



International

FISH OILS

WORLD FISH OIL EXPORTS UP IN 1958:

World exports of fish oils (including fish-liver oils) in 1958 totaled 200,000 short tons, up 5 percent from 1957 and the same as 1956. A sharp decline in exports from the United States was more than offset by larger European shipments and near-record exports by the Union of South Africa.

United States fish-oil exports last year were down one-fifth from 1957 and were one-third below the record volume of 1955. United States shipments to West Germany and the Netherlands--the major markets for United States fish oils--dropped sharply, probably because of more competitive prices for vegetable oils and whale oils used in making margarine.

Fish Oils (Including Liver Oils): Exports from Specified Countries and Estimated World Total, Averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, Annual 1956-58					
Continent and Country	1958 ^{1/}	1957	1956	Average	
				1950-54	1935-39
.....(1,000 short tons).....					
North America:					
Canada	5.8	3.0	9.3	11.6	12.0
United States ...	47.0	58.5	71.3	42.2	1.2
Total	52.8	61.5	80.6	53.8	13.2
Europe:					
Denmark	12.5	9.8	9.7	6.3	2.5
Germany, West .	16.2	14.3	9.3	3.0	2/4.4
Iceland	27.0	20.9	21.3	19.6	24.5
Netherlands 3/..	11.8	7.1	9.1	14.5	.2
Norway	28.1	30.7	38.1	33.0	38.0
Portugal	5.5	4.2	4.7	3.8	4/
United Kingdom .	3.6	3.4	3.8	4.0	6.0
Total	104.7	90.4	96.0	84.2	75.6
Other:					
Angola	9.4	13.4	5.7	6.7	.7
Japan	6.3	3.5	5.0	6.8	35.0
Union of So. Africa	5/17.9	11.4	5.4	8.9	2.2
Total	33.6	28.3	16.1	22.4	37.9
World total 6/.	200.0	190.0	200.0	177.0	135.0

^{1/}Preliminary
^{2/}Prewar Germany.
^{3/}May include some whale oil.
^{4/}Not available.
^{5/}January-November.
^{6/}Includes estimates for minor exporting countries.

Shipments of fish oils from the several European exporters were up 15 percent in 1958. Norway--the largest exporter in Europe--maintained shipments at a fairly high level despite a sharp decline in output; but stocks were substantially reduced. Almost all the fish oil exported by European countries goes to other Western European countries, Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. Iceland's exports were up sharply.

Exports of fish oils from the Union of South Africa in the first 11 months of 1958 totaled 17,890 tons, and were the

largest since 1953. (Foreign Crops and Markets, June 15, 1959, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

FISHERIES AGREEMENTS

FINNISH-SOVIET FISHING AGREEMENT RATIFIED:

On April 4, 1959, Finland and the Soviet Union exchanged ratifications in Helsinki of the Finnish-Soviet Fishing and Seal Hunting Agreement, which was signed in Moscow on February 21, 1959, and ratified by Finland on March 6, 1959. The Finnish press of March 22 quoted a March 21 Radio Moscow announcement that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet "has ratified the agreement by which Finland is allowed fishing and seal hunting rights in certain Soviet territorial waters." The broadcast quoted a TASS news item to the effect that the Soviet Government at the request of Finland had agreed "that Finnish citizens in certain coastal communes will have the right to carry on fishing and seal hunting in certain Soviet territorial waters in the Gulf of Finland." The agreement carries essentially the same words.

The territorial waters question was not involved in the agreement. The fishing area involved is entirely within three miles of the Soviet coast. The Finnish-Soviet sea boundary in that area had been marked much earlier by the Finnish-Soviet Peace Treaty, and the Soviets presumably consider that they are ceding rights within their waters. The fishermen involved in the agreement would amount to only 40 or 50 who regularly fish those waters. Due to cumbersome Soviet security controls, it is expected that still fewer are expected to use the privilege.

International (Contd.):

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN NAMED FOR WORLD SCIENTIFIC MEETING ON SARDINES:

Donald L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, has been named chairman of the World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Sardines and Related Species to be Held in Rome, Italy, September 14-21.

The meeting is being held under the sponsorship of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. McKernan was the choice of the consultive committee which is helping the Biology Branch, Fisheries Division, of the United Nations set up the conference. Mario Ruivo of Portugal is vice chairman.

Throughout the world the populations of sardines (*Sardina*, *Sardinops*, and *Sardinella*) are subject to massive fluctuations which have mystified scientists and made consistent harvest and market planning impossible. The purpose of the world meeting is to consider methods of determining the reasons for these violent population fluctuations and to eventually create a system of predicting supply in time to give the industry a chance to adjust itself to large or small harvests.

Some of the things which the meeting hopes to document include: the extent to which the sardine resources are being harvested; the extent to which exploitation is hampered by fluctuations, through lack of knowledge of the resources and through the lack of biological information about the species. Other things which will be considered will be the value and means of documenting the information about these species already at hand, methods for exchanging information and teaching services, and the type of meetings to be held in the future to further the program.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

14th SESSION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES ENDS:

The Fourteenth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which closed May 30, 1959, made important advances towards reducing barriers to world trade.

The Contracting Parties decided to convene a tariff conference commencing in September 1960. The scope of this conference will cover four cate-

gories of negotiations: (1) negotiations among Contracting Parties for new concessions, as proposed by the representative of the United States at the Thirteenth Session; (2) renegotiations with member States of the European Economic Community, pursuant to Article XXIV:6; (3) any renegotiations of concessions in the existing schedules which governments intend to undertake before the end of the current three year period of firm validity; (4) negotiations with countries wishing to accede to the GATT.

Other major work of the Session dealt with the removal of governmental restrictions other than tariffs. Such restrictions, largely quantitative controls over imports, have been a major obstacle to world trade in the postwar period.

A highlight of the Session was the decision reached on the important question of German import restrictions. Two years ago it was determined that Germany was no longer in balance-of-payments difficulties and, consequently, was no longer entitled under the General Agreement to restrict its imports on that ground. Since that time the GATT has provided a mechanism through which a solution acceptable both to Germany and her trading partners has been sought.

Under the terms of the decision, Germany has agreed to remove all nontariff restrictions on a wide variety of goods. Some of these goods will be freed from controls as of July 1 of this year; other moves will be taken in stages during the three-year period of the decision. For the goods still subject to licensing, mainly those covered by the Agricultural Marketing Laws, Germany will endeavor to increase the opportunities for the sale of imports, without regard to country of origin.

The Fourteenth Session was the first meeting of the Contracting Parties since the convertibility measures taken by certain countries at the end of last year. The United States Delegation took this occasion to express its views on the significance of convertibility in the field of trade policy. In a comprehensive statement, the United States Delegation pointed out that the broad establishment of external convertibility generally removed the substantive distinction that had existed for two decades between the currencies of dollar countries and the currencies of others.

The United States statement discussed the interests of the United States in the removal of discriminatory restrictions against its exports; it discussed also the interests of other countries in the removal of discrimination and in the general relaxation of governmental controls. There was a general favorable response to the United States statement. It was discussed in the Plenary Session, as well as in the various working parties. Shortly before the end of the Session, the United Kingdom which had consulted on its balance-of-payments restrictions, announced another major move in removing discriminatory restrictions against dollar goods. The wide range of consumer goods and foodstuffs covered by these liberalization measures will bring the treatment accorded United States imports substantially closer to the degree of freedom enjoyed by European exports in the British market.

Another major accomplishment of the Fourteenth Session was the association of two additional countries with the Contracting Parties. Israel's pro-

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visional accession was approved with full accession to take place upon the successful completion of tariff negotiations between Israel and the Contracting Parties in the course of the general round of tariff negotiations set for 1960. Limited participation by Yugoslavia in the GATT was also approved by the Contracting Parties. In addition, Poland's application for association with the Contracting Parties was received and will be given careful study by a working party.

In addition to these major problems, a large number of other important subjects were treated at the Session. The Contracting Parties adopted a recommendation recognizing the desirability of avoiding restrictions on the purchase of transport insurance. Recommendations on anti-dumping matters, subsidies, and state-trading were considered and accepted. Requests of countries to alter their tariffs were heard, and after careful consideration were approved with provisions limiting the adverse effects on other countries.

The Contracting Parties also heard reports on the consultations held with the European Economic Community (EEC) or "Common Market" regarding trade problems which might arise from the operation of the Rome Treaty. While restating support for the successful development of the Community, the United States representative strongly protested the proposed common external duty of 30 percent ad valorem on tobacco as too high.

The Contracting Parties have decided that the tariff conference to convene commencing September 1960 shall be held in two phases. The first phase, up to the end of 1960, will be concerned with renegotiations with the European Economic Community, and with any re-negotiations of existing concessions. The second phase, opening at the beginning of January 1961, will be concerned with negotiations for new concessions and negotiations with countries wishing to accede to GATT.

In determining the time table outlined above, Committee I took into account the fact that the powers of the President of the United States enabling that country to participate in tariff negotiations (under the Trade Agreements Extension Act of 1958) will expire on June 30, 1962. The Committee also noted that, in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Treaty, the members of the European Economic Community will start adapting their tariffs to the new common tariff on January 1, 1962, which makes it desirable that the renegotiations contemplated in Article XXIV:6 and, for that matter, the negotiations conducted by the European Economic Community for new concessions, be concluded before that date. (U. S. Department of State news releases of June 1 and May 25.)

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC SALMON FISHERIES COMMISSION

FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON RUN FOR 1961 LOOKS PROMISING:

A record-breaking sockeye salmon run appears headed for the Fraser River in 1961. Staff field reports of the Inter-

national Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission in 1959 indicate that the current seaward migration of yearling sockeye from the large Stuart and Quesnel Lake systems of the Upper Fraser is very heavy, exceeding the highest expectations.

The Washington Director of Fisheries, a member of the Commission, said June 4, 1959, that similar reports preceded the famous 1958 Adams River run of 19 million fish. He added that with favorable sea survival conditions for the young fish now moving downstream it is not impossible that the 1961 run of sockeye to the Fraser River will approach 10 million fish or double the size of the brood-year run in 1957.

The Commission, which is charged with the management of the Fraser River sockeye and pink fishery in both Washington and British Columbia waters, has directed much of its attention to the reestablishment of the once-great sockeye runs to the Quesnel and Stuart systems which were almost destroyed by the Hell's Gate slide in 1913. In that year 30 million sockeye were harvested principally by Washington fishermen. Within a few years after the slide, the Fraser River salmon runs were almost exterminated and it was not until 1945 that international action resulted in the construction of the Hell's Gate Fishways.

In 1941, the cycle year preceding the construction of the fishways, only 1,100 sockeye salmon spawners were counted on the Quesnel River and 5,000 in the Stuart system. Four cycle years later in 1957 the runs had been restored to a phenomenal level with 230,000 spawners counted in the Quesnel and 750,000 in the Stuart.

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

PROTOCOL FOR AMENDMENT OF CONVENTION ENTERS INTO FORCE:

Protocol to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946) contains a provision for "Methods of Inspection." The Protocol was signed by the representatives of the Contracting Governments at Washington on November 19, 1956. Since the required number of ratifications have been deposited, the Protocol to the Convention entered into force on May 4, 1959. It was pro-

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claimed by the President of the United States on May 14, 1959.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, October 1958, p. 47.

NORTH PACIFIC FUR
SEAL COMMISSIONPELAGIC RESEARCH FOR 1959
COMPLETED BY THE UNITED STATES:

On April 29, the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries ended its pelagic fur seal research for 1959. On that date, the last of the three vessels chartered to take fur seals at sea was returned to its owners. During the 301 ship-days spent since mid-January 1959 collecting seals off California, Oregon and Washington, a total of 1,546 fur seals were captured. Studies are under way of the stomach contents, age, sexual development, and other characteristics of the animals.

Under the Interim Convention on Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals, the United States is obligated to take from 1,250 to 1,750 seals at sea annually for research purposes. The other parties to the Convention--Canada, Japan, and the USSR are also obligated to carry on pelagic research.

UNITED NATIONS

AFGHANISTAN SIGNS
CONVENTION ON THE HIGH SEAS:

Afghanistan on April 28, 1959, ratified the Convention on the High Seas, done at Geneva April 29, 1958. This Convention regulates the general regime of the high seas, including jurisdiction over vessels, pollution of waters by radioactive waste, and other matters. Although more than 49 nations have signed the Convention on the High Seas, the required number of 22 ratifications have not been received, therefore the convention is not in force.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review January 1959, pp. 54-55



Australia

ADDITIONAL FUNDS GRANTED TO
PROMOTE THE SALE OF PEARL SHELL:

The Australian Government has decided to grant an additional £A18,000

(about US\$41,000) to promote Australian pearl-shell sales in the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom. In announcing this, the Minister for Trade said that Australian pearl shell exports to the United States were earning US\$1 million a year.

During October 1958, the Australian Government, the Australian pearling industry, and United States importers of pearl shell each contributed £A18,000 to launch the publicity campaign.

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JAPANESE PEARL SHELL FLEET
OPERATIONS FOR 1959 SEASON:

An 11-vessel Japanese pearl-shell fleet was expected to reach northern Australian waters about June 13 to begin the four-months 1959 pearling season, states a United States Embassy dispatch from Canberra, dated May 27, 1959. The Japanese catch is limited to 375 metric tons during 1959 (474 tons taken in 1958), and the fleet will not be allowed to operate off the coast of Western Australia.

In announcing the details, the Australian Minister for Primary Industry said that owing to the improved quality of plastic buttons, the pearl-shell industry was experiencing marketing difficulties, except for quality shell, and production levels had to be revised accordingly.

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SHRIMP LANDINGS, 1953-1958:

Australian landings of shrimp showed substantial increases in fiscal years 1954/55 and 1955/56, but since then they have been dropping steadily (see table.)

Australian Estimated Shrimp Landings (heads-on), by States, 1953/54-1957/58					
	1957/58	1956/57	1955/56	1954/55	1953/54
	(1,000 Lbs.)				
New South Wales	1,520	2,386	3,672	4,603	3,558
Victoria	20	-	1	19	-
Queensland	3,000	2,500	2,400	2,000	700
West Australia	147	189	75	26	45
Total	4,687	5,075	6,148	6,648	4,303

Note: Fiscal year--July 1-June 30.

The 1957/58 landings of 4.7 million pounds were down 0.4 million pounds, or 8 percent, as compared with the 1956/57 landings, and were 1.4 million pounds, or 23 percent below the record 6.1 million pounds reported in fiscal year 1955/56.



Brazil

RECIFE TUNA SALES RESUMED:

At the beginning of May the Brazilian Federal Price and Supply Commission raised the retail price of frozen tuna from Cr\$30 to Cr\$45 a kilo (9.8-14.6 U. S. cents a pound). The Japanese-Brazilian marketing company in Recife had asked for a price of only Cr\$40 a kilo (13.0 U. S. cents a pound). Following the increase in prices, frozen tuna became fairly plentiful in the retail markets. It is believed that the Commission raised the retail price to Cr\$45 in order to provide a greater retail mark-up margin. However, when the higher price was announced, the Japanese-Brazilian marketing company immediately raised the wholesale price from Cr\$23 to Cr\$38 a kilo (7.5-12.4 U. S. cents a pound). The retail and wholesale prices for frozen tuna at Recife are subject to further negotiations between the marketing company and the Commission. (United States consulate dispatch from Recife, May 11.)

Note: Values converted at rate of US\$1 equals Cr\$139.50.

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SHRIMP PRODUCTION AND FOREIGN TRADE, 1954-1958:

Production: Landings of shrimp in Brazil were about 45.6 million pounds in 1957 as compared with about 38.1 million pounds in 1956, and 42.9 million pounds in 1955, according to official sources. Estimates of the landings of shrimp from other sources are much lower (about 45-50 percent) than official estimates.

Imports: Shrimp imports by Brazil are negligible and amounted to only 440 pounds of cured shrimp from Japan in 1955, 602 pounds of canned shrimp from the United States in 1954, and 92 pounds of canned shrimp from Norway in 1956. Other imports of shrimp between 1954 and 1958 were either nonexistent or in quantities too small to report.

Exports: The only exports of frozen shrimp appearing in the official statistics of Brazil between 1954 and 1958 were made to the United States late in 1958 and amounted to 14,400 pounds (value US\$3,440 c.i.f.). In 1955, 743 pounds of canned shrimp were exported to Uruguay; in 1957,

37,000 pounds (value US\$18,715 c.i.f.) were exported to some unspecified countries. In 1958, Canada received 90,000 pounds (value US\$41,803 c.i.f.) and the Union of South Africa received 2,300 pounds (value US\$1,404 c.i.f.) of canned shrimp.

The statistics on Brazil's foreign trade in shrimp indicate that beginning in 1958 shipments of both canned and frozen shrimp began to pick up and due to fairly plentiful supplies may increase in the future. The 14,400 pounds of frozen shrimp exported from Brazil in 1958 appeared in U. S. Bureau of the Census import data for February 1959.



British Guiana

INITIAL SUCCESS OF SHRIMP FISHING VENTURE:

The private shrimp fishing venture inaugurated in April in British Guiana by a group of United States fishing companies has met with initial success. Shrimp apparently are being caught in very good quantities, with the best locations reported to be off the coast of French Guiana. An initial shipment of 91,000 pounds was made to New York during the week of May 25 and more are expected to follow shortly.

A fifth United States firm now has become associated in the venture, according to a United States Consulate dispatch from Georgetown of May 29.



Cuba

CUBAN MARITIME AGENCY ABSORBS FISHERIES ORGANIZATION:

The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the National Fisheries Institute (Instituto Nacional de la Pesca) were dissolved and their powers and duties entrusted to the delegate of the Cuban Maritime Agency which recently absorbed the formerly autonomous fisheries organization. (United States Embassy dispatch from Havana, dated May 21, 1959.)



Ecuador

FAO TECHNICIAN REPORTS ON SHRIMP FISHING INDUSTRY:

Ecuador's shrimp stocks are stable, reports a Food and Agriculture Organization technician, but the catch per boat is lower due to the large number of vessels fishing for the available supply.

His preliminary investigations of the Ecuadoran shrimp industry have led him to the conclusion that no special conservation measures may be required to guarantee stable shrimp resources along Ecuador's coast, especially in the area of the Gulf of Guayaquil. His opinion is based largely on the circumstances that the weather along the Ecuadoran coastline reflects a practically constant year-around environment. According to the technician, the stable environment suggests that there may be no special spawning season for shrimp, and that shrimp fishing can be scheduled during the entire year. When asked if he thought that indiscriminate fishing of all types and sizes of shrimp might result in depletion of shrimp resources, he pointed out that since one female shrimp lays as many as one million eggs, there was little reason to believe that continuous fishing could destroy shrimp resources. He stated that his tentative conclusion is that it would not be necessary to advise the Ecuadoran Government to establish closed seasons.

His investigations led him to believe that Ecuador could continue in the future to produce about 3-1/2 to 4 million pounds of shrimp for export yearly, provided no unusual changes in ocean currents occurred or no large-scale shrimp migrations took place. In his opinion, the present recession in the local frozen shrimp export trade has been due more to the expanded size of the fishing fleet rather than to disappearance of shrimp from the coast. He feels that the problem simply involves too great a number of boats in operation. He pointed out that the total volume of catches was roughly the same, but that the expanded number of boats in operation had resulted in a sharp decline in the catch per boat. In commenting upon ways in which the total volume of shrimp catches could be increased, he noted that only one shrimp trawler was reported to be equipped for fishing at depths of 40 fathoms or more. He believed that if larger trawlers were available equipped to fish at greater depths, the volume of catches could be easily increased.

The FAO technician also stated that he had heard proposals were under consideration among several fishing companies to form a new shrimp fishing association for the purpose of better organization among fishing companies, the promotion of more modern fishing methods, and for the solution of problems affecting the industry as a whole. Attempts to form such an association had been made before, but those efforts failed due to arguments between the companies. One of the main stumbling blocks to such attempts was the question of regulation of fishing so as to exclude the catching of small size shrimp. While many companies reportedly were in favor of such regulations, several refused to accept such a prohibition and continued to fish all sizes of shrimp.

He also observed the considerable difficulty which continues to exist locally in the matter of obtaining reliable statistics on the number of active fishing vessels and the landings of shrimp and fish. The only currently feasible means of obtaining reasonably-accurate statistics is to seek information from all possible sources and to draw an average.

Aside from the decline in the frozen shrimp export trade which started in 1958, the industry has been facing two additional problems. One of these concerns the occasional attempts of foreign-registered trawlers to engage illegally in shrimp fishing in Ecuadoran waters. An example of this occurred early in 1959 when some Peruvian-flag trawlers were caught by Ecuadoran patrol vessels fishing illegally in Ecuadoran waters in the Gulf of Guayaquil. The other problem faced by the industry concerns illegal business operations among the companies themselves. For example, several companies recently joined together to submit a protest against an alleged practice which they reported had been set up and which comprised the establishment of small companies at the port of Puerto Bolivar, southeast of Guayaquil, which openly purchased up to 50 percent of shrimp catches from the captains of fishing vessels at prices higher than those in the contracts between the captains and the large

companies in Guayaquil. (United States Consulate dispatch from Guayaquil, dated May 18, 1959.)

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SHRIMP FISHERY TRENDS:

Ecuador's exports of shrimp (mostly frozen) January-March 1959 amounted to 1,381,000 pounds with an f.o.b. value of US\$239,962, according to the Central Bank's mimeographed Report on Exports and Production of Major Crops. Shrimp exports during the year 1958 amounted to 3,310,000 pounds with an f.o.b. value of \$812,084, while in 1957 they totaled 4,490,000 pounds.

Since trade sources estimate that less than 10 percent of all shrimp caught along the Ecuadoran coast are sold for domestic production, there seems to have been a drop in the catch of shrimp from 1957 to 1958. (United States Embassy dispatch from Quito, May 28, 1959.)



Fiji Islands

NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED FOR JAPANESE VESSELS TO FISH FOR BRITISH FIJI ISLANDS CANNERY:

Lately, attention has been attracted by a report that a canning company in the Fiji Islands (a British territory near Samoa) is hoping to invite Japanese fishermen and technicians to its newly-built cannery. The Japanese Fisheries Agency refuses to comment on the report, which it says is unconfirmed, but it is arousing great expectations in Japanese tuna fishing circles, where at present there is an excess of fishing potential.

According to the reports, conversations have been carried on between officials of Wakayama, Mie, and Aichi prefectures and the president of the Fiji Islands canning company, who came to Japan for the first time in May. It is said that the parties are close to signing a contract. The scope of the scheme is reported as follows:

Prefectural authorities will select boats and fishermen in consultation with local fishery cooperative associations and the boats will sail from Japan in about three months. Vessels of about 150 tons will be used. Contracts will be for one year, but may be renewed if desired. Living quarters have already been built. Tuna

Fiji Islands (Contd.):

can be taken almost all year-round in Fijian waters.

A total of 12 technicians has been requested, including supervisory engineers, refrigeration experts, electricians, and office workers. They will have four-year contracts, and can bring their families from Japan to live with them. Supervising engineers will receive salaries of about ¥200,000 (US\$555) a month, plus a bonus on sales over the planned goal. The equipment and supplies for the new cannery have already been purchased. (Nippon Suisan Shimbun, June 3, 1959.)



Greece

FISHING INDUSTRY EXPANDING STEADILY:

The fishing industry of Greece has been expanding steadily since World War II. Through the application of a development program, sponsored and financed by the United States Aid Mission, the industry underwent modernization and expansion during this period.

Before the war about 3,000 small vessels, few of which were motor-driven, engaged in fishing. Since the war, the Greek fishing fleet has increased rapidly both in the number of vessels and average tonnage. At the beginning of 1958 the Greek fishing fleet consisted of 12,716 vessels of which 3,515 were motor-propelled. The Greek deep-sea fishing fleet, which accounts for about 75 percent of the total fish catch, was composed of 795 motor trawlers and purse-seine boats in 1958, as compared to 500 in 1938 and 683 in 1954. Average tonnage of the deep-sea vessels, most of which are of postwar construction, is 41.4 tons per vessel in 1957 as compared with 13.9 tons in 1938. All the deep-sea fishing vessels are equipped with imported or locally-made Diesel or semi-Diesel engines. Many craft have cold-storage facilities and about 80 motor trawlers are equipped with radiotelephone and sonar apparatus. Since 1953 four large fishing vessels of about 500 gross tons each have been added to the country's fishing fleet.

Landings by the fishing fleet increased from 25,000-35,000 metric tons in the prewar period to 46,000 tons in 1953, 60,000 tons in 1955, and 75,000 tons in 1957.

Fish processing also has made marked progress. Greece has some 120 packing plants with annual output of about 6,000-6,500 tons, as compared with a prewar average of 1,500 tons. The fish processed are bonito ("Greek salmon"), sardines, anchovy, mackerel, and tuna. Greece also has these fish canning plants processing primarily bonito, which account for 90 percent of total canned fish production. The Greek fish-canning industry is still relatively undeveloped with production in 1957 only 850 tons. Plans are under way for the construction of modern fish markets in a number of distribution centers, including Piraeus and Patras. These will be equipped with modern handling and storage facilities.

Progress is being made in restocking and developing fresh-water fisheries, particularly in Northern Greece.

Sponge fishing is carried out in Greek waters and off the coast of North Africa. Before World War II the inhabitants of the islands of Hydra, Aegina, and Limnos and those of Trikeri (Volos) engaged in sponge fishing and made an annual catch of some 40-50 tons. Since the war Greek sponge production has increased mainly because of the annexation of the Dodecanese Islands, where sponge fishing is an age-long tradition. A total of 149 sponge-fishing craft were in operation in 1956, and 169 in 1957. Production was 115 metric tons in 1956 and 114 metric tons in 1957. The Greek sponge fishing industry is encountering difficulties on the world market because of the competition from synthetic sponges and the requirement of some North African countries that high royalties or fees be paid before Greek fishermen are permitted to operate in their territorial waters.

Despite the very substantial progress made in agricultural and fishery production in the postwar period, Greece still depends on imports for a substantial portion of its food requirements.



Iceland

FISHERIES TRENDS, JANUARY-MAY 1959:

The unusually bad weather in Iceland curtailed fishing during most of February and March. However, catches were so good the following month that by the end of the inshore season in mid-May landings may have equaled the excellent record of 1958. Although the landings picked up, there is some question as to whether or not the value of the winter season landings will equal the 1958 record.

Species	January-March		
	1959	1958	1957
 (Metric Tons)		
Cod	74,566	85,673	74,338
Haddock	8,424	10,543	9,271
Ling	1,171	2,268	1,590
Wolfish or catfish	3,304	5,121	2,838
Ocean perch	16,667	4,792	2,585
Coalfish or pollock	2,785	3,032	2,478
Cusk	2,061	3,615	1,779
Herring	102	1,422	-
Other	1,283	1,459	1,484
Total	110,363	117,925	96,363

^{1/}Except for herring which are landed round, all fish are landed drawn.

As of April 30, or about ten days before the official end of the winter season, actual production of frozen fish fillets was 1 percent below the April 30 level of 1958. Production of salted fish and stockfish was 8 percent and 9 percent, respectively, below the level of the same period in 1958. Because a higher proportion of the late season catch is being used for stockfish, it is likely that the final stockfish production will be somewhat higher than last year. And because catches held up at the end of the season better than usual, it is still possible that total groundfish production may equal or exceed that of last year.

Product	January-April		
	1959	1958	1957
	(Metric Tons--Product Weight)		
Salted fish	21,000	22,910	19,670
Stockfish	4,400	4,830	2,970
Frozen fish (mostly fillets)	34,250	34,635	27,150

Total landings for January-March this year of 110,363 metric tons were smaller than for the same period last year, but considerably higher than in 1957 (96,363 tons). For most species except ocean perch, the catch as of March 31, 1959, was no higher than at the same time during the relatively poor catch year of 1957. But the situation improved dramatically in April, and the freezing plants in Faxa Bay and the Westman Islands were often working in shifts through weekends and holidays.

The Icelandic otter trawlers have been at some disadvantage this year by being excluded from fishing within the new 12-mile limit for the areas and times when inshore fisheries are most attractive. But they were less affected by the adverse weather. Despite the loss of the Hafnarfjordur trawler *Juli*, which foundered in a storm on the way home from Newfoundland in February, the total trawler catch for the first three months exceeded that of last year. During February and March the trawlers fished mostly off the West and South coasts. In April several trawlers moved to the cod fisheries off the Greenland coast, and an increasing number are now returning to the rich ocean perch grounds north of Newfoundland, where as much as 25 tons have been taken in a single haul of the trawl. Indications are that catches are just as good as last fall, and since the trawling on these new grounds started much earlier than last year, there may be a real problem in finding sufficient markets, other than the U.S.S.R., for the vastly increased volume of ocean perch.

But for the adverse weather in February and March it is most probable that the production of fish for the first four months would have been well above last year. Catches in Faxa Bay in January, before the storms forced the boats to port, were one-third higher than last year, and catches were on the whole excellent for the boats in April, particularly at the Westman Islands. While trawlers caught a larger share of the total catch for the first 3 months, the month of April saw a rise in the motorboats' share. In the home fishing grounds, the trawlers had definitely poorer catches than last year, due largely to the 12-mile limit.

At the level of Ikr. 247 millions (US\$15.2 million), Iceland's exports for the first quarter of 1959 were 28 percent higher than in the comparable period of 1958. This was a delayed dividend from last year's record fish catch, which left year-end stocks of export products at a level Ikr. 71-million (US\$4.4 million) higher than at the end of 1957. For the most part, these stocks were composed of frozen fillets from the heavy catches of ocean perch from the newly-discovered fishing grounds north of Newfoundland. Since the 1958 sales contract with the U.S.S.R. had already been fulfilled in November, it was necessary to store the fillets until a new sales contract could be negotiated with that country.

In both 1958 and 1959 the annual sales contract with the U.S.S.R. was not concluded until February, but this year the Icelandic merchant ships got off to an early start on their deliveries and were actually en route when the agreement was signed.

The sharp increase in exports to the Soviet Union, which were 47 percent higher than for the first quarter of 1958, was thus due to the factors of accumulated stocks and earlier deliveries; it provides no indication of a similar increase in the annual rate of exports. On an annual basis, exports to the U.S.S.R. are likely to be little changed. Although the 1959 contract provides for 26,000 tons of frozen fillets, compared to 25,000 tons in 1958, the fact that the Russians agreed to take a much larger proportion of the contract in ocean perch (23,000 out of 26,000 tons, compared to 11,000 out of 25,000 tons last year) means that more cod will be available for sale to Free World markets, where the demand for ocean perch is limited.

In the case of sales to the United States, however, the increase in January-March 1959, which was 43 percent above exports for the first quarter of 1958, appears to be due to fundamental market factors. The demand and prices have continued strong, and with a relatively poor season for the Canadian fisheries in the North Atlantic, the Icelanders are hopeful of maintaining the present high level of exports to the United States. The bulk of the first quarter increase in shipments to Russia came from year-end stocks, but virtually the whole of the increased shipments to the United States came from the new winter season 1959 catch.



Iran

DEVELOPMENT OF SHRIMP FISHERY IN PERSIAN GULF:

A large expansion of an Iranian company's shrimp fishing activities was announced earlier this year. The Iranian company before the expansion operated two shrimp fishing vessels, one mother-ship, and a 300-ton cold-storage warehouse in Khorramshahr. The company ships about 40 to 60 metric tons of shrimp a month to the United States. A New York City importing firm has sole importing

Iran (Contd.):

rights in the United States for the shrimp shipped by the Iranian company.

The expansion includes the addition of seven trawlers and one mothership to the Iranian company's fleet. The trawlers in May were on the high seas, riding "piggy-back" on steamers. Four were scheduled to arrive at Khorramshahr on May 28, and three on June 5, 1959. The mothership will arrive in August. The trawlers are 65 footers, having a displacement of 50 tons, and are equipped with Diesel engines. The additional mothership is 1,000 tons gross registry and is equipped for freezing and processing.

The additional trawlers were previously used in Panamanian waters. They are under Panamanian registry and will continue to fly the flag of Panama, at least for a year. The mothership, the Mayon I, is a United States-built vessel now under Guatemalan registry. The trawlers are owned by a Panamanian company which is associated with the New York City importing firm. The vice-president of the New York City firm said that shrimp fishing off Panama has been declining and that this is one reason for the transfer of the vessels to the Persian Gulf.

In addition to co-managership, the New York City importing firm has exclusive rights to the sale of the Iranian company's shrimp production except in Iran and Kuwait, states a May 23, 1959, United States Embassy dispatch from Tehran.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, January 1959, p. 67.



Japan

ALBACORE LOIN SALES INCREASING:

According to figures of the Japanese Frozen Foods Exporters Association, tuna loin sales in April and May amounted to 350 tons (215 tons of albacore, 135 tons of yellowfin). There has been a rapid increase in sales of albacore loins, and the price has risen considerably above the check price of \$730 a ton f.o.b.

The latest price was \$780 to \$800 a ton f.o.b. (Nikkan Suisan Tsushin, June 8, 1959.)

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ATLANTIC TUNA FISHERY TRENDS:

Beginning the latter part of 1958 the Japanese started fishing tuna commercially in the Atlantic Ocean, principally in the South Atlantic. A Japanese newspaper report states that there are 37 or 38 Japanese vessels fishing in the Atlantic Ocean for tuna, according to the Japanese Export Frozen Tuna Fisheries Association. The vessels land their catches directly in European and Latin American countries, and a large quantity is transhipped to the United States from Latin American countries. In April about 3,000 metric tons were landed in Italy (2,000 tons) and Yugoslavia (1,000 tons) at \$285 a ton. The shipment to Yugoslavia was the first of several which are to continue during the sardine season that began in May and ends in November.

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EXPANDING EXPORTS OF FROZEN TUNA TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE U. S.:

A large Japanese fisheries company has already been exporting frozen tuna by direct fishing boat landings in Cuba, Greece, and elsewhere. Its No. 1 Zenko Maru which made a landing in Greece in April, is reported to have put in at Marseilles, on the Mediterranean coast of France, on June 1, and it is thought that she may have succeeded in opening France to direct export of frozen tuna.

It is also reported that another Japanese company has sent its No. 25 Koko Maru into the harbor of Tripoli, in Libya, North Africa, to land about 300 tons of frozen tuna there for the first time.

It is considered certain that the fish (mostly yellowfin) were sold at a price of around \$290 landed. Because the United States market has been inactive lately, and there has been a large percentage of rejects on fish transhipped to the United States, it is thought that there will be a tendency to increase direct exports to Europe and Africa in the near future. (Nikkan Suisan Tsushin, June 8, 1959.)

Japan (Contd.):

EXPORT PRICE DROPS FOR FROZEN YELLOWFIN TUNA:

The export price for frozen tuna in Japan early in June dropped to the check price or floor price level of \$220 for 20- to 80-pound yellowfin. According to reports, the drop was the result of the lower prices reported on the United States west coast during the past few months. But no export sales at the \$220 f.o.b. price have been confirmed.

Another effect of the falling price is that Japanese tuna transshipped through foreign ports, which were contracted for when prices were higher, are lately being subjected to a high rate of rejects by the buyers in the United States, the Japanese report. Japanese frozen tuna traders are particularly perturbed by reports that transshipped gilled-and-gutted tuna, which have not been the target of many rejects hitherto, are meeting with rejects as high as 20 percent when delivered in the United States.

Meanwhile, the Japanese trade is also troubled by depleted stocks of canned albacore for the United States market in the face of a summer albacore season that does not seem to be able to get started. The small lots of albacore that are being landed are selling ex-vessel as high as \$360 a metric ton. Unable to find albacore, the boats are landing unusually large quantities of skipjack, which, as it is reportedly too fat for "katsuobushi" makers, is being bought by canners at \$110 to \$170 a metric ton.

Early in September 1958, the Japanese reported that the export price of frozen yellowfin tuna had dropped from its mid-August 1958 peak of \$300 a ton f.o.b. Japan for 20-80 pound "clipper" (ship-frozen) fish. By the end of August 1958, the price was down to \$270 for "clipper" fish and \$260 for ice-boat fish. Frozen skipjack tuna prices also dropped from a mid-August 1958 peak of \$215 for 15-pound fish to \$180 for 7-10 pound, \$190 for 10-15 pound, and \$200 a ton for fish over 15 pounds early in September 1958.

For the first five months of this year, export prices fluctuated only slightly be-

low or above the prices that prevailed in the autumn-winter of 1958 until early this June (1959) when the prices dropped to the check-price level.

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EXPORTS OF MARINE PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED STATES, 1957 AND 1958:

During 1958, Japanese exports to the United States of all marine products (frozen and canned fish, marine oils, and miscellaneous items) of 130,412 metric tons were valued at US\$67.5 million, an increase of 31.2 percent in quantity and 15.4 percent in value, as compared with 1957. Frozen tuna exports (62,190 tons) to the United States in 1958 were valued at about US\$19.0 million, an increase of 20.4 percent in quantity and 25.7 percent in value over 1957. Exports of all fishery products and marine oils were higher in 1958 as compared with 1957, except for canned crab meat exports, which declined 10.0 percent in quantity and 6.5 percent in value.

Item	Quantity		Value	
	1958	1957	1958	1957
	(Metric Tons)		(US\$1,000)	
Tuna, frozen	62,190	51,629	18,973	15,098
Tuna, canned	13,727	12,870	11,754	11,538
Crab meat, canned	2,547	2,829	5,816	6,219
Other canned	19,590	16,370	15,644	13,524
Other fish & shellfish	16,465	13,370	9,391	8,601
Fish & marine animal oils	15,893	2,363	5,962	3,546
Total all marine products	130,412	99,431	67,540	58,526
Pearls, natural & cultured	-	-	9,047	8,185

In addition to the marine products mentioned, a substantial amount of natural and cultured pearls was shipped to the United States.

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EX-VESSEL ALBACORE TUNA PRICE AT RECORD HIGH:

In mid-June, which in normal years would be the peak of the season, bait-boat albacore landings in Japan were still running at the low ebb of around 100 metric tons a day, and the ex-vessel price was rising steadily. On June 13 at Shimizu the price hit 170 yen a kilogram (US\$430 a short ton), the highest in recent years. For export frozen the price would have to be \$470 a short ton in order

Japan (Contd.):

to break even. Since the present export price is barely \$360, the freezers have no chance of buying at all. Calculating back from a frozen tuna export price of \$360, the ex-vessel price should be about 125 yen a kilogram (\$316 a ton) for bait-boat fish and 135 yen (\$340 a ton) for frozen long-line fish. But the canners are saying that if they have to buy bait-boat fish at 170 yen a kilogram (\$430 a ton), they can buy ship-frozen long-line fish at 165 yen (\$417 a ton). Consequently the freezers are also having trouble getting any ship-frozen albacore. It appears that if present conditions continue, it will be impossible to fill more than about half of this year's 30,000-ton export quota for frozen albacore. (Nikkan Suisan Tsushin June 15, 1959.)

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FISHERIES TRENDS IN HOKKAIDO AREA:

Because of a severe decline in various traditional fishing resources in the coastal areas of Hokkaido, a great change has taken place in the Hokkaido fishing industry in postwar years. Between 1929-1944, the bulk of the catch was herring, sardines, and anchovy, which abounded in nearby offshore waters. Herring production, which was 500,000 tons in 1933 has shrunk to less than one-tenth of that figure; anchovy production, even greater in some years, has declined to one-twentieth. The fishermen of the Island have been able to support themselves only by going farther out to sea in motorized fishing craft, and concentrating on salmon, salmon-trout, groundfish, squid, and mackerel. The total catch of these species is several times larger than in the prewar years.

Profitable distant sea-fishing grounds are in the Sea of Okhotsk and near the Soviet-occupied Kurile Islands where, however, Japanese fishermen have been in recent years faced with the problem of seizure and detention by Soviet authorities. Annual negotiations between Japan and the Soviet Union setting restrictions on the catch of salmon, crab, and other fish and any future negotiations concerning fishing grounds are of great

concern to the Hokkaido fishing population whose average income is reported to have dropped to 58 percent of the prewar figure.

Hokkaido still produces 26 percent of Japan's total supply of fishery products. Salmon accounts for one-quarter of the value of the catch which, beside varieties mentioned above, includes cod, flatfish, scallop, and seaweed. The value of the 1958 production landed in Hokkaido was US\$87 million, according to a May 18 dispatch from the United States Consulate in Sapporo.

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INCREASE IN REJECTS IN FROZEN ATLANTIC TUNA DELIVERIES TO CALIFORNIA CANNERS:

With the softening of the United States market for tuna, the frozen yellowfin market in Japan has also been gradually softening. The f.o.b. price of frozen yellowfin tuna was reported to be as of June 10 about \$225, close to the check price of \$220 a short ton. At the same time the claims or rejects in California on transshipments from the Japanese Atlantic tuna fishery are increasing, bringing headaches to the Japanese industry.

There are at present about 35 or 36 Japanese vessels fishing in the Atlantic, and in April and May they transshipped 3,985 short tons of yellowfin at \$235-\$245 f.o.b. Lately, however, it is said that claims have increased to as high as 30 percent. Some Japanese trade quarters strongly suspect that these are "market claims" resulting from the good United States landings of yellowfin and the softening of the canned tuna market, reports the United States Embassy in Tokyo. (From Suisan Keizai Shimbun of June 10, 1959.)

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LIBERAL LANDINGS OF SMALL YELLOWFIN TUNA AT SHIMIZU HARBOR:

A total of 76 metric tons of small yellowfin tuna from local grounds was landed at Shimizu, in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan, on May 28. This was the first such landings of the year. The fish were from 20 to 45 pounds, in good condition, and they sold for the fresh trade at 400

Japan (Contd.):

to 822 yen per kilogram (about US\$1,000 to US\$2,000 a short ton). These fish were caught by purse-seiners. The schools are reported plentiful in the vicinity of Mikurashima. Many seiners from the Shimizu and Kozu areas have gone after them, and it is expected that landings will continue. (Report from the United States Embassy in Tokyo, based on Nippon Suisan Shimbun, June 3.)

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LIGHT LANDINGS OF SUMMER
ALBACORE TUNA CAUSE PRICE RISE:

The Japanese summer albacore season as of June 9, 1959, still had not been able to get started, and landings as of that date amounted to only a little over 2,000 metric tons. As a result the ex-vessel price climbed day by day, and at Yaizu on June 8 it finally reached 150 yen a kilogram (about US\$380 a short ton), astonishing the trade.

Buying is, of course, all by canners for export to the United States, and the freezers seem to have completely given up any idea of buying summer albacore. Even if the price rise stops at 150 yen, the canners are saying that they cannot break even unless the price per case of white meat tuna for export to the United States is raised by at least \$2 a case over that of the last selling period of the Canned Tuna Sales Company (which was \$9.50 f.o.b. Japan).

Packers in the Shimizu area have begun packing albacore from the summer albacore fishery, but landings as of the early part of June continued poor and the ex-vessel price ranged from 125 to 150 yen a kilogram (US\$315-380 a short ton).

Skipjack ex-vessel prices are also around \$200 a ton, and the canners are operating in the realization that they are going to take a loss as the break-even point on albacore for export is around 100 yen a kilogram (US\$252 a short ton), reported the United States Embassy in Tokyo from Nikkan Suisan Tsushin of June 9 and Suisan Keizai Shimbun of June 6.

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MARINE OILS PRODUCTION,
FOREIGN TRADE, STOCKS,
AND CONSUMPTION, 1957-1959:

Production of edible marine-animal oils by Japan in 1958 amounted to 138,314 metric tons, an increase of 20.3 percent from the 124,325 tons produced in 1957, and a slight decrease from the forecast production of 140,315 tons for 1959.

Japan's Production, Foreign Trade and Stocks of Marine Animal Oils, 1957-1959			
	1959 ^{1/}	1958	1957
. . . . (Metric Tons) . . .			
Edible Marine Oils:			
Production by type:			
Cod-liver oil 2/	4,280	4,230	4,705
Shark-liver oil 2/	1,650	1,500	1,807
Other liver oil 2/	250	265	265
Fish-body oil	24,040	29,980	23,437
Whale oil	110,095	102,339	84,803
Total	140,315	138,314	115,017
Imports all types	1,500	1,495	357
Stocks of all types on Jan. 1	15,021	14,435	8,951
Total Supply	156,836	154,244	124,325
Exports	90,400	91,761	25,668
Inedible Marine Oils:			
Production:			
Sperm oil	34,290	39,896	31,778
Imports	-	-	-
Stocks, beginning of year 2/	2,834	5,019	4,808
Total Supply	37,124	44,915	36,586
Exports	9,940	16,471	49,104
1/ Forecast.			
2/ Stocks held by processing factories.			

Japan's imports of both edible or inedible marine oils is negligible. Exports of edible marine oils (mostly whale oil) in 1958 were up sharply from 1957 and the predicted exports for 1959 will be up (1.4 per cent) slightly from 1958.

Production of inedible oils (sperm oil) in 1958 increased about 25.6 percent from 1957, but production of sperm oil in 1959 is predicted to drop 14 percent below that for 1958.

The 16,471 tons of sperm oil exported in 1958 was down sharply (66.5 percent) from the 49,104 tons exported in 1957. The forecast for 1959 indicates a further drop of 39.7 percent from the 1958 total.

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NEW VESSELS BEING ADDED
TO TUNA FLEET:

On June 5, 1959, the Japanese Fisheries Agency granted construction permits

Japan (Contd.):

for a number of tuna boats, among them a 239-gross-ton live-bait boat, a 245-ton bait boat, a 450-ton long-liner, a 409-ton long-liner, and three 95-ton tuna boats.

In addition, a Japanese company recently ordered a 680-ton (gross tonnage) tuna boat. Construction cost will be about 210 million yen (about \$583,000). The vessel will have a 1,300-horsepower Diesel engine. It was expected to be started in July and is scheduled for completion in November.

A Japanese whaling company is moving into the tuna fishery because there are no further chances for expansion in salmon fishing and whaling. The company sent its first boat, the No. 3 Akitsu Maru (240 tons), to sea in mid-May to fish the western Pacific. The company's second tuna boat, the 240-ton No. 5 Akitsu Maru, was scheduled to sail on her maiden voyage on June 11. Both of the vessels were bought from other owners, but the company's building two new boats, one of 1,000 tons and one of 500 tons. Scheduled for completion in October, these new vessels will make one trip to the Indian Ocean, and then will be sent to the Atlantic. The company intends to build or buy two more tuna boats of 350-450 tons.

Also Miyazaki Prefecture's new high-seas fishery guidance vessel, the Miyazaki Maru, sailed on June 9 on her maiden voyage to conduct fisheries guidance and exploratory fishing on southern Pacific tuna grounds. (Nikkan Suisan Tsushin, June 5, 6, & 8, 1959.)

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NORTH PACIFIC FACTORYSHIP SALMON AND KING CRAB FISHERIES TRENDS:

The Japanese Fisheries Agency announced on June 15 the catch of salmon and king crab by North Pacific factoryship fleets as of June 10. The salmon catch to that date was 19,700 tons. The Sea of Okhotsk crab pack was 149,359 cases, and the crab pack by the Tokei Maru fleet in the eastern Bering Sea was 45,769 cases. In all cases, the record was better than last year's. The 16

salmon fleets began operations on May 21 and 22, and by June 10 their catch was about 1,000 metric tons above that of last year at the same time, thus making up completely the 10 days' delay in leaving port. Water temperatures are much higher than last year, all species show signs of being more abundant, and pinks in particular show indications of a regular odd-year high in abundance. The Okhotsk and eastern Bering Sea crab operations had packed by the end of May more crab than at the same time last year by 30,000 cases and 10,000 cases, respectively.

The Canned Salmon Joint Sales Company has made tentative contracts with United States packers for early shipment of 40,000 cases of pink talls, as much as possible to be shipped by the end of June. Japanese land cannery production has lagged, however, particularly of the comparatively unprofitable tall cans, and it was considered that at best only about 20,000 cases could be shipped by the end of June, the remainder being carried over to July. At present the company has consignments equivalent to about 40,000 cases of 96 No. 2 cans, of which only about 8,000 cases are talls.

Of the 19,700 tons of salmon caught as of June 15, red salmon totaled 6,195 tons (36.87 percent), chums 10,200 tons (53.76 percent), and pink salmon 1,650 tons (8.91 percent). The average catch per fishing boat was 15.21 tons of reds, 22.17 tons of chums, and 2.67 tons of pinks, for a total of 40.05 tons per boat.

The Japanese-Soviet Fisheries Commission finally decided on a catch quota of 85,000 metric tons of salmon for the Japanese fleets within the treaty area north of 45° N. longitude on May 13. On May 15 the fleets--16 motherships and 460 fishing boats--sailed for the grounds, and deliveries of fish to the motherships began on May 22. Reports indicate the general pattern of the catch resembles that of 1957, a high year in the cycle of salmon abundance. Deliveries to the motherships have been running 70 to 100 tons a day, somewhat better than last year, and catch rates are 4 to 6 fish per shackle of net. As of early in June fishing was reportedly concentrated between 165° E. and 171° E., at 46°-47° N.

Japan (Contd.):

The Japanese Fisheries Agency decided to divide the catch quota between the mothership fleets and the Hokkaido land-based fishery in the same proportion as last year, giving 70,831 tons to the mothership fleets (154 tons per catcher boat) and 14,169 tons to the land-based boats. Licenses on this basis were formally granted the mothership operators on May 26, and the fishing boats' licenses were sent off to the grounds on a transport on May 27.

The price dispute between mothership companies and fishing boat owners, which threatened briefly to delay the sailing, is still unsettled. The fishermen, claiming that each boat needs on the average of at least 17.5 million yen (US\$48,600) to cover expenses, started with a demand for a 25-percent price increase. This would bring reds up to 370 yen (US\$1.03) from last year's 315 (87.5 U. S. cents per fish), chums to 175 (48.6 cents) from 125 (34.7 cents), pinks to 95 (26.4 cents) from 78 (21.6 cents), and silvers and kings to 260 (72.2 cents) from 210 (58.3 cents). The companies countered with an offer of a 6.3-percent price increase plus various lump-sum adjustments. The two sides were reported to be gradually approaching a compromise.

It is reported that Soviet patrol boats are unusually active on the fishing grounds, constantly checking the Japanese catcher boats' gear and the distance between their nets. (*Nikkan Suisan Tsushin*, June 10, 12, and 16, 1959.)

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PLAN TO EXPORT FISH
CANNED FOR PET FOOD
TO U. S. PET FOOD PACKERS:

The Japanese are planning to pack fish for pet food in large cans for export to United States canners of pet food. Estimates indicate that about 400,000 cases of fish for pet food will be shipped to the United States by the end of this year as compared with the 150,000 cases exported last year.

Prices for export f.o.b. Japan range from ¥900 (US\$2.50) a case for all dark

meat and about ¥950-980 (\$2.70) a case for 50-percent dark-meat pack.

It is expected that the packing of fish for pet food to be used by United States pet food packers as an ingredient in their own pet food will increase. Most of the fish for pet food is now being packed in the Shizouka district, but interest is indicated also in this type of industry in Hokkaido, Sanriku, and Choshi districts.

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PLAN TO REDEPLOY SALMON
BOATS TO OTHER FISHERIES:

The Japanese Fisheries Agency and the Japan Salmon Fishermen's Federation began on May 29 to assemble and consider data on measures to be taken in connection with the reorganization of the North Pacific salmon fishery, and particularly the large-scale anticipated reduction in the number of salmon fishing boats. These discussions will serve as a basis for determining the redeployment of the salmon fishing boats into tuna fishing, trawling, or salmon gill-net fishing outside the Soviet-Japanese treaty area.

Present movements in connection with the large-scale reduction in the number of salmon boats are that the Japan Salmon Fishermen's Federation is hoping for Government compensation for those leaving the fishery and for a change-over to tuna boats of the 250-ton class. Not all of the boats would change to tuna fishing, as many as possible being redeployed into trawling and into salmon fishing south of the treaty line. But the salmon fishermen would like to have as many as possible allowed into tuna fishing, at the same time having the Government make better efforts to weed out the prefectural "research vessels," which now number about 40 and catch around 24,000 tons of tuna a year. On the other hand, the Federation of Tuna Fishermen's Cooperative Associations is expressing strong opposition to any government policy of redeploying salmon boats into the tuna fishery. The Shizuoka Prefecture Tuna Fishermen's Association has made representations on this account to Prime Minister Kishi, but the local tuna fishermen's associations in the north-eastern part of

Japan (Contd.):

the country are not showing any such strong opposition. (Nikkan Suisan Tsushin, June 1, 1959.)

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SIXTH ROUND OF CANNED
TUNA SALES FOR
EXPORT TO UNITED STATES:

The Tokyo Canned Tuna Sales Company held June 3-5 its sixth round of canned tuna sales for United States export during this export year. Only light meat was offered--110,000 cases (25,000 cases each of 7-oz. and 13-oz. cans, and 60,000 cases of 2-kg. or 4.4-lb. cans.) There will be no change in price, and shipment is to be made from June to August.

Of the 250,000 cases of white meat sold in the fifth round of sales for United States export, about 140,000 cases remained to be shipped in June. According to trading company sources, the market for exports to the United States appears rather strong because of short supplies. Because of the poor Japanese summer albacore catch, United States packers are having trouble buying raw material, and the price of fish is rising, according to the Japanese.

The opinion of the Japanese trade is that the export price for white meat canned tuna for the United States must soon be increased, and in view of the going ex-vessel price of 140 yen per kilogram (US\$353 per short ton) for albacore tuna, the Japanese packers are strongly of the opinion that an increase of around \$1 a case would be completely inadequate. (United States Embassy in Tokyo from Nikkan Suisan Tsushin, June 3, 1959.)

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SKIPJACK TUNA VESSEL PRICE DROPS:

Large landings of skipjack tuna were being made every day late in May and early in June at the Onahama market in Fukushima Prefecture, and on June 3 the ex-vessel price dropped to 25 yen a kilogram (about \$63 a short ton). Small 2-kilogram (4.4-lb.) fish sold for 50 yen (14 U. S. cents) apiece. Landings were

22 tons on May 31, 35 tons on June 1, 101 tons on June 2, and 106 tons on June 3.

The skipjack were taken by pole-and-line and by seiners. At first they were sold at \$125 to \$150 a short ton ex-vessel, but the successive days of heavy landings brought the price down to the \$63-\$100 level of June 3. The fish are being shipped fresh within the prefecture and in neighboring prefectures to feed farmhands working at rice transplanting, and are also being taken by driers and canners.

The main pole-and-line fishing ground is 200 to 300 miles east of Cape Nojima in Chiba Prefecture, while the seiners are fishing about 20 miles off Onahama. About 80 seiners from this and other prefectures have assembled at the Onahama base. (Suisan Keizai Shimbun, June 9, 1959.)

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SUMMER ALBACORE
FISHING CONTINUES POOR:

Japanese tuna fishermen continued to report poor fishing for summer albacore tuna as of the early part of June. Shimizu, a leading Japanese tuna port, reported no improvement in landings and canners of that city have almost given up hope of packing any substantial quantity of summer albacore tuna this year. Only a little over 600 metric tons (or less than 20 percent of a normal year) have been landed at Shimizu from March 24 (when the first landing of poled tuna was reported) until May 25.

However, skipjack landings have been heavy and tuna packers are packing that species since the ex-vessel or landed price is reported reasonable. Japanese canners report that to pack albacore tuna at prevailing prices means a loss of about 55 U. S. cents a case, while packing a case of skipjack tuna at current prices means a profit of 55 U. S. cents a case.

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TUNA CANNERS HARD HIT
BY ALBACORE SCARCITY:

The failure of the Japanese summer albacore fishery is dealing heavy blows

Japan (Contd.):

to both canners and freezers in Japan. The canners, in particular, are hard hit because they are trying to fill the quota for export to the United States. The canners, who judge that it will be extremely difficult to fill their production quotas with purchases of bait-boat albacore alone, are beginning to show an interest in buying shipboard-frozen long-line fish, which has hitherto been monopolized by frozen tuna exporters. The only indication of this trend is the purchase of a small lot by a company at Yaizu on June 10 at US\$353 a short ton, and an earlier purchase by another company. (Nikkan Suisan Tsushin, June 11, 1959.)

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TUNA INDUSTRY TRENDS AND PROBLEMS:

When the new Japanese export year began in April, the fisheries trade press was filled with news of conferences to set export quotas and prices for tuna products and to decide the allotment of export business among the producers. There are reports of trouble for Japanese tuna abroad, and movements within the other Japanese fisheries are bringing pressure upon established operators to permit newcomers to enter the tuna mothership field.

On tuna loin and disk exports, the Japanese freezers are reported to have agreed on a 3,000-ton quota for 1959, the same as in 1958, but they are said to be having difficulty in deciding how to allot this quota among the producers. Furthermore, it appears that they have been having trouble selling the 1958 quota, with only 1,394 tons sold to the end of January. Consequently they were moving early in April for a price cut of 10 percent, which would bring the check price for yellowfin loins to \$550 a short ton and albacore to \$720. The Japanese Fisheries Agency has reportedly been opposing the cut, for fear of stirring up new opposition to Japanese loin exports in the United States, but there were predictions that the Agency will go along with the industry's wishes.

Opposition to a Japanese company's plans to establish canneries in connection with its tuna base projects in Singapore and Penang continues among tuna canners in Japan. On February 12 a group from the Tuna Export Canners Association visited the Fisheries Agency and asked that the overseas base plans be stopped because of possible bad effects on the canned tuna export trade with the United States. The authorities reportedly have not committed themselves on the question, and want the industry associations concerned to work out the problem with Kaigai Gyogyo.

The Southeast Asian tuna base projects of the Japanese company mentioned in the previous paragraph may also be a factor in the Japanese Fishery Agency's decision to seek power to apply to the medium-size (under 100 tons gross) tuna boats the same kind of regulations that currently limit the operations of large tuna boats. These new regulations will tighten up requirements for permission to increase the tonnage of such vessels and will require them to seek special permission to land tuna abroad. It is explained that when the present regulations were drawn up, it was not anticipated that boats of this size would be based anywhere but in Japanese ports; however, the Japanese company's Singapore plans and other similar projects envision the operation of smaller Japanese tuna boats from bases in foreign countries.

It is reported that the Japanese Frozen Tuna Export Association has tentatively set a quota of 12,000 tons for the Italian trade, 8,000 tons to be allotted on the basis of past performances, and 4,000 tons for special allotment. The Italian exports this year must all be on a barter basis, and the problem is that there seems little chance of arranging enough barter to cover the planned quantity of frozen tuna.

There is reportedly a strong possibility that the production quota for canned tuna for export to the United States will be set at 2.5 million cases for the 1959 export year. On the basis of demand, it is considered reasonable that this will be 65 percent white meat and 35 percent light meat, but it is doubtful that the raw material supply situation will make this ratio possible. Shipped exports (as opposed to landings of fish abroad from fishing boats) of frozen yellowfin tuna to the United States in 1959 have reportedly been set at 35,000 short tons. Discussions are being carried on over whether to sell the fish through individual exporters, as at present, or through a joint sales company. It is anticipated that the former method will be used, because of opposition from clipper operators to the joint sales company idea.

Landings of tuna in Central American and Caribbean ports for transshipment to United States packers reportedly have been hit by reject claims ranging as high as 30 or 40 percent. The high reject rate is mostly for the fillets, which are from large yellowfin.

One of the developments that is arousing great interest in tuna circles is a move by salmon and saury fishermen in northern Japan, particularly Hokkaido, to get permission from the Fisheries Agency to enter the mothership tuna fishery. The saury fishery seems to grow more unprofitable as catches grow bigger, so these fishermen are seeking permits that will enable them to spend a good part of the year fishing tuna. Two large companies are said to be interested in operating motherships, and Hokkaido salmon boat owners have set up a Hokkaido Tuna Fishery Association with about 60 boats that they would like to get into tuna mothership fleets. The number of salmon and saury boats that already have part-time tuna fishing licenses is reportedly 224, but the terms of their licenses would have to be changed in order to enable them to join tuna mothership operations. Last year tuna mothership fleets took about 15,000 short tons of fish, of which 12,000 were taken by the one large company's vessels and the balance by another company.

A Japanese tuna boat reported sighting the Soviet vessel *Nora* fishing tuna in the Caroline Islands. A Russian fleet was reported on the saury grounds off northern Honshu, and Russian boats were seen on the mackerel grounds west of Kyushu.

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ULTRASONICS USED TO LOCATE SALMON IN NORTH PACIFIC:

A transmitter and a receiver, which the Japanese suspend over the side of the vessel at a depth of 1.5 meters (about 5 feet), record the movement and the density of fish schools and the depths in the sea at which they occur. During daylight the fish were usually at depths between 30 and 50 meters (98-164 feet), but toward dusk they rose to shallow depths.

Fish schools concentrate in the deep-scattering layer--pelagic organisms concentrate in layers throughout all oceans at varying depths and rise toward the surface at night. The fish captured in that layer were satiated with *Euphausia*, small shrimp-like crustaceans. When the deep-scattering layer was near the surface, the fish catches improved and the water became less transparent. The large abundance of plankton, the passively floating or weakly swimming animal and plant life, caused the decline in transparency.

Japan (Contd.):

The Japanese believe their equipment, which they are trying to improve, will lead to improved fishing methods. If they can use this technique on a large scale, they will improve materially their salmon catch, without increasing the present expenditure of effort.

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VESSEL TO FISH FOR TUNA FROM ARGENTINA:

A Japanese fishing company is sending the Yoshino Maru to Argentina for tuna fishing.

The company, which is carrying on tuna fishing out of Argentina, received a report early in June that the fishing grounds off Argentina are good, with catches of around 1,000 kan (about 4 short tons) a day. The same company had earlier dispatched the 300-ton (gross) Eisei Maru to Argentina and because of its success the company is considering sending the 700-ton Yoshino Maru. The attitude of Argentine authorities was being checked and if favorable, the vessel was scheduled to sail in mid-July.

Tuna fishing in Argentina is carried on in the Atlantic from Mar del Plata. Yellowfin and bluefin tuna are landed there and used for canning to meet local requirements. Demand is said to be increasing.

Fishing arrangements with Argentina were initiated in the era of President Peron, but thereafter, because of political unrest they did not go smoothly. Last year around October the project finally started to function, and it is said that the Argentine government is adopting policies of positive aid to the fishery. (Nippon Suisan Shimbun, June 3, 1959.)



Korea

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENTS, MAY 1959:

A ceremony was held on May 12, 1959, at Pusan, Korea, to mark the formal transfer of one 80-ton purse-seine vessel and one 70-ton carrier, procured under the fisheries development project of the In-

ternational Cooperation Administration to the new owner. These boats were the third and fourth received of seven fishing boats being built abroad under the fisheries program. These boats were commissioned and put to sea immediately. On May 25, 1959, the seiner was reported to have caught nearly 3,500 boxes of fish (about 100 tons) during the first 10 days at sea making it the high production boat by mid-June.

Following delay due to bad weather, shrimp fishing got under way along the south and west coast about mid-May and Pusan processors began receiving shipments shortly thereafter. The Central Fisheries Inspection Station reported that about 40,000 pounds of Korean east coast shrimp were frozen for export under the new inspection regulation between mid-March and May 1. Practically all of this amount has been shipped.



Malaya

JAPANESE-MALAYAN COMPANY TO PRODUCE FROZEN AND CANNED TUNA:

A Japanese fisheries company held its regular stock-holders' meeting on May 29 and discussed a report on a Malayan-Japanese company which is to be established at Penang. The company is a joint venture of the Japanese company and Chinese businessmen in Malaya. The meeting to establish the new concern was scheduled for the end of June in Penang.

The company will be capitalized at ¥60 million (US\$167,000), of which the Malaysians will invest 51 percent and the Japanese 49 percent. There will be 5 Japanese officers and four Malaysians, the president to be Malayan. In addition to an existing cannery, freezing (5-ton capacity) and cold-storage (166-ton capacity) facilities are to be built within 8 months of the time the capital is paid in. Contracts to purchase fish will be made with 5 Japanese boats. Production plans call for landings of 1,621 tons of tuna for freezing and 1,188 tons for canning in oil. Exports of canned tuna to African and Asian countries and to Europe will be about 59,900 cases; 14,000 cases will be sold to the Malayan armed forces; and

Malaya (Contd.):

2,000 cases on the local market. Landings of about 400 tons will be made for the fresh and salted fish trade. (Nikkan Suisan Tsushin, May 30, 1959.)



Mexico

WEST COAST SHRIMP FLEET TIED UP OVER PRICE DISPUTE:

On May 16, 1959, a dispute over prices between fishermen's cooperatives and vessel owners on the West Coast of Mexico tied up the shrimp fleets in the various ports. The East Coast cooperatives, recognizing the difficulties the boat owners are undergoing, settled for a one year period ending May 15, 1960, with an increase to cover only the cost of social security. This amounts to 165 pesos a metric ton for large shrimp and 105 pesos for small. This is about US\$12.00 and \$7.64, respectively, a short ton with the break between large and small at 31-35 count headless.

The cooperative fishermen (the catching of shrimp in Mexico is restricted to fishermen belonging to cooperatives) on the West Coast are asking for a 25-percent increase. The boat owners are willing to concede an increase of 15 percent providing that one crew member is eliminated. The normal complement on West Coast of Mexico shrimp vessels is seven men and on the East Coast five.

At one stage of the negotiations the boat owners offered to sell all boats, shore installations, and transportation equipment to the cooperatives. However, agreement could not be reached as to the method of payment. (United States Embassy dispatch of May 21, 1959, from Mexico.)

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SHRIMP PRICE DISPUTE BEING SETTLED:

The dispute over the price to be paid Mexican shrimp fishermen on the West Coast during the 1959/60 season in open waters starting September 16 (season closed July 16 through September 15)

appeared to be well on the way toward settlement late in May 1959. One organization with operations in Topolobampo and Culiacan, Sinaloa, and in Saline Cruze, Oaxaca, reached agreement with the cooperatives on May 22, 1959, and it was expected that similar agreements would soon be reached with the remaining West Coast cooperatives.

The agreement calls for a guaranteed headless shrimp price of 2,600 pesos (about US\$208.00) a metric ton, and under current prices an additional 400 pesos (US\$32.00) to be paid the fishermen.

If the market price for shrimp fluctuates, the fishermen will share at the rate of 15.4 percent in the fluctuations, with a guaranteed minimum price of 2,600 pesos. At present prices the fishermen will receive about US\$43.92 more for each metric ton of headless shrimp landed--an increase over the 1957-59 fishermen's price of about 2 U. S. cents a pound.

In addition, the fishermen will be permitted to bring in one-half ton of fish each trip. The cooperatives plan on selling the fish in Mexico City, and other consuming centers at low prices, since no charges will be assessed for catching the fish.

Fishing circles are of the opinion that the same arrangements will be made by the remainder of the West Coast boat owners, and that the seven-day strike that tied up two-thirds of Mexico's shrimp fleet is now over.



Morocco

PROBLEMS IN MARKETING FISHERY PRODUCTS:

The separation of the Moroccan franc from the French franc and the inauguration of the European Common Market have caused difficulties for the Moroccan fishing industry. However, the marketing problem was pressing even before the separation of the franc because of the declining world prices for sardines, the high cost price for Moroccan products, and the stiffened competition from Portugal.

It is estimated that the separation of the franc is costing the canners 535 million francs (about US\$1,009,000) this season. In addition, upon the inauguration of the European Common Market, the 10-percent reduction of custom duties was extended to other Organization of European Economic Cooperation countries so that Portugal, for example, gained 150 francs (US\$0.30) per case over Morocco in certain European Common Market countries. France, because of her commitments toward the Common Market will probably be obliged

Morocco (Contd.):

to abolish the 12,000-ton duty-free quota for Moroccan canned fish, and should this happen, it is hard to see how the fishery industry could survive. The cost price of Moroccan sardines is 4,000 francs (US\$8.16) per case. In France, because of the quota, the sale price is 6,000 francs (US\$12.24), but outside France only 3,400 francs (US\$6.94).

A bitter controversy has broken out between the canners and the frozen fish industry. The canners blame the latter for the marketing problem, claiming that frozen Moroccan sardines are canned in France and cut down the market for sardines canned in Morocco. The freezing industry believes that if it does not supply the fish, the Portuguese will and that the trouble with the canning industry is that their tins and oil are too expensive. It is pointed out that no great progress has been made since the export of beheaded frozen sardines was forbidden in 1958 and that 1.7 million cases of canned fish (about 1.4 million of which were sardines) remained unsold. An unsatisfactory compromise has been achieved and whole frozen sardines may now be exported in 5-kilogram (11-lb.) packages.

The boat-builders at Larache are idle and the northern fisheries are suffering from the loss of former markets in Spain. It has, in fact, been suggested that no new boats be built except to replace old ones so that there will be enough work for the existing fleet.

At Agadir, where over a hundred plants were once operating, 80 percent of the 1958 catch went into the manufacture of byproducts, fish meal, and fish oil. Because of the much lower price paid for sardines going to reduction plants--about 9 francs (about 0.8 U.S. cents) a kilo as compared to 28 francs (5.7 U.S. cents) for fish going to canneries--the fisherman's share of the profits went down from 245,000 francs (US\$583) for the 1957 fishery to 204,000 francs (US\$486) in 1958.

Exports of shrimp, having mounted to 200 metric tons in 1958, are now falling off sharply. Large amounts of Egyptian and Scandinavian shrimp have brought the Moroccan shrimp price down.

If the fishery industry should fail, not only would some 20,000 fishermen and related workers be unemployed, but also other industries would be vitally affected, particularly can makers and olive-oil producers.



Netherlands

FIRST FACTORYSHIP ACQUIRED:

The Netherlands fishing fleet will acquire its first factoryship soon. It is the *Van Ronzalen*, a German trawler which will be reconditioned by a shipbuilder in IJmuiden and then sent to Rotterdam, which will be the ship's base.

The factoryship will have a processing plant capable of producing 20 metric tons of fish fillets a day. (*Boletin de Informacion, Sindicato Nacional de la Pesca*, April 1959, Madrid, Spain.)



Nicaragua

SHRIMP INDUSTRY GROWING:

Although shrimp fishing in Nicaragua slowed down during the first quarter of 1959, it continues to be a growing industry. One United States firm asked for a concession to fish off the Caribbean shore and another firm asked for a concession to fish off both the Caribbean and the Pacific shores.

At the same time a French company, which asked for a concession to grow oysters in Laguna de Perlas north of Bluefields, was granted free entry privileges under the Industrial Development Law to bring into the country all the machinery necessary to process and pack fish and fish products. (United States Foreign Service report of May 28 from Managua.)



Peru

EXPORTS OF PRINCIPAL MARINE PRODUCTS, JANUARY-APRIL 1959 AND YEAR 1958:

Exports of principal marine products by Peru during the first quarter of 1959 continued at a high rate. Comparable

Marine Products	Jan.-April 1959 ^{1/}		Year 1958 ^{2/}	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Metric Tons	US\$ 1,000	Metric Tons	US\$ 1,000
Fish meal	51,058	5,936	105,777	11,635
Fish (frozen, canned, etc.)	5,778	1,879	30,056	7,618
Sperm oil	3,749	481	7,352	1,103
Fish oil	1,301	129	1,643	193
Whale meal	998	117	1,295	127
Fertilizer (guano)	405	34	3/15, 133	3/1, 270
Whale oil	-	-	1,695	167
Total	63,289	8,576	162,951	22,113

1/ Values converted at rate of 26.40 soles equals US\$1 for first quarter of 1959.
 2/ Values converted at rate of 23.30 soles equals US\$1 for year 1958.
 3/ Quantity and value 9 mos. 1958.

data for the first quarter of 1958 are unavailable except for fish meal. The fish meal exports of 51,058 metric tons January-April 1959 were 30.4 percent higher than the 39,152 tons exported January-May 1958 (United States Embassy in Lima, May 25, 1959).



Somalia

DEVELOPMENT OF TUNA FISHERY SHOWS PROMISE:

During the September 1958-May 1959 tuna fishing season, the tuna cannery at Candala, Somalia, packed over 16,000 cases, the largest pack since it has been in operation. The cannery at Habo, Somalia, after a shutdown of three years reopened in April 1959 and up to mid-May packed 2,182 cases of tuna. Most of the fish have been caught by primitive methods (hand-line fishing from canoes) by Somali and Arab fishermen as there is only one boat in the area equipped with long-line gear, loaned to the Candala cannery owner by the International Cooperation Administration (ICA). However, authority has just been received from ICA to proceed with the construction of two 27-foot Diesel-powered fishing boats for demonstration purposes. At the same time the ICA Fisheries Advisor to Somalia has started classes to train Somali fishermen in the use of long-line fishing gear and other modern fishing methods.

With these steps being taken in the modernization of fishing, there is every reason to believe that the catches can be greatly increased and production multiplied several or many times over. Almost all of the pack is now exported to Italy, but a very rough market survey indicates there are excellent marketing possibilities for tuna and other fish products in other European countries, including the European Common Market in which Somalia may become a member, as well as in the Middle East and Africa. A Food and Agriculture Organization survey report recommended that the fishing industry was in the No. 1 position for both raw material and sale possibilities. A full scale survey of the fisheries potential of Somalia is now under consideration.

It is believed that a survey team should include an oceanographer and a marine biologist in addition to a fishing expert. It is further recommended that the survey should include not only the 180-mile north coast of Somalia on the Gulf of Aden, but also the long (1,150 miles) east coast of Somalia on the Indian Ocean.



Union of South Africa

PILCHARD-MAASBANKER LANDINGS, JANUARY 1959:

The Union of South Africa's west coast pelagic shoal fish catch for January 1959 (the first month of the 1959 season) was 10,451 metric tons of pilchards, 49 tons of maasbanker (jack mackerel), and 6,139 tons of mackerel. The total catch was 16,639 tons, according to the Union's Division of Fisheries. These figures compare with 7,690 tons of pilchards, 150 tons of maasbanker, and 3,142 tons of mackerel in January 1958, and 4,551 tons of pilchards, 605 tons of maasbanker, and 3,267 of mackerel in January 1957.

The January catch this year yielded 3,039 tons of fish meal, 141,609 gallons of fish-body oil, 1,364,079 pounds canned pilchards and maasbanker. (The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review, March 1959.)

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PILCHARD-MAASBANKER LANDINGS, FIRST QUARTER 1959:

The South African Division of Fisheries reports that the landings from the Cape West Coast pilchard-maasbanker fishery in January-March 1959 amounted to 76,191 short tons as compared with landings of 57,640 tons in January-March 1958. The first quarter 1959 pilchard-maasbanker landings were made up of 71,043 tons of pilchard and 5,148 tons of maasbanker or jack mackerel. In addition, the nonquota mackerel landings rose sharply to 22,843 tons or 743 tons more than the entire catch for 1958.

It was predicted that Cape West Coast landings of pilchards, maasbanker, and mackerel in 1959 may establish a new record. The best landings of those species occurred in 1952 when about 300,000 tons were landed. In 1958 a total of 298,800 tons was landed for processing into fish meal, fish oil, and canned fish.

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RESEARCH ON SPINY LOBSTERS PLANNED:

The Oceana group of South African fishing companies in May 1959 announced

Union of South Africa (Contd.):

plans to conduct its own research on the spiny lobster resources of the Cape West Coast. The research planned by this industry group of firms is expected initially to cost about £30,000-40,000 (US\$84,000 to \$112,000). A 67-foot fishing vessel will be modified to carry out the program for the benefit of the spiny lobster processors in Hout Bay, Lambert's Bay, Thorn Bay, Hondeklip Bay, and Port Nolloth.

The South African Division of Fisheries conducts extensive research on pelagic fish, but has not to date begun research on the spiny lobster in the Cape West Coast area. The Division, however, is conducting research on the spiny lobster in the Luderitz area.



U. S. S. R.

NEGOTIATING FOR FIVE NEW FACTORYSHIP TRAWLERS:

The Soviet Union is negotiating with a shipyard in Kiel, West Germany, for the delivery of five new factoryship trawlers, according to Dansk Fiskeritidende (May 22, 1959), a Danish fishery trade periodical. The five vessels will cost a total of about 75 million marks (US\$17.9 million). Previously, the same shipyard delivered 24 factoryship trawlers of the Pushkin type to the Soviet Union.

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FISHING FLEET OPERATING IN BERING SEA:

A Soviet fishing fleet has been reported operating in the eastern waters of the Bering Sea. As of April 27, a substantial portion of the Soviet fleet, including about 40 vessels, was working approximately 100 miles north of Unimak Island. By mid-May, much of the Soviet fleet had moved northward to the area between Unimak and St Matthew Islands.

The Soviet fleet has been operating in waters along the Arctic ice flow and has been moving northward as the ice field gradually recedes. Apparently the fleet

depends upon this ice field as a source of ice for preserving the catch, at least until it can be transferred from the fishing vessels to the large motherships.

There has been no evidence that the Soviets are using salmon fishing gear, nor is there evidence that the fleet is particularly interested in halibut. For the most part, the Soviet fleet appears to be operating entirely on bottom fish, paralleling very closely the operations of Japanese vessels in this area of the Bering Sea.



United Kingdom

CANNED TUNA PRICES, MAY 1959:

During May 1959, offerings of tuna or tuna-like fish on the British market were mainly bonito originating from Peru. Since the liberalization of canned salmon imports, sales of tuna have decreased and differences in c.i.f. quotations may be attributed to pressure on some of the canned fish importers to move stocks. Prices c.i.f. for one prominent brand early in May 1959 were as follows: solid pack in cottonseed oil (presumably bonito): 7-oz., 48 cans/case, 43s. (US\$6.02) a case; 3½-oz., 48 cans/case, 28s. (\$3.92) a case; another brand's prices were: 7-oz., 48 cans/case, 50s. 11d. (\$7.13) a case; 3½-oz., 48 cans/case, 31s. 8d. (\$4.43) a case. Japanese solid pack white-meat tuna 3½-oz., 48 cans/case, was offered at 35s. (\$4.90) a case.

Wholesale prices for canned tuna published by a British trade journal in May 1959 were as follows: solid pack (fancy quality), 3½-oz., 96 cans/case, 95s. 9d. (\$13.40) a case and 7-oz., 48 cans/case, 79s. 3d. (\$11.09) a case, select 3½-oz., 96 cans/case, 100s. (\$14.00) a case; and tunny in tomato sauce, 3½-oz., 14s. 2d. (1.98) a dozen cans. Retail prices: solid pack (fancy quality), 3½-oz., 1s. 2.5d. (17 U. S. cents) a can and 7-oz., 2s. (28 cents) a can; select, 3½-oz., 1s. 3d. (17.5 cents); tunny in tomato sauce, 3½-oz., 1s. 6d. (21 cents) a can.

Canned tuna imported into United Kingdom enters under the heading "other canned fish" and exact figures on the imports

United Kingdom (Contd.):

of canned tuna and bonito are unobtainable. Total imports under that heading from January-November 1958 amounted to about US\$3,572,800. Of that amount, Peru supplied US\$1,498,000 and Japan supplied US\$484,400. All of those imports are probably tuna because of restrictions on other imports included in the category.

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IMPORT CONTROLS ON CANNED FISH:

Controls on the import of many consumer goods from the Dollar Area were

removed by the United Kingdom effective June 8, 1959. Included among the commodities freed of controls are canned fish, according to a news release transmitted by the United States Embassy in London (May 27, 1959). The British press release points out that the effect will be a further substantial reduction in discrimination in the operations of import controls against Canada, the United States, and the rest of the Dollar Area. Imports of canned fish in the future will receive the same treatment as imports from Western Europe, i.e. freedom from control.

Import controls on canned salmon only were removed by Britain on September 17, 1958.



FISH FLOUR

Research on the production of a neutral fish flour in South Africa is traced as far back as 1937. Two researchers investigated methods of producing a neutral fish flour which could be added to cereal starch foods, without influencing their taste or smell. One of the first issues of the South African Shipping News (February 1946) described the progress made and in 1951 the same publication reported that a completely neutral fish flour with a protein content of more than 85 percent had been produced from white fish.

Large-scale production of the flour might, however, have been affected by comparatively limited supplies of white fish meal and so for several years the South African Fishing Industry Research Institute worked on a process for producing the flour from the more abundant pilchard and maasbanker. This work was encouraged by the Union Government which hoped to increase the protein diet of South Africa's people by adding fish flour to bread and to mealie meal.

Eventually in September 1954 The South African Fishing News reported that the Fishing Industry Research Institute had developed a "commercially adaptable process for the production of fish flour from a cheap and abundant fish." A plant was installed in a factory at Dido Valley near Simonstown and soon a neutral fish flour, with a protein content of about 80 percent, was being produced on a commercial scale. Tests conducted by the South African Department of Nutrition showed that enriched bread could take up to eight percent of fish flour without having its taste, smell or color affected. This enriched bread, with about two percent fish flour, is now sold throughout the Cape Western Province and the Dido Valley plant has produced nearly 1,000 tons of neutral flour from pilchard and maasbanker meal.