Fisheries to seek assistance from the Government for the fishermen who are in economic difficulties as a result of the poor herring and cod catches during the 1959 winter fishery season.

Following the meeting, the Government announced that it would ask the Storting to increase the subsidy to the codfishermen by 2 million kroner (US\$280,000) to 34 million kroner (US\$4,760,000) in 1959. The funds will be used to support minimum prices and to subsidize part of the cost of fishing equipment and bait.

The Government also announced that it will in the course of the year submit proposals to the Storting based on the recommendations of the Brofoss Report for increasing the profitability of the fisheries. The president of Norges Raafisklag, the Norwegian fishermen's association, reportedly has expressed his satisfaction with the Government's decision to increase the subsidies and has called off the fishermen's strike which he had threatened would take place in April, the United States Embassy in Oslo reported on April 4, 1959.

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### MOST OF 1958/59 WHALE OIL PRODUCTION SOLD:

According to press reports from Sandefjord, Norway, the Norwegian whaling companies have contracted for the sale of 91,500 long tons of whale oil from the 1958/59 season's production to United Kingdom and Norwegian processors at £72 10s. (about US\$204.36) per long ton.

## Norway (Contd.):

Some 9,500 long tons of whale oil from this season's production had been sold earlier from £74-75 (about \$208-211) per long ton.

Thus, nearly all the anticipated production of the Norwegian Antarctic expeditions during the current whaling season has been sold. Last season's Norwegian production was sold at an average of £72 (about \$203) per long ton, a decrease of £13 (about \$36.50) compared to the average price obtained during the two previous seasons. A large portion of the 1957/58 season's production remained unsold until the middle of 1958.

A Sandefjord newspaper which reflects the views of the Norwegian whaling industry, stated that the prices obtained this year must be considered satisfactory in view of the state of the market for whale oil, the United States Embassy in Oslo reported on March 6, 1959.

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#### SUBSIDY ON FISH FOR FREEZING AND FILLETING TO BE ENDED:

The Norwegian Fishermen's Association has decided that it will discontinue its subsidy on sales of raw fish to the fish freezing and filleting industry. As a result the industry is faced with the prospect of paying higher prices to the fishermen in order to obtain supplies of fresh fish and the need to increase the price of its products.

The industry is very concerned over this development, which it fears would seriously affect the ability of Norwegian frozen fish fillets to compete in foreign markets, and is protesting vigorously against it. If the protest is unsuccessful and the parties are unable to reach agreement, the Government may be forced to intervene in order to settle the dispute, according to a March dispatch from the United States Embassy in Oslo.

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#### VALUE OF FISHERY PRODUCTS EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES HIGHER IN 1958:

Exports of fish and fish products (includes frozen fish fillets but excludes fish

meal) by Norway to the United States in 1958 increased in value from about 75.1 million kroner (US\$10.5 million) in 1957 to almost 90.0 million kroner (\$11.3 million) in 1958, an increase of 7.8 percent. During the same period exports of fish meal and kelp decreased about 77 percent, from 3.7 million kroner (\$515,000) to 0.8 million kroner (\$119,000).

The increase in value of exports to the United States of fish and fish products was due primarily to greater sales of frozen fish fillets. Fish fillet exports, which were valued at 6.6 million kroner (about \$924,000) in 1957, rose to 14 million kroner (about \$1,961,000) in 1958. Trade sources report that the prospects are excellent for increased sales of fillets on the American market, provided that sufficient fish is available. Poor catches in recent years have resulted in raw material shortages at the freezing plants. Canned fish, primarily sardines and kippers, represent the bulk of Norwegian fish exports to the United States, and were valued at 50.6 million kroner (US\$7,087,000) in 1958, slightly below the previous year. Norwegian fish canners are not optimistic over 1959 prospects. Poor catches and rising costs have caused concern over the competitive position of that industry. Norwegian canneries will be pleased if the 1958 level of canned fish exports to the United States is maintained.

Herring meal exports to the United States virtually ceased in 1958. To some extent this was the result of the poor Norwegian herring catch, but a downward trend in Norwegian fish meal exports to the United States has been noted in recent years. Norwegian fish meal exporters have found it increasingly difficult to compete with other types of feeds on the American market, and have been able to obtain better prices for their product in Europe, according to a March 20, 1959, dispatch from the United States Embassy at Oslo.

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#### WINTER HERRING FISHERY FAILED AGAIN IN 1959:

For the second consecutive year Norway's winter herring fishery has been a failure. With the end of the large and spring herring (winter herring) fishing season on April 8, the total catch was

Norway (Contd.):

only about 413,850 metric tons, or about 20.3 percent above the 344,053 tons caught during the very poor 1958 season. Fishing during the early and most productive part of the season was hampered severely by storms. The spring herring landings for the latter half of the season amounted to only 92,535 tons (value US\$15.7 million), the lowest in 20 years.

The fishermen and fish meal and oil reduction plants are equipped to catch and process close to 1,116,000 tons during the fishing season of about 11-12 weeks. Landings of at least 744,000 tons are needed to insure a profitable season. As a result of the two successive failures of the winter herring fishery, the fishermen are in severe financial difficulties and the reduction plants have worked at only a fraction of their capacity, according to an April 10, 1959, dispatch from the United States Embassy at Oslo.



Peru

EXPORTS OF MARINE PRODUCTS, OCTOBER-DECEMBER AND YEAR 1958:

Exports of marine products by Peru in October-December 1958 amounted to 56,085 metric tons (valued at US\$7.3 million). During the year 1958 exports totaled 161,656 tons valued at US\$22.0 million. Fish meal was the leading item exported in terms of both tonnage and value.

Marine Products	4th Quarter 1958 <sup>1/</sup>			Year 1958 <sup>2/</sup>		
	Quantity	Value		Quantity	Value	
	Metric Tons	Million Soles	US\$ 1,000	Metric Tons	Million Soles	US\$ 1,000
Fish meal . . .	29,061	82.9	3,336	105,777	271.1	11,635
Fish, frozen, canned, etc. . .	11,833	65.0	2,616	30,056	177.5	7,618
Fertilizer (guano) . . . . .	13,181	26.1	1,050	15,133	29.6	1,270
Sperm oil . . . . .	1,464	5.9	237	7,352	25.7	1,103
Fish oil . . . . .	146	0.5	20	1,643	4.5	193
Whale oil . . . . .	400	1.0	40	1,695	3.9	167
Total . . . . .	56,085	181.4	7,299	161,656	512.3	21,986

<sup>1/</sup>F.o.b. values converted at rate of 24.85 soles equal US\$1 for 4th quarter 1958.  
<sup>2/</sup>F.o.b. values converted at rate of 23.30 soles equal US\$1 for year 1958.



Philippines

CANNED FISH RETAIL AND WHOLESALE PRICES, MARCH 16, 1959:

Retail and wholesale prices on March 16, 1959, for canned sardines and canned salmon in Manila were:

Product	Wholesale	Retail
	US\$/cs. (48 15-oz. cans)	US\$/can (15-oz.)
Canned Sardines:		
U. S. brand . . . . .	12.00-12.75	27.5-32.5
Japan brand . . . . .	11.75	25.0-27.5
Canned Salmon:	(48 16-oz. cans)	(16-oz.)
U. S. brands . . . . .	29.00	67.5-75.0



Portugal

CANNED FISH EXPORTS, 1958:

Portugal's exports of canned fish during 1958 amounted to 68,102 metric tons (4,217,000 cases), valued at US\$36.0 million as compared with 58,407 tons, valued at US\$35.0 million in 1957. Sardines in olive oil exported during 1958 amounted to 48,373 tons, valued at US\$25.2 million.

Species	1958		1957	
	Metric Tons	US\$ 1,000	Metric Tons	US\$ 1,000
Sardine in olive oil	48,373	25,210	40,084	23,650
Sardinelike fish in olive oil . . . . .	6,681	4,551	6,419	4,840
Sardine & sardinelike fish in brine . . . . .	1,441	331	1,433	353
Tuna & tunalike fish in olive oil . . . . .	2,260	1,719	2,782	2,222
Tuna & tunalike fish in brine . . . . .	906	466	522	290
Mackerel in olive oil .	7,446	3,396	6,367	3,221
Other fish . . . . .	995	329	800	382
Total . . . . .	68,102	36,002	58,407	34,958

During 1958, the leading canned fish buyer was Germany with 11,744 tons (valued at US\$6.3 million), followed by Italy with 11,123 tons (valued at US\$5.7 million), Great Britain with 7,983 tons (valued at US\$4.0 million), the United States with 6,399 tons (valued at US\$4.5 million), and Belgium-Luxembourg with 4,922 tons (valued at US\$2.5 million). Exports to the United States included 2,713 tons of anchovies, 2,540 tons of sardines, and 165 tons of tuna. (Conservas de Peixe, February 1959.)

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## Portugal (Contd.):

**CANNED FISH PACK,  
JANUARY-OCTOBER 1958:**

The total pack of canned fish for January-October 1958 amounted to 46,580 metric tons as compared with 45,874 tons for the same period in 1957. Canned sardines in oil (31,198 tons) accounted for 67.0 percent of the January-October 1958 total pack, higher by 27.4 percent than the pack of 24,482 tons for the same period of 1957, the February 1959 Conservas de Peixe reports.

Portuguese Canned Fish Pack, January-October 1958		
Product	Net Weight	Canners' Value
	Metric Tons	US\$ 1,000
<b>In Olive Oil:</b>		
Sardines . . . . .	31,198	17,831
Sardinelike fish . . . . .	4,251	1,973
Anchovy fillets . . . . .	2,701	2,289
Tuna . . . . .	1,673	1,288
Other species (incl. shellfish) . . . . .	525	340
<b>In Brine:</b>		
Sardinelike fish . . . . .	5,423	962
Other species . . . . .	809	200
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>46,580</b>	<b>24,883</b>

Note: Values converted at rate of 28.75 escudos equals US\$1.

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**FISHERIES TRENDS, DECEMBER 1958:**

**Sardine Fishing:** During December 1958, the Portuguese fishing fleet landed 11,395 metric tons of sardines (valued at US\$829,252 ex-vessel or about \$72.80 a ton). In December 1957, a total of 12,488 tons of sardines was landed (valued at US\$1,270,000).

Canneries purchased 49.2 percent or 5,609 tons of the sardines (valued at US\$413,843 ex-vessel or about \$73.80 a ton) during December. Only 139 tons were salted, and the balance of 5,647 tons was purchased for the fresh fish market.

**Other Fishing:** The December 1958 landings of fish other than sardines were principally 3,968 tons of anchovies (value US\$425,774), 3,304 tons of chinchards (value US\$102,956), 435 tons of tuna (value US\$101,461), 190 tons of mackerel (value US\$13,983), and 32 tons of bonito (value US\$5,183). (Conservas de Peixe, February 1959.)

**South-West Africa****FISHING INDUSTRY HAS GOOD  
YEAR IN 1958 DUE TO RECORD  
CANNED PILCHARD PRODUCTION:**

The fishing industry of South-West Africa as a whole recorded a highly successful year due to a record production of canned pilchards at Walvis Bay (56,422 tons as compared with 42,838 tons in 1957). The rock or spiny lobster industry centered in Luderitz was less successful due mainly to generally unfavorable weather conditions which reduced the landings to nearly half of normal. The catch of white fish, which is of relatively minor importance when compared with pilchards or lobsters, also dropped considerably in 1958 due to the fact that fewer boats came up from Union of South Africa waters to fish for snoek.

Income of the fishing industry was estimated at about £8.5 (US\$238 million) as compared with £7.3 (US\$20.4 million) in 1957. A firm demand existed throughout the year for fish meal and canned fish at favorable prices, but the price of fish-body oil declined. All pilchard factories at Walvis Bay, however, are in the fortunate position of being able to pump their fish oil directly to dock-side storage tanks for bulk shipments. By chartering bulk cargo vessels, the industry has saved very substantial sums in shipping fish oil, primarily to Europe.

The exceptionally profitable year experienced by the pilchard industry is due to the excellent condition of the fish which made it possible to can a higher than normal proportion of the catch. The oil content of the fish was also above normal thereby enabling factories to recover nearly 20 percent more fish oil than in 1957.

There has been no change in the policy regarding annual quota limits on the total catch of pilchards (250,000 metric tons) and on the export of lobsters (3 million pounds). These quotas are apportioned between the six pilchard factories at Walvis Bay and the six lobster canning and freezing factories at Luderitz. There is a strong possibility that the 250,000-ton quota for pilchards will be revised upward this year to 260,000 tons but will then include both pilchards and maasbank-

### South-West Africa (Contd.):

er. A small quantity of maasbanker are caught in the Walvis Bay area but are not now under a quota restriction as is the case in the Union of South Africa. It is improbable, however, that any further increases, other than that noted, will be permitted in the near future with respect to the total catch of fish or the number of factories operating in the territory.

Although pilchards are plentiful in the Walvis Bay area and the annual 250,000-ton catch could easily be exceeded, the Administration is clearly determined to limit the catch to the present level until such time as it has been established through research that a greater rate of exploitation will not deplete this natural resource.

The Government is continuing with a very active fisheries research program in which it works closely with the Union of South Africa's Department of Fisheries. There are two research stations in the territory, one at Luderitz and the other at Walvis Bay. A new and larger research station is now under construction at the latter port. The Administration also owns and operates three research vessels and is commissioning a fourth vessel in April, 1959.

The outlook for 1959 is encouraging. Although it is expected that the market for canned pilchards will be weakened by intensified competition, fish meal prices and sales are promising. Spiny lobster catches at Luderitz have also been exceptionally high in 1959. The lobster catch for the early part of 1959 is already approaching the total landed during the entire year of 1958. There is some speculation to the effect that the spiny lobster export quota may be temporarily increased for 1959 as a means of compensating the industry for the poor catch last year. It is not improbable that the Administration may consent to such a measure especially since the pilchard catch in Union of South Africa waters was allowed to exceed the quota limit in 1958 for a similar reason.

Since spiny lobster catches in Union waters have also been heavy there is every likelihood that there will be a very

substantial increase in exports of frozen spiny lobster tails to the United States in 1959. (United States Consul in Cape Town reported in a recent dispatch.)



### Spain

#### BILBAO FISHERIES TRENDS, MARCH 1959:

During the middle of March the Bermeo fleet of 7 vessels fishing for tuna off the waters of Dakar in French West Africa returned to its home port. The operation this year (the third in as many years) was more successful, due principally to better transportation for the fresh tuna from the fishing grounds to the temporary storage facilities in Dakar. This year five transport vessels were used instead of the two previously available for transshipment of the fish. The fishing vessels returning home with about 115 metric tons of tuna, averaged 7 to 8 tons per work day, although a record haul of 20 tons in a single day was made by one of the vessels.

Financially, this year was a huge success. Each vessel earned 920,000 pesetas (about US\$21,905) almost double the earnings of a single vessel during the first year. One vessel, the *Siempre Santa Maria* was shipwrecked early in the season. Its owners, however, will share in the profits of the other vessels.

In contrast to the financially successful operations of the Dakar tuna fleet, the 105 vessels of the same type and tonnage which remained in Bermeo during the winter season and fished in home waters caught fish (mackerel, sea-breams, anchovies, etc.) worth about US\$175,000 or about US\$1,667 per vessel. The winter season for the local fishermen in Bermeo was disastrous, mainly because of the lack of salted bait. On this account many of the craft were unable to put out to sea for several weeks at a time. The hardships suffered by the fishermen and their families this winter were such that the Brotherhood of Fishermen in Bermeo was obliged to distribute cash donations among its members. Each fisherman received about US\$11.90 at Christmas time and at New Year's an additional US\$9.52. As the cash reserves of the Brotherhood were not sufficient to take care of all the needs, it applied to a local bank for a loan. Altogether, the Brotherhood distributed the sum of about US\$36,321 as outright donations and US\$19,833 as loan advancements which the fishermen will repay whenever they can.

On the occasion of the recent renewal of the commercial treaty between Spain and Iceland, the Icelandic Ambassador to France, also accredited to Spain as Minister, spoke to a high official of the Spanish Ministry of Commerce who was very much interested in the possibility of importing frozen cod from Iceland for sale by the Spanish Government through its supermarket outlets. The Spanish official talked about importing an initial amount of 2,000-5,000 tons of frozen cod within the near future. This, in the opinion of the Bilbao representative of the Union of Icelandic Fish Producers, seems to be entirely out of the question at present, since Spain does not have suitable or sufficient refrigeration facilities to import such large amounts of frozen cod, according to a dispatch dated April 8, 1959 from the United States Consul in Bilbao.

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#### TUNA FISHING INDUSTRY EXPANDING:

Spain's most commercially-important tunas are bluefin (*Thunnus thynnus*) and albacore, which are referred to as "red tuna" and "white tuna," respectively. Spanish canneries usually process all tunas in the same manner, generally labeling them with the common name of tuna.

Spain's principal fishery zone for albacore and bonito is the North, where fleets of vessels from the Cantabrica and Northeast regions have fished successfully for many years. Spain has also begun to fish in the subtropical waters of the East Atlantic--an area which is considered to have excellent prospects.

## Spain (Contd.):

The north fishery zone has developed into a major fishery area because the fishing fleets of the north and northwestern ports of Spain have been the only fleets to pursue tuna fishing on a large scale. These fleets have not limited their operations to fishing for bonito off the Spanish coast but have also fished off West Africa for tropical tuna.

Year	Quantity		Value	
	Metric Tons	Millions of Pesetas	US\$ 1,000	
1957	42,409.8	489.6	11,657	
1956	40,380.2	408.8	13,438	
1955	36,822.3	243.9	8,018	
1954	41,480.8	302.8	9,954	
1953	32,987.3	253.9	8,347	

Note: Values for 1953-56 converted at the rate of 30.42 Spanish pesetas equals US\$1. Values for 1957 converted at the rate of 42.00 pesetas equals US\$1.

Except for unusually high landings in 1954, the table shows that tuna landings have increased steadily. Statistics on the 1958 landings have not yet been compiled, but it is estimated that the 1958 landings were higher than in 1957.

The Basque bonito fleet, operating out of the port of Las Palmas, Grand Canary Island, fished southern waters for tropical tuna. Although the landings form a small part of the total, they deserve mention. During the 1956/57 season, the Basque fleet landed about 1.3 million pounds of tuna. The landings in the 1957/58 season increased to about 3.5 million pounds. The 1958/59 season is expected to also be very successful for the Basque fleet, especially since the fleet includes several refrigerated vessels. (*Industria Conservera*, Vigo, Spain, December 1958.)

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## VIGO FISHERIES TRENDS, MARCH 1959:

**Fish Exchange:** Landings of fish and shellfish in March 1959 at the Vigo Fish Exchange totaled 4,735 metric tons, an increase of 203 tons over the preceding month and 511 tons more than March 1958. Major species sold over the exchange in March 1959 were: pomfret 1,957 tons; small hake 1,160 tons; and horse mackerel 440 tons.

March 1959 landings were valued at US\$1,319,000 (US\$1.00 = 42 pesetas), a decline of US\$65,000 from the preceding month, but higher by US\$345,000 as compared with March 1958.

The landings at the exchange from January-March 1959 totaled 15,097 tons, a drop of 7,730 tons from the last quarter of 1958, but an increase of 3,616 tons over the same period in 1958. In the first quarter of 1959 landings were valued at US\$3,894,000, about US\$1,075,000 above the January-March 1958 value.

**Fish Canning and Processing:** Cannery at Vigo purchased only 82 tons of fish and shellfish from the exchange during March this year. During March 1958 the cannery purchased 321 tons.

In the first quarter of 1959 the cannery purchased only 583 metric tons, a decline of 4,676 tons from the last quarter of 1958, but an increase of 93 tons over the first quarter of 1958.

**Marketing Trends:** Following a year of good catches in 1958, the cannery expect good supplies in 1959 when the sardines and albacore reappear. But pessimism prevails as to the market for canned fishery products. Predictions were that sardines would be plentiful with lifting of the closed season during April. Due to the tinplate shortage, cannery fear "starvation in the midst of plenty." In addition, cannery felt that the prices of fish and shellfish are too high. Since early 1958 sardine prices have risen 80 percent, anchovies 125 percent, and skipper 100 percent. The one exception among the major fishery products was albacore tuna which declined about 5 percent.

As a result of the higher raw material costs, Spanish canned fish products are becoming a luxury item in the domestic market and are being priced out of the world market. Ex-vessel prices for sardines in Portugal are about 50 percent lower than the prices paid to the Spanish vessels. Due to increasing costs, Spanish bankers were screening early spring loan applications carefully.

Canned stocks normally decrease during late winter and early spring because of increased consumer demand for higher-quality "aged" stocks, but canned albacore tuna stocks have moved slowly through April as a result of increased catches in southern Europe in 1958. The new canning season will be in full swing by June or July.

**Government Loans to Fishing Industry:** The Central Bank of Maritime Credit of the Marine Social Institute has granted a loan of about US\$236,000 to the Shipowner's Cooperative of Cadiz for the construction of an ice plant with a daily capacity of 300 tons. In January the same bank granted loans of US\$371,000 for construction and overhauling of fishing vessels and for improvements in shore-based fishery plants. Loans made by this bank during the past 15 years have totaled US\$143 million.



## Sweden

## BIOLOGY OF WHITING STUDIED:

The Swedish fishery research vessel *Skagerack* returned to Goteborg in March after a month's trip to the North Sea and the Skagerrak. The trip was part of a 6-year research program for the purpose of investigating the biology of whiting. After the survey has been completed it is expected that a review of the whiting's life and habits over a period of one year will have been recorded.

An abundance of research material was obtained. No results, however, have as yet been published, except for the comment of the leader of the expedition to the effect that it was found that at this time of the year large whiting are found only in one area of the North Sea, namely the Egersund Bank.

Trawling took place every day and the whiting caught were carefully analyzed. Every single fish was measured and scale samples were examined to determine the age. Efforts were also made to determine the existence of different races by recording the area, time, and age of maturity.

Other studies were also made for the International Council for Exploration of the Sea, for example the relationship between trawl mesh size and the size of the fish caught. An international convention contains regulations as to the size of mesh which may be used for different kinds of



## Sweden (Contd.):

fish, and it was desired to find out how this works out in practice. It was found that the fiber used in the trawl plays an important part. A trawl made of artificial fibers, for example, retains larger fish than one with the same size of mesh made of manila.

Local sources state that a new convention on trawl-mesh size may therefore be needed, and for this reason preliminary investigations of this nature are being made (United States Consul in Goteborg reported on March 25, 1959).



## Switzerland

## MARKET FOR CANNED SARDINES:

Imports of California sardines (pilchards) by Switzerland are included under tariff No. 89 a, entitled "Sardines (pilchards) and herring in tomato sauce; preserved salmon." Official customs statistics do not separate pilchards from herring and salmon imports. According to 1958 figures, imports totaled 774.6 metric tons valued at about 2.0 million Swiss francs (US\$466,000).

Country of Origin	Quantity			Value		
	Metric Tons	1,000 Francs	US\$ 1,000			
Japan . . . . .	357.7	729	169			
Portugal . . . . .	39.4	89	21			
Union of South Africa . . . . .	51.9	70	16			
South-West Africa . . . . .	68.7	99	23			
United States . . . . .	36.8	99	23			
Total . . . . .	554.5	1,086	252			

West Germany supplied 148.8 tons under tariff item 89 a, valued at 457,849 francs (US\$106,000) and Holland, 29.7 tons valued at 271,542 francs (US\$63,000). It is believed, however, that in the exports of these two countries to Switzerland no sardines were included.

Switzerland's per capita consumption of fish is one of the lowest in Europe in spite of publicity campaigns by the importers. While some consumer groups still consider fish to be a luxury, the main reason is apparently that the average Swiss does not care for fish in general.

The demand for both California and Japanese pilchards is considered fair. In 1958 the suppliers' quotations for canned California pilchards in tomato sauce sold in oval cans was US\$7.25 per case (48 cans of 15 oz. each) landed aboard ship California while the Japanese exporters offered the same quantity at US\$8.50 c. & f. Antwerp. Freight and duty per can amounted to Swiss francs 0.28 (6.5 U. S. cents) for California sardines and Swiss francs 0.21 (4.9 cents) for Japanese pilchards. Wholesale costs per can were reported to be for U. S. pilchards Swiss francs 0.93 (21.6 cents) and for Japanese Swiss francs 0.97 (22.5 cents). The wholesaler's margin of profit in both instances is 10 percent.

Prospects for considerably increased Swiss fish consumption in the near future are small. On the other hand consumption of seafood is increasing as indicated by the fact that in

1958 imports of lobsters, oysters, and mussels exceeded the highs of the boom year of 1957. (United States Embassy in Bern reported on March 24, 1959.)



## Trinidad

## PLANS FOR TUNA PROCESSING PLANT PROGRESSING:

Plans for a new tuna processing plant in Trinidad are moving steadily ahead. The executive vice-president of the new company has completed arrangements with the Government for a factory site. A consulting engineering firm has been asked to prepare plans so that construction tenders can be requested.

The total investment is expected to be about US\$5,300,000. Capital will be provided by Hong Kong interests, a well-known local industrialist, and by some other Trinidadian investors. A Japanese firm will supply 5 or more fishing vessels that are expected to fish for tuna off Africa and Latin America.

The plant will have freezing and cold-storage units as well as processing and canning facilities. Canned tuna is expected to be the most important product with the United States as a main market. There should be no problem in selling locally large quantities of fish meal, an important byproduct of the operations. The plant may also be used on a modest scale to process local fruits and vegetables for consumption in the local area as well as for export.



## Union of South Africa

## FISH MEAL MARKETING PROSPECTS GOOD:

The general manager of a group of fishing companies operating in the Union and South-West Africa stated in Cape Town in mid-March that prospects for the marketing of fish meal were excellent this year. He reported that the industry already had entered into contracts to supply 74,000 metric tons of fish meal at higher prices than ever before, principally to Great Britain and other European countries.

### Union of South Africa (Contd.):

Fish meal exports from the Union and South-West Africa totaled 57,244 short tons in 1957 and 83,481 tons in the period January 1-November 30, 1958.

While optimistic about prospects for marketing fish meal, the industry anticipates some problems in marketing canned pilchards, particularly in the Far East and the Philippines, due largely to Japanese competition.

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### SHORE BASED WHALING PRODUCTION, 1957-1958:

Union of South Africa's whale kill by the Durban shore-based fleet was slightly higher in 1958 than in 1957 (1,616 as compared with 1,606 whales), but the over-all yield of oil and whale byproducts was down about 2.5 percent. The total value of the 1958 catch was about US\$2,938,000 (SA\$1,050,000).

Union of South Africa's Production of Whale and Sperm Oils and Byproducts, 1957-1958		
Product	1958	1957
	. (Short Tons) .	
Whale oil . . . . .	7,140	7,772
Sperm oil . . . . .	4,067	4,200
Whale meat . . . . .	5,700	5,700
Whale meat extract .	330	169
Vitamin oils . . . . .	20	17
Total . . . . .	17,257	17,699

The Union of South Africa has not participated in Antarctic whaling operations since the Abraham Larsen whale

factoryship was sold to Japan at the end of the 1956/57 season.



### Venezuela

#### MARKET FOR CANNED SARDINES:

Leading Venezuelan importers, including a large chain of supermarkets, catering to the large foreign colony, report that they ceased importing sardines due to the November 30, 1958, duty increase from Bs 2.00 to Bs 8.00 a kilo (about US\$0.27-1.09 a pound). They neither import now nor see future importation as a possibility.

Over one-fourth of all sardines canned in Venezuela are packed in the 130-gram (about 4.6-oz.) flat square can. This pack retails at Bs 0.50 a can (15 U. S. cents). The Bs 1.04 (31.2 cents) duty on this can forces the imported product up to a retail price of Bs 1.54 (46.2 cents), even higher if freight costs are not offset by high local production costs, and this difference is even more pronounced in the heavier packs. The imported products cannot compete at three times the price, particularly with local sardines of satisfactory quality in a variety of packs on the market.

The Venezuelan market for imported sardines is virtually gone and future exports of sardines to Venezuela will be insignificant unless present duties are dropped. This is extremely unlikely, states a United States Embassy dispatch from Caracas, dated March 25.

