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

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SOME USES FOR WHALE SPERM OIL

Researchers for a large oil refining firm have developed new uses for sperm whale oil. They found, among other things, that sperm oil is a good lubricant for engines because the viscosity changes very little at wide ranges in temperature. This also makes it valuable as a liquid in new fluid-drive transmissions. It does not dry like linseed or turn rancid like cottonseed oil. It can be processed in a number of different ways for different uses. It has high film strength and can loosen a rusted nut on a bolt in seconds. Jewelers pay about \$5 an ounce for the sperm oil they use to lubricate watches.

Sperm oil, which is more of a liquid wax than an oil, has become essential to a number of industries. It is used to impart a rich, glossy sheen to cosmetics such as facial creams. It gives softness and flexibility to leathers. In textiles, sperm oil lubricates the fibers to prevent unraveling as they are twisted into threads. It is used in detergents, wetting agents, fiber softeners, hand soaps, rust-proofing compounds, and scores of other products linked with the ever-growing chemical industry. (Maine Coast Fisherman, Vol. 11, No. 4, November 1956.)

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