



COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW



A review of developments and news of the fishery industries prepared in the BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES.

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QUALITY IS BECOMING BYWORD OF FISHING INDUSTRY

"Enforcement of high quality standards is becoming the byword of the fishing industry," Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler told the wives of fishery executives on May 3, 1960, at the fifteenth annual convention of the National Fisheries Institute, Miami Beach.

He explained that quality standards are now in effect for fish sticks, raw breaded shrimp, haddock and cod fillets, halibut steaks, and that standards are now being developed for 11 additional fish and shellfish products.

"What does this mean?" he asked. "It means that the homemaker will be protected when she plunks down her money for fish--that she can be assured of a high-quality product for her table."

In answering "How good is fish as a food and why," he reminded his audience that fish and shellfish are not only excellent sources of high-grade animal protein, minerals, and vitamins, but these products are generally easily digested and most are low in calories. All these qualities make these products ideal for serving children and old people, and for including in reducing and other special diets.

Leffler also reminded his audience of the announcement made in October 1959 of the important "nutritional breakthrough" in which it was demonstrated conclusively that oils found in fish and shellfish were cholesterol depressants. Cholesterol, of course, is the number one suspect in heart disease and hardening of the arteries. The depressant action of fish and shellfish oils is significantly greater than it is for the fatty acids from corn oil and other fats.

"Further research must be carried on," he explained. "But if such research is completed successfully, it may be possible to produce and market a fish-oil fatty acid for use as a means of adjusting cholesterol levels in the blood with a minimum of caloric intake."



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