

INTERNATIONAL

Plans for EEC Fisheries Policy Delayed

The development of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Economic Community (EEC), the Common Market, is proceeding very slowly. According to reports from Brussels, it will not be possible to put the policies into effect by July 1, 1968, as presently scheduled. One reason is the problem arising within the Six following France's veto of negotiations to accept Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, and Ireland. The European Commission probably will not bring up controversial questions at a ministerial meeting in an already-difficult situation.

Proposals Under Study

On January 25, the EEC parliament was expected to discuss a delegation report but no decisive progress was expected. The EEC Commission worked out a detailed proposal for a fisheries policy for the Six, but it must be carefully examined before it can be presented in the Ministerial Council. The Economic and Social Council presented its views in February 1968 and did not agree with the Commission on some points. A working group within the Parliament's Agricultural Committee has since worked on the question and is now ready to present its views. (Regional Fisheries Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Jan. 12, 1968.)



The Fish Meal Situation

World stocks of fish meal are high: 788,000 metric tons in major exporting countries on Nov. 1, 1967. On Nov. 1, 1966, stocks

were 650,000 metric tons; on Nov. 1, 1965, 233,000 metric tons.

Peruvian production and export are high. U. S. production is relatively low because of decreased landings. U. S. and world prices are lower than usual.

The major cause of low prices is the high level of world production and stocks--at a time when production of other high protein feeds also has been high.



USDA Forecasts Increase in 1968 World Marine Oil Production

World output of marine oils in 1968 is expected to increase slightly over 1967, forecasts the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The expected increase reflects the expansion of fish oil production to a new record. Technical advances in recent years have increased the recoverable oil yield from fish. (The yield also varies with age of fish, season, and local conditions.)

Trade reports show that oil yields from Peruvian anchovy have been running at about 6 percent--higher than those of recent years. Production could be reduced if another strike occurs in Peru. But there are sizable fish oil stocks in Rotterdam and in major exporting countries. These would be enough to cover immediate demand.

Less Baleen Whale Oil

Baleen whale oil production likely will continue downward because of reduced quota of 3,200 blue whale units for 1967/68 season set by the International Whaling Commission. Quota was 3,500 units in 1966/67 season.

World Production of Marine Oil,

	Forecast 1968	1/1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	Avg. 1960-64
..... (1,000 Short Tons)										
Marine Oils:										
Whale	95	105	125	211	249	295	390	428	418	356
Sperm whale	160	160	161	170	165	149	130	120	122	137
Fish (incl. liver)	1,050	1,020	1,001	865	600	680	738	665	512	687
Total	1,305	1,285	1,287	1,246	1,252	1,124	1,258	1,213	1,052	1,180

1/Preliminary.

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service.

Sperm whale oil production is expected to remain stable. Production estimates for 1968 are 95,000 short tons of whale oil, 160,000 tons of sperm oil, and 1,050,000 tons of fish and fish-liver oil. ("World Agricultural Production and Trade, Statistical Report," U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.)



Commission Sets 1968 North Pacific Halibut Regulations

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) concluded its Forty-fourth Annual Meeting in Seattle, Wash., Jan. 26, 1968.

The Commission dealt with administrative matters during executive sessions and approved a research program for 1968. The program continues the 1967 program of tagging and assessing of possible effects of foreign fishing on halibut stocks in Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska.

The Commission expressed concern about the effect on halibut stocks of increased trawling for other bottomfish. It also has drawn the attention of the two Governments to trawling's effect on the large population of small halibut in southeastern Bering Sea. This area has been set aside as a nursery area and all fishing for halibut in this region again has been prohibited in the proposed 1968 regulations. The Governments of the U. S. and Canada also have been advised that any additional protection afforded the large population of young halibut in the flats of southeastern Bering Sea would be beneficial.

Particular concern was expressed for the failure of stocks in Area 2 to respond to reduced removals from that area in recent years. If the stocks fail to respond adequately in 1968, more restrictive measures will be necessary.

Proposed 1968 Regulations

In view of the scientific findings and conferences with the industry, the Commission is recommending to Canada and the U. S. regulations for the 1968 fishing season that do not differ drastically from 1967 regulations. Exceptions are earlier opening dates for Areas 2, 3A, and 3B.

(1) For 1968 the regulatory areas shall be: Area 2 - All convention waters south of Cape Spencer, Alaska. Area 3A - between Cape Spencer and Shumagin Islands. Area 3B - Shumagin Islands to Atka Island, not including Bering Sea. Area 3C - west of Atka Island, not including Bering Sea. Area 4A - the Bering Sea edge - Unimak Pass to Pribilof Islands. Area 4B - Fox Islands grounds, Bering Sea. Area 4C - edge grounds and the Bering Sea side of the Aleutian Chain between 170° W. and 175° W. Area 4D - Bering Sea east of 175° W. and north of a line between Cape Newenham and St. Paul Island and waters west of 175° W. (The flats in southeastern Bering Sea east of Area 4A and south of a line between the Pribilof Islands and Cape Newenham have been declared a nursery area and are closed to all halibut fishing.)

(2) The opening and closing hours of the various regulatory areas shall be 6 p.m. Pacific Standard Time of the date indicated. Exceptions: Areas 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D, where they shall be open at 3 p.m. and closed at 6 p.m. local time.

(3) Area 2--shall open on May 4 and shall close at the time of attainment of a catch limit of 23 million pounds, or on October 15, whichever is earlier.

(4) Area 3A--shall open on May 4 and shall close at the time of attainment of a catch limit of 32 million pounds, or on October 15, whichever is earlier. This represents a reduction in the catch limit of 1 million pounds.

(5) Area 3B--shall open first on April 14 for a period of 4 fishing days and open again on May 4 and close at the time of attainment of a catch limit of 3.5 million pounds inclusive of that poundage taken during the first season of 4 days or on November 15, whichever is earlier.

(6) Area 3C--west of Atka Island not including Bering Sea, open on March 29 and close on November 15.

(7) Area 4A--the Bering Sea edge, Unimak Pass to Pribilof Islands--shall open on April 3 and close on April 17.

(8) Area 4B--Fox Islands grounds, Bering Sea--shall open on September 1 and close September 10.

(9) Area 4C--edge grounds between Pribilof Islands and 175° W.--shall open on March 29 and close on April 22.

(10) Area 4D--east of 175° W. and north of a line between St. Paul Island and Cape Newenham and waters of Bering Sea west of 175° W.--shall open on March 29 and close on November 15.

The Commission will provide 10 days' notice of closure of Area 2; and 18 days' notice of closure of Area 3A; and at least 18 days' notice of closure of Area 3B in 1968.

The Commission decided that the next annual meeting will be held in Seattle, Wash., beginning January 21, 1969. Harold E. Crowther of Washington, D. C., was elected Chairman and Frank W. Millerd of Vancouver, B. C., Vice Chairman for the ensuing year. (IPHC, Jan. 26, 1968.)



More Nations Sign N. Atlantic Fishing Operations Convention

Eleven more countries have signed the Convention on Conduct of Fishing Operations in the North Atlantic. Italy, West Germany, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, and Spain signed recently.

France, Iceland, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the USSR signed earlier.

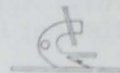
Poland, Spain, and the USSR signed with reservations. (U. S. Embassy, London, Jan. 23, 1968.)



Northeast Atlantic Enforcement Scheme Stalled

The Northeast Atlantic international fisheries enforcement scheme may not go into effect because Poland, Sweden, and the USSR have formally objected to the inclusion of an international enforcement article in the Convention of Fishing Operations in the North Atlantic. Therefore, this article will not come into effect as scheduled. The Nether-

lands has requested that the question be raised again at the next meeting of the Commission scheduled for May 1968 in Iceland. (U. S. Embassy, London, Feb. 2, 1968.)



UN/FAO Caribbean Project "Calamar" Is Active

From September-December 1967, the "Calamar," one of 3 vessels in the UNDP/FAO Caribbean Fishery Development Project, completed 5 cruises. About half the time went into exploration and half into production fishing. She explored much of the area between 9 and 30 fathoms along the coast of northeastern South America, from Trinidad to French Guiana. About 65 tons of marketable fish were taken. The nets used were "high opening" type trawl.

The catches were 60 percent sea trout (*Cynoscion virescens*), 14 percent croakers (*Micropogon furnieri*), and 25 percent other mixed fishes. About 50,000 pounds of catfish (*Arius* sp. and *Felichthys* sp.), sharks, rays, small Sciaenids, and other small fish were caught, but they were not saved for marketing. A giant devil ray (*Manta birestris*) weighing about 2,000 pounds, 9 marine turtles, 2 conger eels (*Muraenesox* sp.), and small amounts of shrimps were taken during the period, incidental to trawlfish operations.

Good Catches NE of Paramaribo

Good catches were made consistently in the area northeast of Paramaribo, Surinam, in 9 to 15 fathoms. About 100,000 pounds of marketable fish, or three-fourths of the total marketable catch, were taken here in 184.4 hours of fishing (66.3 percent of total fishing time during this period). The average catch rate was 9 pounds per minute of fishing (539.9 lbs./hr.). The catches included about 73 percent sea trout, 12 percent croakers, and 14 percent other mixed fish.

The area north of St. Andrews Point, Guyana, in 9 to 19 fathoms, yielded high catches. (Average 11.9 lbs./min., or 711.6 lbs./hr.). These were principally sea patwa (*Gerres rhombeus*), apparently a schooling fish; catches were not consistent. There were also good catches northeast and east of Waini Point, Guyana.

1 Net Lost, 1 Ripped Badly

During exploratory fishing north and east of Trinidad, a net was lost at 22 fathoms (Position: Lat. $10^{\circ}54'$ N., Long. $61^{\circ}12.5'$ W.) after hanging up on a wreck. Another net was ripped badly in 14 fathoms (Lat. $10^{\circ}35'$ N., Long. $60^{\circ}56.8'$ W.). Hard bottom, many wrecks, and strong currents hampered trawling. Catches included over 50 percent "moonshine" (*Selens vomer*); also lane snapper, bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), and large flatfish (*Paralichthys* sp.) up to 2 pounds were conspicuous.

In cooperation with the project's marketing sector, landings of trawl-caught fish were made at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Point-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, and Bridgetown, Barbados.

Oceanographic Work

To understand oceanographic conditions better, drift bottles were released, and water temperature and salinity data collected. Length frequencies of fish and other biological data were recorded. Numerous sharks were tagged and released for growth and migratory studies.

Trawling cruises in the same general area are continuing in early 1968. Emphasis is being placed on expanding coverage--and in developing information on the seasonal changes in species composition and abundance at certain key locations. (Cruise Report No. 8, UNDP/FAO Caribbean Fishery Development Project, Barbados, Jan. 15, 1968.)



Poland and Canada May Exchange Fishery Enforcement Officers

In summer 1967, officials of the Canadian Department of Fisheries approached Polish officials to arrange an informal exchange of enforcement officers. The purpose was to familiarize each country with the way the other enforces regulations of the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF). Canada, the U. S., and the USSR have done this in the past. This is the same type of exchange that the U. S. and the USSR conducted in ICNAF subareas 4 and 5 in June 1965. Although such arrangements

are endorsed by ICNAF, they are not a joint bilateral enforcement scheme.

Spring Exchange Likely

In September 1967, an enforcement officer aboard a Polish trawler contacted Department of Fisheries officials at St. John's, Newfoundland, but it was not convenient at that time to make the exchange. It is expected that in Spring 1968, when weather in the Northwest Atlantic improves, Canada and Poland will cooperate in this informal exchange of fishery enforcement officers. (Regional Fisheries Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Jan. 19, 1968.)



Mexico and Japan Agree on Fishing Off Mexico

On Feb. 2, in Tokyo, representatives of Mexico and Japan announced agreement on continuing Japanese fishing off Mexico. The 5-year agreement should be signed in the near future.

The main points cited were: (1) The agreement deals primarily with long-lining for tuna and related species (such as big-eyed, yellowfin, marlin, and swordfish) in the 9-12 mile zone off Mexico's Pacific coast. There the annual Japanese catch will be limited to 15,500 metric tons. (2) The Japanese will not fish near tourist resorts where sport fishing is important. (It is not known whether the Japanese have agreed to refrain from fishing beyond 12 miles in these sensitive areas.) (3) Japanese fishermen will use the same gear they now use. (4) The agreement does not change either country's position on the width of territorial waters, or jurisdiction over fishing by a coastal state. (5) On the Atlantic Coast, there will be no Japanese fishing within 12 miles. ("Excelsior," Feb. 3; Regional Fisheries Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Tokyo, Feb. 7, 1968.)



Sign Southeast Asian Fishery Development Central Pact

A 6-nation agreement to establish the Southeast Asian Fishery Development Center

in Bangkok, Thailand, was initially signed there by Japan, Thailand, and Singapore on Dec. 28, 1967. South Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia signed on Jan. 13, 1968. Several other southeast Asian nations, which had sent observers to the 1967 organization meetings, have not yet signed.

Research in Singapore

Under the agreement, a training center will be set up in Thailand, and a research center in Singapore. Japan will contribute experts, vessels, and gear worth about US\$1.1 million. Thailand will contribute buildings and land for the center. ("Katsuo-maguro Tsushin," Jan. 19, 1968, and other sources.)



Survey Indonesian Fishing Grounds

South Korea and Indonesia will conduct a joint fishing survey of Indonesian fishing grounds, from North Sumatra to Halmahera, beginning early in 1968. The 1-year survey was agreed on by the Shin Hung Refrigeration Co. of South Korea and the P. T. Nasantara Djaja Trading Co. of Indonesia.

Shin Hung will provide 40 vessels for the survey and give on-the-job training to Indonesians at sea and at processing plants in Korea. The first 5 vessels of the survey fleet arrived at Tanjung Priok, Djakarta, in January 1968. (U. S. Embassy, Djakarta, Nov. 10, 1967, and Jan. 16, 1968.)



Japanese-Italian Tuna Mothership Reports Good W. African Fishing

The 1,294-gross-ton, portable-boat-carrying tuna mothership, "Tuna No. 1", reported good fishing in early January 1968 in the Gulf of Guinea off West Africa. It averaged 8.5 metric tons (predominantly yellowfin) per set.

The vessel is owned jointly by Hoko Suisan Fishing Co. and an Italian firm. It departed Italy for West African waters in October 1967. So far, it has made 40 sets and is

expected to attain its catch target of 850 tons by the end of March 1968. The catch will be brought to Las Palmas, Canary Islands, for transshipment to Italy.

The Joint Company

The joint company, established in Italy, became operative in July 1967. The 2 parties had agreed that the Japanese firm would fish and the Italian partners would sell the catches to Italian packers. ("Katsuo-maguro Tsushin," Jan. 17, 1968, and other sources.)



FAO Conference on Fishing Research Vessels ~ Seattle, May 18-24

Fishing research vessels will be subject of the Second FAO Technical Conference on Research Vessel Craft to be held at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., May 18-24. The Conference is cosponsored by BCF and FAO's Fisheries Division. Jan-Olof Traung, Chief of FAO's Fishing Boat Section, will coordinate conference.

The planners expect several hundred participants from many nations to discuss: "vessel requirements as related to work objectives, vessel requirements as related to operational conditions, general operational problems, operational costs versus scientific output, and new methods of data retrieval from the oceans." Also to be examined are "problems of working at sea and general problems of platforms from which increased knowledge of the ocean's biological potential can be acquired."

The First Research Vessel Design Forum was held in Tokyo in September 1961. Twelve nations participated.

A conference spokesman said the May meeting will interest all leading fishing nations and those doing general oceanographic research. He hopes that several U. S. and foreign research vessels will be available to the conference.

For information, write to Donald Johnson, Regional Director, BCF, Seattle, Washington 98105.



Sockeye and Pink Salmon Predictions for 1968

The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission predicts an off-year for sockeye salmon catches but a good year for pinks. This year is expected to be poor for all Fraser River sockeye races, except possibly the Chilko. Sockeye production in the Skeena system may be better than average but not as good as 1967.

The U. S. and Canada each may harvest a sockeye catch of 500,000 fish in Convention waters. Strong runs of pink salmon are predicted from northern Queen Charlotte Islands south to Johnstone Strait. The Skeena system expects a run of 1.9 million pinks. ("Facts on Fish," Jan. 26, 1968.)



FAO Orders 2 Multipurpose Fishing Vessels in Norway

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has ordered 2 multipurpose fishing vessels from a Norwegian shipyard for delivery late this year and early 1969. The 107-foot vessels will be equipped for trawling and purse seining. They will be used to develop pelagic fishing off Colombia and Argentina under the auspices of FAO and oceanographic research institutes of the two nations.

The vessels also are to be equipped for training deep-sea fishing crews and for oceanographic research. Each vessel will have cabins for 18. Freezing holds will measure 127 cu. meters. Most fishing gear will be Norwegian make. (Export Council of Norway, Feb. 1968.)



Symposium on Marine Food Chains, Denmark, July

An International Symposium on Marine Food Chains (Tropho-Dynamics of Marine Communities) is scheduled for July 23-27, 1968, in Aarhus, Denmark. It is being held under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) with the support of FAO, UNESCO, and ICAF.

The tentative program is: (1) Biological variations and behavior relevant to feeding, capture, and reproduction, (2) Food web structure, particularly covering the re-use of non-living organic matter, the benthos, and the food requirements of fish stocks, (3) Methods for measuring field indices of viability and productive potential, and experimental studies pertinent to food chain dynamics, (4) Theoretical and experimental models for developing and testing concepts in tropho-dynamics. (ICES)



17th Int'l Congress of Limnology, Jerusalem, August

Jerusalem is the meeting place for the 17th International Congress of Limnology, Aug. 12-19, 1968. Several hundred delegates are expected to attend.

The agenda includes 2 lectures: the Baldi Memorial Lecture, and one on The Dead Sea. Symposia include Salt and Brackish Inland Waters, Tropical and Subtropical Lakes, and the Fish Pond as a Limnological Model. (U. S. Embassy, Tel Aviv, Feb. 6, 1968.)



North Pacific Fur Seal Commission to Meet in Moscow

The eleventh annual meeting of the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission (Canada, Japan, U. S., and USSR) will be held in Moscow starting April 8, 1968. The Commission will consider whether pelagic sealing, prohibited under the Convention, can be allowed under certain conditions without endangering fur-seal populations.

The member nations had agreed to allow the U. S. and the USSR to harvest the animals on land--and that Canada and Japan were each to receive 15 percent of the annual take of seal skins.

Japan Dissatisfied

Japan is strongly dissatisfied with the Convention's restriction on pelagic sealing. She can be expected to insist on permitting this method of harvesting. She claims that North Pacific fur seals have increased significantly

in recent years. She maintains they are causing damage to fishery resources through predation on North Pacific salmon and other fish off northeastern Japan.

Japan Supports Pelagic Sealing

Japan's position supporting pelagic sealing is: (1) years of study have shown that seals captured at sea produce better quality skins; (2) the improved capturing technique developed in recent years will reduce loss in seal skin value resulting from skin puncture; it will minimize retrieval problems caused by sinking of killed animals; and (3) better knowledge has been gained on fur seal habits; this will help resolve the problems associated with pelagic sealing. ("Suisan Keizai Shimbun," Feb. 8, 1968.)



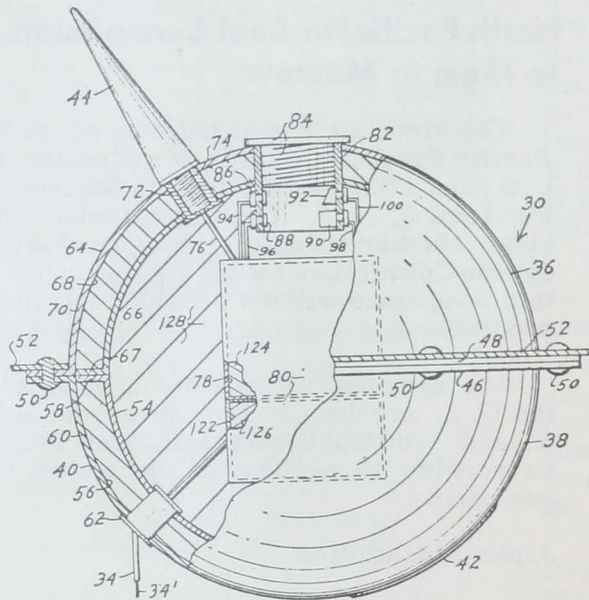
NEW BOOK ON NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES TREATIES

The School of Law, University of Washington (Seattle), has published a book that "is the most comprehensive symposium of the legal, political, and economic aspects of fisheries in the North Pacific that has ever been published . . . a valuable guide for legal scholars, politicians, economists, the fishing industry, and others who are interested in international fisheries."

"North Pacific Fisheries Symposium," 1967, 307 pp., \$3.50.

RESCUE BEACON FOR ALL CRAFT

"An emergency radio beacon for any land, sea or aircraft designed to begin transmitting automatically if the vehicle crashes or is damaged (as from fire) was patented recently by Calvin L. Yandell of Fontana, Calif. The unit is 'shockproof, fireproof and foolproof,' says the inventor, and will work even if it is thrown completely clear of the vehicle. The unit, which looks rather like a World War II mine, goes on when a cable that extends along the vehicle is broken, or it can be turned on manually.



"Half a dozen layers of casing and insulation are intended to armor the transmitter against just about anything, possibly including even a direct hit. The outermost layer is noncorroding metal, to protect the unit from exposure. Next comes a thick heat shield of granulated asbestos, a second layer of metal, a shock-absorbing jelly, the steel housing for the transmitter, an electrically insulating material that fills all the empty space in the housing and the radio itself."

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FOREIGN

CANADA

SEAL SEASON SHORTENED

The 1968 sealing season in the "Front" area on Canada's east coast--the Labrador and eastern Newfoundland coastline--will be shortened by 15 days, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence by 11 days.

By international agreement, Canada and Norway will begin to take harp and hooded seals on the "Front" March 22, ten days later than in 1967. The area will close on April 25, five days earlier than last season.

ICNAF Conservation Measures

Discussions of seal conservation measures were initiated at the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) at Boston, Mass., in June 1967. These were followed by a meeting of interested countries at Hamburg, Germany, in October 1967.

In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where Canada alone takes seals, the 1968 season will open March 18 (it opened on March 7 in 1967). It will close on April 25, as last season. (Canadian Department of Fisheries, Dec. 27, 1967.)

MAY ESTABLISH A NEW MARKETING AGENCY

Canada may establish a freshwater fisheries marketing agency to assist that sector of the fishing industry, which is having difficulties, particularly in selling to the U. S. market. Discussions about creating such an agency began in fall 1966. The latest series of talks was scheduled for February 1968, when officials of the Federal-Provincial Freshwater Fisheries Committee were to meet. (Dept. of Trade and Commerce, Canada, Jan. 24, 1968.)

FUR SEAL PRICES RISE SLIGHTLY

At the Jan. 25, 1968, fur seal sale in Montreal, prices advanced somewhat over the previous Canadian sale in September 1967. Price comparisons (in U. S. dollars) are shown in table. Also included are the prices received at the most recent U. S. sale in September 1967.

	Canada		U. S.
	Jan. 1968	Sept. 1967	Sept. 1967
Dressed, Dyed, Machined, Finished. Lakoda (Sheared):	\$ 79.45	\$ 69.59	\$ 82.73
Natural	30.80	23.42	31.84
Sandrift	41.33	None sold	86.20

1967 COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS

Canada's Bureau of Statistics reported on Jan. 29, 1968, cold-storage holdings of selected fishery products on Dec. 31, 1967, and 1966:

	Dec. 31 Stocks	
	1/1967	1966
	. . . (1,000 Lbs.) . . .	
Halibut Pacific:		
dressed	8,652	8,445
fillets	301	191
steaks	72	57
Salmon Pacific	6,248	8,624
Fillets:		
Atlantic cod	1,629	4,074
Haddock	2,139	2,445
Ocean perch	6,026	6,494
Soles ^{2/}	6,891	5,751
Blocks and slabs	12,227	17,180
Fish sticks	341	594
Portions	952	690
Scallops	526	1,900
Other frozen fish and shellfish	21,461	20,639
Total frozen fresh	67,465	77,084
Total smoked	1,382	1,376
Total bait and animal feed	14,906	15,478
Grand Total	83,753	93,938
1/Preliminary.		
2/Including all small flatfish.		

GOVERNMENT PRINTS BOOKLET ON CARE OF FISH IN RETAIL STORES

A 24-page booklet, "The Care of Fish in Retail Stores," published recently by the Canadian Department of Fisheries, has been well received by retailers and food distributors.

The booklet contains information useful to retail outlets and supermarkets. The meat manager of a Toronto supermarket chain said the booklet will help sell more fish by better informing retail sales personnel on the quality of fish, how to display it, and how to care for fresh and frozen fish.

Copies are free and may be obtained from the Information and Consumer Service, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, Province of Ontario, Canada. ("Fisheries of Canada," January 1968.)



EUROPE

1967 Salmon Catch Off Greenland Near 1964 Record

The 1967 catch of salmon in Greenland waters will total about 1,360 metric tons, close to the record 1964 catch of 1,387 tons. The offshore fishery catch more than tripled the 1966 figure. It was due to greater Norwegian and Danish participation.

Preliminary Greenland Salmon ^{1/} Catch, 1967 and 1966			
		1967	1966
. (Metric Tons)			
Shore fishery:			
Purchases by:			
Royal Greenland			
Trade Dept.		589	614
Private operators . .		491	533
Total		1,080	1,147
Offshore fishery:			
Norwegian vessels . .	(4 vessels)	100	(1 vessel) 18
Faroese "	(3 ")	100	(1 ") 70
Danish drift-netters .	(4 ")	80	(no vessels) -
Total		280	88
Grand Total		1,360	1,235

^{1/}Eviscerated fish with heads on.

Poor Weather Reduced Catch

Although more vessels participated in the 1967 offshore fishing, extremely poor weather reduced fishing effectiveness. Gill nets are fished at the surface and tend to tangle in bad weather. They also drift readily and prove very hard to recover at times.

About 100 salmon tagged as smolts were recaptured in the West Greenland fishery. No information is available yet on countries of origin.

Tagging Program

The ICES/ICNAF joint onshore tagging program successfully tagged 370 salmon. Northumberland T-nets were tried in an attempt to secure an increased percentage of taggable fish. This gear, a floating trap net with lead running to the beach, proved relatively ineffective. This was due partly to poor weather and rough seas. (Regional Fisheries Attache, U. S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Jan. 21, 1968.)



Iceland

1967 CATCH DECLINES

Iceland's total 1967 catch of about 901,000 metric tons was 27.3 percent below the 1966 catch of 1,240,000 tons. Contributing factors were difficult weather conditions and the unpredictable movements of herring shoals.

The 1967 catch was slightly less than the 971,600 tons of 1964--and well under the record catches of 1965 and 1966.

	1967	1966
	. . (1,000 Metric Tons) . .	
Herring	470	769
Capelin	97	125
Groundfish	330	339
Lobster & shrimp	4	5

Although a final estimate is not yet available, it is assumed that the manufacture of fishery products (output) for 1967 declined by at least the same percentage. (U. S. Embassy, Reykjavik, Jan. 18, 1968.)

* * *

TEMPORARY SOLUTION FOUND TO FISH PLANT SHUTDOWN

In the last week of January 1968, the Freezing Plants Corporation and the Icelandic Federation of Cooperative Societies shut down their member plants due largely to operating deficits. In recent discussions with these groups, the Government proposed as its final offer subsidy assistance of 199 million kronur (US\$3.5 million). Although the plants rejected this proposed sum as "unacceptable," they agreed to resume production on the basis of the Government's proposals only during the 1968 winter fishing season.

An earlier Government decision to increase 1968 prices on raw white fish by 10 percent above 1967 prices (including subsidies) increased in effect raw material costs to freezing plants. (This happened at the same time Government subsidies were to be abolished.) The action brought on the plant shutdown.

Assistance Exceeds Budget Surplus

In addition to plant assistance, the Government proposed 124 million kronur (\$2.2 million)

Iceland (Contd.)

for fishing vessel owners to help meet interest and loan repayments on capital investment. Thus, total assistance to the fisheries is projected at 323 million kronur (\$5.7 million). This is a good deal more than the anticipated 250 million kronur (\$4.4 million) budgetary surplus estimated for 1968. The surplus had been earmarked to compensate for loss of revenue from proposed tariff reductions.

To Curb Treasury Outlays

In a press interview on Jan. 30, 1968, the Minister of Finance stated that it had been "hoped the devaluation would suffice for the fisheries, although it was clear that the freezing plants would not be satisfied without some transfer payments. It was also known that the fisheries owners would have to be supported if the lot of the fishermen were improved." As to how the Government is going to finance assistance to the fisheries, he stated that "a drastic revision of all state expenditures along with measures to curb Treasury outlays could not be avoided."

Dropping proposed tariff reductions is not feasible, according to the Government, because early reductions are inevitable in order to bring Icelandic tariffs into line with existing tariffs in other countries. Reductions also are necessary to arrive at acceptable agreements with EFTA and EEC. (U. S. Embassy, Reykjavik, Feb. 1, 1968.)



United Kingdom

INTEREST IN OCEANOGRAPHY GROWS

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) reports growing interest in marine sciences. The NERC considers itself the "prime coordinator of marine scientific research" in the United Kingdom.

NERC's second annual report (for April 1, 1966-March 31, 1967) reviews the Council's efforts to examine and coordinate its different research programs and to develop policies. Major new developments are planned in 4 previously neglected areas: (1) coastal oceanography, (2) coastal geology and ecol-

ogy, (3) geology of the continental shelf, and (4) hydrology and biology of inland waters.

Funds for Research

In oceanography and fisheries, the Council urges increased effort. After a national review of potential economic and scientific benefits, the NERC expects to double its financial support of research in the marine sciences in the next 4 years. From US\$4.2 million in 1966-67, support will increase to about \$9.8 million in 1972. This is considered the maximum consistent with available staff and facilities. Increased aid already has been given to university postgraduate programs and to improve research facilities.

5 Vessels Needed

NERC anticipates a need for 5 new research vessels over the next 5 years: one for biological and a second for geological research, to be used jointly with the universities; 2 smaller vessels for coastal work; and a 2-man submersible capable of operating at 100 fathoms along with a support vessel.

The British Antarctic Survey, a recent addition to NERC, also is expected to need a new vessel by about 1970. It is likely that the Survey will expand its oceanographic research in the Antarctic.

The interest of NERC in marine sciences as a source of future economic and scientific benefits is endorsed by the Council for Scientific Policy. The Council has recommended in its latest report on science policy that NERC's budget be increased at a yearly average of 16.5 percent over the next 3 years. (U. S. Embassy, London, Jan. 27, 1968.)



USSR

NEW AQUARIUM NEAR BLACK SEA

A large aquarium has been built at Batumi, Georgian Republic, on the shores of the Black Sea. It has over 2,000 fish from the Black Sea and inland waters of the Caucasus. Scientists from the Georgian Fisheries Research Laboratory will conduct basic research on the nearly extinct Atlantic sturgeon. This fish can weigh up to 600 lbs. (Caspian sturgeon reach only 110 lbs.) The Atlantic sturgeon

USSR (Contd.):

yields 5 to 6 times as much caviar as the Caspian. Only about 1,000 specimens of Atlantic sturgeon are known to exist in the mouth of the Rioni River, where the Soviets plan to build a sturgeon hatchery.

Caspian and Pacific fur seals also are being studied at the aquarium. Both species have been kept alive in captivity. Both readily eat frozen fish, although prior Japanese research indicated fur seals are more demanding about their food. The Soviets hope that both species will reproduce in captivity and establish a basis for commercial breeding. ("Trud," Dec. 19, 1967.)



Portugal

CANNED FISH PACK UP,
EXPORTS DOWN

The Portuguese publication "Conservas de Peixe," Nov. 1967, reported the pack and export of canned fish in Jan.-Sept. 1967 and 1966:

	Pack			
	1967		1966	
	Jan.-Sept.		Jan.-Sept.	
	Metric Tons	1,000 Cases	Metric Tons	1,000 Cases
In oil or sauce:				
Sardines	26,496	1,394	26,984	1,420
Chinchards	2,378	125	1,104	58
Mackerel	6,540	261	5,994	240
Tuna & tunalike	6,165	206	3,490	116
Anchovy fillets	3,467	347	3,688	369
Others	1,187	63	704	37
Total	46,233	2,396	41,964	2,240
Exports				
Sardines	36,824	1,938	36,262	1,908
Chinchards	1,200	63	492	26
Mackerel	4,782	191	7,623	305
Tuna & tunalike	1,582	53	2,109	70
Anchovy fillets	3,199	320	2,988	299
Other	643	34	597	31
Total	48,230	2,599	50,071	2,639



Denmark

NEW SHRIMP FISHERY POSSIBLE

Exploratory fishing has demonstrated the existence of commercial stocks of brown

shrimp (*Crangon vulgaris*) in shallow protected waters between Esbjerg and Havneby, Denmark. Denmark has not used this species, although it is highly regarded in Germany, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The exploratory effort was inspired by cooperation between one of West Germany's largest shrimp suppliers in Cuxhaven and an Esbjerg exporter. The Cuxhaven firm agreed to purchase all brown shrimp the Danish fishery could produce.

Dutch Trawl Used

Biologists at the Danish Ministry of Fisheries originally opposed beam-trawling for shrimp in the shallow-water areas off Denmark's west coast. They feared the likelihood of damage to substantial stocks of young fish that use these waters for rearing. The beam-trawl was tested. So was a specially built "shovel trawl." But attention centered quickly on the Dutch double cod-end beam trawl. This separates the shrimp from the small fish and permits the fish to escape. (For description of this net, see "World Fishing," June 1965.)

Tests of the new Dutch trawl demonstrated its suitability for Danish conditions. A biologist-observer of the exploratory fishing was enthusiastic about the gear. (Regional Fishery Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Jan. 30, 1968.)



Norway

POSSIBLE DEPLETION OF
SALMON STOCKS FEARED

An expanding salmon fishery off the Norwegian coast from Bergen to Finnmark has caused concern in fishing circles that the country's valuable salmon stocks are being depleted. The chief of the Norwegian Directorate for Hunting, Wildlife, and Freshwater Fisheries says there is clear evidence that salmon are being overfished as a result of the new fishery. Because salmon propagation work takes place only in rivers, he points out, rivers should be assured an adequate part of the run. Instead, the river part of the catch has declined from 15 percent to 10 percent in the last decade. The chief noted that the new fishery can only be regulated by international agreement. He urged that negotiations

Norway (Contd.):

begin soon with Denmark, Canada, and the Soviet Union.

Fishery Fairly New

The fishery began in the early 1960s as a drift-net fishery, but several Danish long-line boats participated in 1966. In 1967, about 20 Danish long-liners, one or two Swedish boats, and some Faroese and Norwegian vessels, fished salmon in the area. The vessels fished from about 12 miles to 200 miles offshore. They began in April and continued through most of June.

Preliminary data show a catch of 100 to 200 metric tons in 1967. More vessels, particularly Norwegian, are expected to participate during 1968. Several fishermen from the Danish port of Esbjerg plan to return to North Norway this year. They have been negotiating to convert a large steel cutter to mothership operations. This would save much time and many trips from fishing grounds to Denmark--because Norway does not permit the Danes to land their catches for transshipment. (Regional Fisheries Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Jan. 30, 1968.)

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PRICE DECLINE HITS
KLIPFISH EXPORTS

Norwegian exports of klipfish (dried, salted cod) for 1968 are expected to total about 40,000 metric tons, about the same as

in 1967. However, the value probably will be much lower because of declining prices for it on the world market. The Norwegian market in Brazil particularly has been affected by lower prices.

Depressed world prices for klipfish may be a result of competitive sales by Faroese and Icelandic suppliers. The latter's position has been enhanced by currency devaluation. (Regional Fishery Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Jan. 30, 1968.)

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REPORT ON 1966-67 LANDINGS AND VALUE

The Norwegian publication "Fiskets Gang," Dec. 28, 1967, reports these data on landings and value for 1966 and 1967:

	1/1967		2/1966	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Metric Tons	US\$ 1,000	Metric Tons	US\$ 1,000
Herring	1,206.3	38,230	1,185.8	56,784
Mackerel	881.2	27,436	483.9	25,659
Capelin	402.8	5,859	379.6	9,541
Saithe	123.9	12,079	142.6	13,461
Cod	192.4	35,565	197.0	36,853
Other	209.3	39,608	264.7	45,448
Total	3,015.9	158,777	2,653.6	187,746
1/Preliminary.				
2/Revised.				

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USE OF INDUSTRIAL
FISH LANDINGS IN 1967

Norway's utilization in 1967 of industrial fish landings by selected species is reported by "Fiskets Gang," Jan. 4, 1968:

	Total Landings	Iced Fresh		Freezing		Salted	Canned	Animal Food	Meal & Oil
		Export	Domestic	Edible	Bait				
(1,000 Metric Tons)									
Herring	1,199.4	19.9	4.0	33.5	6.5	31.7	18.4	0.1	1,085.2
Capelin	415.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	415.3
Norway pout	21.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.8	12.0
Brisling	74.5	2.7	-	-	-	0.1	69.9	0.5	1.2
Mackerel	77.7	0.1	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	-	75.3

Note: Original data converted from hectoliters (hl.) using 93 kilos=1 hl. for all species except capelin (100 kilos=1 hl). Totals may not add due to rounding.



LATIN AMERICA

Peace Corps Wants 60 Biologists for Fisheries Projects

The Peace Corps is seeking 60 "qualified, fisheries-oriented" biologists to work in fisheries development programs in Chile and Central America. The programs will be associated with FAO fishery development projects.

Training will begin in June 1968. Primary study areas in current projects are: development of fishing production cooperatives; fishery research and fish culture efforts; and fishing community development. The 3-month training program in the U. S. includes language and study of fisheries in the countries to which volunteers are assigned for 2 years. They will work closely with native fishermen and officials.

Where Application Forms Available

Application forms are available at U. S. Post Offices and at Civil Service Commission offices. Applicants should apply soon to be considered for the June training programs. They should pay special attention to Question 14--"Area of Preference"--and state their interest in going to Latin America.

For more information, write to: Norman Moe, Peace Corps/Chile, Room 419, The Peace Corps, Washington, D. C.; or Harold Loesch, FAO Central American Fisheries Development Project, Room 344, The Peace Corps, Washington, D. C.



Mexico

CONSUMPTION OF SHRIMP INCREASES

Between 1957 and 1966, Mexican consumption of shrimp increased about 9 percent each year. This fact is notable because it shows increasing consumption of domestically produced fish. Domestic consumption was about 18 percent of total Mexican production over the past 10 years, but this has increased in recent years. For example, domestic consumption was 20 percent of the catch in 1963, 23 percent in 1964, 24 percent in 1965, and

25 percent in 1966. Per-capita consumption of shrimp rose from $\frac{1}{3}$ -lb. in 1957 to over $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. in 1966. ("Actividad Pesquera," Nov. 10, 1967.)

* * *

CATCH WAS UP IN FIRST 9 MONTHS OF 1967

The Mexican fishery catch from January-September 1967 totaled 168,892 tons--19,753 tons above the 1966 period.

The greatest catch increases were: sardine, 63 percent; anchoveta, 83 percent; tuna, 58 percent; turtle, 141 percent; charal (fresh water silverside), 33 percent; spiny lobster, 53 percent; sharks, 28 percent; red snapper, 33 percent; mackerel, 9 percent; mullet, 16 percent; croaker, 11 percent; schoolmaster, 4 percent; mojarra (a perch), 4 percent; and snook, 2 percent.

Catches declined for grouper, totoaba, wahoo, and oysters. ("Actividad Pesquera," Nov. 10, 1967.)

* * *

BUILDING MAJOR YUCATAN PORT

Mexico is building a port near Progreso on the Yucatan Peninsula. June 1968 is the planned completion date. Its main purpose will be to offer fishing vessels protection in stormy weather. Current facilities are a wharf on an open roadstead.

The new harbor will be built in a swamp separated from the sea by a strip of land. The basic construction plans are to dig a channel through the strip so vessels can come into the swamp. Fishing from the port should expand--with increased production of snappers and mero for the U.S. market. ("Mexico City News," Jan. 19, 1968; Regional Fisheries Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Mexico.)

* * *

MAZATLAN BOATYARD IS BUSY

Mexico's Astilleros Unidos del Pacifico, a Mazatlan boatyard, will build 21 fishing vessels during 1968. Total value will be US\$1,798,800. Nineteen of the vessels will be exported to Japan, Korea, and Venezuela.

Mexico (Contd.):

During January 1968, orders were received for 2 shrimp trawlers for the United Kingdom, 4 for Brazil, and 17 for the Mazatlan fleet. Also, a \$91,000 yacht was ordered by a U. S. company.

20 Shrimp Trawlers in 1967

During 1967, 20 shrimp trawlers were built worth US\$1,440,000. Seven went to the local fleet and 13 to Brazil and Venezuela. Also, 243 vessels were repaired at a cost of US\$260,000.

Further modernization of the shipyard is expected. ("El Heraldo," Jan. 15, 1968; Regional Fisheries Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Mexico, Jan. 24, 1968.)

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FRENCH TRAWLER CREW TO TEACH DEEP-WATER SHRIMP TRAWLING

The French trawler "Louis Caubriere" was expected to arrive in Mazatlan in late January to teach Mexican fishermen deep-water trawling for shrimp. The vessel is part of the fishery protocol signed by France and Mexico in mid-1967. Under it, French companies will furnish fishing vessels and machinery to develop Mexico's fishing industry.

French officials were in Mazatlan and enthusiasm was reported high to begin the venture. The freezing plant designated to handle the shrimp taken by the French vessel was ready to begin processing. (Regional Fisheries Attaché, U. S. Embassy, Mexico, Jan. 24, 1968.)



Peru

CHIMBOTE IS WORLD'S NO. 1 PORT IN LANDINGS

Chimbote, the Peruvian port where most anchoveta are landed, has the highest landings of any fishing port in the world. This has produced a problem. Although fishermen, processors, and other groups in the fishing industry say they are optimistic, it seems likely that several fish meal plants--the primary source of employment--will have to

close permanently because of world prices for fish meal.

The tuna canning operations in Chimbote belong to the past: 69 canneries operated in 1963, today no more than 5. The largest cannery is closed. Another moved to Trujillo. Only Pesquera Chimbote and 4 very small canneries are producing bonito--and this only intermittently. An inadequate bonito fleet, strikes, demands for increased wages, and labor legislation improperly suited to seasonal operations, such as bonito fishing, have doomed this once-flourishing industry.

Fish Meal Plants Operate

The fish meal plants are operating, most at capacity. They have benefited from devaluation of the "sol" and from new tax benefits.

One plant was occupied by workers and closed down, apparently after the Industrial Bank refused credit. Pesquera del Santa and Fray Martin are producing alfalfa meal, using old fish-meal equipment. Costa Atunera, S. A., is producing meal from cannery offal and shipping the meal to Spain and Italy. Apparently, the product is well accepted there ("Pesca," October 1967.)

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REPORT ON FISH MEAL AND OIL PRODUCTION

Peruvian fishing was excellent in November and December 1967. Production and shipments were high. Stocks were 510,431 metric tons on Nov. 30, and 598,513 tons on Dec. 15 (a record for that date).

Table 1 - Fish Meal Production Through Mid-December 1967

	Nov.	Dec. 1-15	Sept. 1-Dec. 15	Jan. 1-Dec. 15
	(Metric Tons)			
Fish meal production	241,017	147,308	672,829	1,703,294
Fish meal shipments	160,988	58,527	439,914	1,452,411
Local sales & other uses	3,265	699	1/	27,535
1/Not available.				

Table 2 - Fish Oil Exports Through November 1967

	Nov.	Sept. -Nov.	Jan. -Nov.
	(Metric Tons)		
Semirefined	11,866	15,535	119,118
Crude	10,127	10,663	61,231
Total	21,993	26,198	180,349

Peru (Contd.):

Table 3 - Fish Meal Exports Through Mid-December 1967

Zone and Area	Total			Percentage of Total
	Nov.	Dec. 1-15	Jan. 1-Dec. 15	
	(Metric Tons)			%
I -U.S. & Canada	37,831	23,650	411,657	28.3
II -Latin America	11,583	2,800	85,692	5.9
III-Far East	11,811	4,376	53,972	3.7
IV-East. Europe	28,600	8,100	230,792	15.9
VI-West. Europe	47,559	12,051	407,500	28.1
VI-West Germany	23,604	7,550	262,798	18.1

As of Dec. 15, 1967, 106 plants were operating; 53 were closed; and 9 had been dismantled.

At the end of 1967, over 600,000 tons were in stock. (U. S. Embassy, Lima, Jan. 25, 1968.)



Colombia

REPORT ON CARIBBEAN COAST'S FISHING INDUSTRY

The fishing industry on Colombia's north coast is coastal, poorly organized, and primitive. Most fishing is done from canoes or from beaches. Fishermen use nets or lines with varying numbers of hooks; in inland lakes and rivers, they sometimes use lights and dynamite (both illegal) and spears; they dive for lobster. About 10,000 people are engaged in traditional fishing in the region.

Commercial fishing is centered in Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, and Riohacha. Reportedly, 27 seagoing fishing boats with average displacement of 12 tons are engaged in commercial fishing. These boats usually employ lines rather than nets. Their catch is preserved with block ice. There are ice plants in Turbo, Cartagena, Barranquilla, and Santa Marta.

Fish Canning and Freezing

The fish canning and freezing industry on the north coast is concentrated in Barranquilla and Santa Marta. The plants are supplied by the 27 vessels. They also send trucks and agents to buy from fishermen.

In 1962 north coastal packers canned 521 metric tons of fish and froze 1,407 tons. By 1965, the totals had risen to 825 tons canned and 1,825 tons frozen. This is a small part

of the total catch--estimated at 22,988 tons in 1962 and 24,472 in 1965. About 25 percent of this catch was robalo (snook).

Area's Potential Being Studied

The commercial fishing possibilities of the north coast of Colombia are being studied by a company called Pesquera Nacional. It is owned and organized by the Corporacion Financiera del Norte, ESSO Colombiana, Envases de Colombia, and others. It has hired a boat to fish those waters for a year.

In 1967, local interest in commercial fishing increased. It is directed especially to export oysters, shrimp, and spiny lobster to the U. S. and Puerto Rico. Exports are small. The largest shrimp exports are from Cartagena, canned oysters from Barranquilla, and spiny lobsters from Riohacha via Barranquilla. (U. S. Consulate, Barranquilla, Jan. 17, 1968.)

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GETS UNDP/FAO FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A project for a marine fisheries development study was accepted on Dec. 17, 1967, by the Colombian Minister of Agriculture, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and FAO. Colombia had asked for UN Special Fund Assistance. The costs of the 4-year program, about US\$2 million, are to be shared about equally by Colombia and the UN.

The project will: (a) provide advisory services to Government and industry to strengthen fishery administration, review factors affecting industry development, and to organize fishery research; (b) conduct surveys and experimental fishing to assess available resources and develop efficient methods of exploiting them; and (c) provide fellowships in fishery biology and fishing techniques.

Operation of Projects

Project headquarters will be in Bogota. Two permanent field stations, in Buenaventura and Cartagena, will be built with Colombian funds. The Government will be assisted in evaluating existing fishery policies, laws, regulations, and practices. It will act to improve these.

Colombia (Contd.):

The Government will establish, under the Ministry of Agriculture, a National Fisheries Research and Development Center to be project headquarters, and a Committee on Project Coordination and Supervision to support the industry.

The magnitude and biological characteristics of the resources in Colombian waters will be studied--and the efficient means to exploit them. Exploratory tests will be conducted by a fully equipped UN vessel.

Studies of the economics of the industry will be carried out. Local staff and fisheries people will be advised and trained.

What UN and Colombia Provide

The UN Special Fund will provide: (a) 264 man-months of expert service; (b) fellowships at estimated cost of \$30,000; (c) equipment and supplies not over \$401,000; (d) miscellaneous, estimated \$30,000.

Colombia will provide: (a) 694 man-months of professional staff service; (b) 1,042 man-months of nonprofessional staff service; (c) land and buildings, estimated \$92,369; (d) equipment and supplies, estimated \$332,369; and (e) miscellaneous, estimated \$33,920. (U. S. Embassy, Bogota, Feb. 8.)



Brazil

EXPANDS FROZEN FISH EXPORTS

A report indicating the availability of frozen catfish in Brazil for export resulted in 10 direct inquiries; two of these were followed by action. Two companies formed to export the fish are thriving--Productos de Pesca do Para, S. A., and Atlantics Pesca Ltda., both in Belem, Para.

The two are exporting annually about 800 metric tons of frozen catfish steaks and fillets to the U. S., destined for market in south central U. S. Most of the fish enters through New York City. Growth of this trade has encouraged increases in catch. At least one

other firm is building facilities to process catfish for export. (U. S. Embassy, Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 10, 1968.)

The report from the U. S. Embassy coincides with others. According to a report from Atlanta, Georgia, large quantities of Brazilian catfish and croakers have appeared there. Mullet, trout, and other fish are expected soon. After success in marketing them, an Atlanta dealer recently contracted for 250,000 lbs. monthly of frozen dressed Brazilian croakers.



Chile

REPORT ON 1967 ANCHOVY CATCH, FISH MEAL AND OIL PRODUCTION

The Instituto de Fomento Pesquero has reported the following data for North Chile's anchovy catch and fish meal and oil production in 1967:

	1967	1966	1965
 (Metric Tons)		
Anchovy Catch:			
Dec.	58,800	17,900	103,200
Jan.-Dec.	664,740	1,047,697	422,197
Fish Meal Production:			
Jan.	15,983	33,504	12,836
Feb.	20,294	27,113	11,371
Mar.	7,794	13,536	10,278
Apr.	1,651	14,067	3,587
May	3,447	26,754	4,090
June	16,487	18,783	2,989
July	13,331	17,865	2,188
Aug.	6,054	17,978	3,651
Sept.	11,656	11,696	794
Oct.	11,408	2,687	888
Nov.	6,554	1,887	1,453
Dec.	11,093	3,634	16,454
Jan.-Dec.	125,752	189,504	70,579
Fish Oil Production:			
Dec.	1,278	572	1,063
Jan.-Dec.	9,899	18,706	7,234



ASIA

Japan

DEVELOPMENTS IN PURSE-SEINE TUNA FISHERY

The extension of tuna purse seining from around the Japanese home islands to the distant high seas is creating considerable interest. The fishery is divided broadly into one-boat purse seining in the South Pacific Ocean and two-boat seining in the Atlantic Ocean off West Africa. Both are experimental. No purse seiner has been licensed by the Government to engage in full-scale commercial fishing in distant waters. However, the fishery is drawing much attention; license applications (close to 20 one- and two-boat purse-seine units) are filed with the Fisheries Agency. Should the Agency decide to license a full-scale fishery in 1968, it will face a delicate situation licensing vessels.

Distant-Water Fishery

The distant-water purse-seine fishery started in 1962 in the South Pacific off New Guinea. In 1964, an experimental operation was started in the Atlantic off West Africa. In the South Pacific, Taiyo Fishing Co. (with Government support) conducted the first one-boat purse seine skipjack fishing off New Guinea with the power-block-equipped seiner "Kenyo Maru" (260 gross tons). The 1962-63 operation failed because of poor fishing. This resulted in a substantial financial loss for Taiyo and threatened the development of the South Pacific fishery.

However, in 1965, another fishing firm (Ogata Gyogyo) sent to the same region a one-boat seiner, the "Taikei Maru" (210 gross tons). The vessel was diverted from the slow fishing season (December-April) off northeastern Japan. The trip was a success and gave renewed impetus to the fishery.

At present, 4 one-boat purse seiners are operating in that region. Production is reported on target. The vessels and their owners are: "Taikei Maru" (210 gross tons), Ogata Gyogyo; "Nissho Maru" (250 gross tons), Nippon Kinkai Hoge; "Tokiwa Maru No. 58" (350 gross tons), Okura Gyogyo; and "Hayabusa Maru No. 3" (280 gross tons), Taiyo.

West African Grounds

In the West African fishing grounds, various nations have been conducting for many years pole-and-line skipjack fishing. Japan's entry into the purse-seine fishery began in 1964. Nichiro Fishing Co., stimulated by French seining there, began operations with 1 two-boat unit: the seiners "Kuroshio Maru Nos. 81 & 82" (each 145 gross tons). The West African fishery has abundant skipjack. It is profitable if conducted by independent vessels. But with mothership-type operations, it is difficult to meet expenses.

Despite financial setbacks, Nichiro continued its mothership operations. Now it has 4 two-boat seiner units and one mothership ("Chichibu Maru No. 2," 1,639 gross tons). Of the 4 units, 2 are owned by Nichiro and 1 each by Kawajiri Gyogyo and Aizawa Gyogyo. Because of high mothership costs, Kawajiri and Toyo Gyogyo plan to fish experimentally with a large, independent, 500-ton purse seiner. Kawajiri's new 500-ton "Hakuryu Maru No. 55" was headed toward the West African fishing grounds from the eastern Pacific. Another seiner is being built by Toyo Gyogyo and will be sent to W. African waters. The performance of the two vessels will be watched closely by the industry.

Short Purse-Seine History

The Fisheries Agency is moving cautiously with regard to licensing the Atlantic and South Pacific purse-seine fishery on a regular commercial basis because the Japanese purse-seine history in both regions is short. Also, doubt still exists over whether one-boat seining is preferable to two-boat. While one-boat is efficient, it injures fish more and so reduces their market value. It is urgent to divert purse seiners from coastal fisheries to distant waters for 2 reasons: mackerel and skipjack are abundant; there is need to reduce gear conflict in Japanese coastal waters.

5-Year Plan

The Fisheries Agency has prepared a 5-year program to develop new fishing grounds for the purse-seine and other distant-water fisheries. It was drawn up along with commissioning of Government research vessel

Japan (Contd.):

"Kaiyo Maru" (3,200 gross tons). The program includes tuna and mackerel surveys: 1st year (1968)--mackerel survey in South China Sea and skipjack in South Pacific; 2nd year (1969)--skipjack survey off West Africa; 3rd year (1970)--skipjack, west of Australia; 4th year (1971)--skipjack, off west coast of South America; and 5th year (1972)--skipjack, in Indian Ocean.

Industry Plans Too

Based on 5-year program, the Japan Fisheries Society (senior industry leaders) developed a long-range estimate of purse-seine fleet expansion and catch increase by ocean area. According to estimate, there will be a 2-year exploratory survey in 1968-69. This will be followed by the addition of two 500-ton one-boat purse seiners and one two-boat seiner in 1970. The estimated increase in annual tuna catch will be 6,330 metric tons.

In 1975, fleet expansion will bring total to 57 one- and two-boat seiners and production of around 14,000 tons. By 1982, fleet will reach 94 fishing units with catch of 233,000 tons. However, these projections depend on implementing resource surveys under the Government's 5-year resource development program.

Future Promising

Compared with present, fairly new, distant-water purse-seine fishery, the future is promising when tuna resources and availability of fishing grounds are considered. Like deep-water trawl fishery, it will not be affected by trend toward extension of territorial waters by coastal nations. Thus, the purse-seine system used by advanced fishing nations will become more important in Japanese fisheries. It will replace the inefficient long line and hook method. ("Nihon Suisan Shimbun," Jan. 1, 1968.)

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TUNA CANNERS HAVE PROBLEMS

The Japanese tuna packing industry is faced with the difficulty arising from the high cost and scarcity of raw material. Early this year production was lagging, and sales for domestic and export markets had declined.

The export market in the U. S., West Germany, and other countries is weakening. Japanese trading firms are barely able to maintain their share of the canned tuna trade.

U. S. Competition

Concern is being expressed in Japan over the difficulty of boosting exports because U. S. packers are expanding canned tuna production. The U. S. packers have abundant raw material available. Moreover, they have reduced production costs through technological innovations.

To improve Japan's international competitive position, some Japanese trading firms are arranging to supply domestic packers with lower-priced tuna produced by other countries. ("Kanzume Nippo," Jan. 20, 1968.)

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FROZEN TUNA EXPORT PRICES DROPPED IN 1967

The November 1967 average prices for albacore and yellowfin tuna were about the same as October's. Compared with November 1966, the albacore price fell by over US\$30 a ton, and yellowfin by about \$45 a ton.

The prices of frozen tuna for direct export to the U. S. during August-November 1967 were reported (see table) by the Japan Frozen Tuna Sales Co. ("Suisan Tsushin," Dec. 26, 1967.)

		Albacore (round)		Yellowfin (g.&g.) ^{1/}		Albacore Loins		Yellowfin Loins	
		1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966
. (US\$/Short Ton, f.o.b. Japan)									
Nov.	High	468	505	413	460	1,053	1,060	875	940
	Low	455	485	395	425	984	1,060	849	911
	Average	466	499	409	453	999	1,060	854	932
Oct.	High	475	502	408	500	984	1,060	904	940
	Low	390	437	408	400	984	956	834	902
	Average	465	478	408	438	984	1,004	838	917
Sept.	High	478	485	410	425	990	962	900	913
	Low	466	440	380	400	990	936	890	820
	Average	472	451	409	417	990	955	890	843
Aug.	High	493	450	418	395	990	943	900	791
	Low	450	430	378	325	840	917	893	785
	Average	472	438	397	385	948	933	897	787

^{1/}Gilled and gutted.

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Japan (Contd.):

SAURY CATCH DECLINED IN 1967

The 1967 Japanese saury fishery ended another poor season. The catch was 215,000 metric tons, only slightly above 1964's low of 200,000 tons. Since 1964, landings have been consistently low, running not much above 200,000 tons, or less than half the peak production of the past.

The poor season was ascribed to rough sea conditions in October and November 1967. Also, dense schools were absent in the early phase of the fishery. Because fish size was small, only 10 percent of the catch was sold for fresh consumption; 70 percent was frozen and 10 percent each canned and processed into fish meal.

Fishermen Worried

Fishermen are becoming increasingly concerned over the declining abundance of saury and growing Soviet operations off Japan. They are urging thorough investigation of the resource. However, they do not claim Soviet operations have caused a sharp decline in abundance. They are opposed to an all-out fishing regulation for this reason: should the fishery come under international regulation, the Japanese themselves also would be subject to treaty restrictions. ("Minato Shimbun," Jan. 11, 1968.)

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CUTS FROZEN SWORDFISH EXPORTS TO U. S. IN FY 1968

In early January 1968, the Japan Frozen Foods Exporters Association adopted a 4,500-short-ton quota of frozen swordfish exports to the U. S. for FY 1968 (April 1968-March 1969). This is a decrease of 1,000 tons from the FY 1967 quota. It was made because of the poor export performance last year. ("Katsuo-maguro Tsushin," Jan. 17, 1968.)

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TUNA SEINER IN EASTERN ATLANTIC

The 500-gross-ton Japanese purse seiner "Hakuryu Maru No. 55," departed for the West African tuna fishing grounds on Jan. 8, 1968. It was scheduled to pass through the

Panama Canal around Feb. 3, en route to the eastern Atlantic Ocean to join the Nichiro Fishing Co.'s two-boat-type purse-seine fleet in the Gulf of Guinea.

First 1-Boat Seiner in Guinea Gulf

Since the "Hakuryu Maru" will be the first Japanese one-boat seiner to operate in that area, its performance will be watched by the home industry. Later, another 500-ton one-boat purse-seiner, now being built, is scheduled to join the fleet. ("Shin Suisan Shimbun Sokuho," Jan. 19, 1968.)

Note: An earlier report said the vessel departed Japan in mid-December 1967 and would fish off California, Mexico, and Central America until about June 1968 before joining the eastern Atlantic fishery.

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ATLANTIC TUNA EXPORT PRICES UNCHANGED

Japanese Atlantic tuna transshipments to the U. S. and Italy have remained relatively unchanged since late October 1967. Export prices for shipments, as of Dec. 30, 1967, were: U. S.: round albacore, f.o.b. \$450 a short ton; yellowfin (gilled & gutted) f.o.b. \$390 a short ton. Italy: yellowfin (gilled & gutted) c.i.f.c. (c.i.f. plus commission) \$520 a metric ton; yellowfin (dressed without head and tail) c.i.f.c. \$550 a ton; big-eyed (dressed) c.i.f.c. \$365 a ton.

Foresee Steady Prices

The Japanese foresee no price increase for tuna transshipments to the U. S. because U. S. packers are not buying tuna from Japan at this time. This is because of the unclear outlook for 1968's local U. S. yellowfin and skipjack fisheries. Also, the U. S. packers have increased substantially tuna imports from South Korea and Formosa.

On the Italian market, indications are that prices may rise somewhat since canned tuna inventories at the packers' level are reported low, and the Italian packers again are showing buying interest in Japanese tuna. ("Katsuo-maguro Tsushin," Jan. 16, 1968.)

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apan (Contd.):

TUNA IMPORTS INCREASE SHARPLY

Japanese fresh and frozen tuna imports in 1967 were up 50 percent from 1966, according to the Japanese Customs Bureau. Tuna imports have risen sharply in the past two years: from around 2,500 tons in 1965 to 10,796 tons in 1966, and to 16,184 tons in 1967.

The growing tuna demand, coupled with leveling off of Japanese production, is expected to boost imports in the years ahead.

Buys From Several Sources

In 1965, tuna were purchased mostly from Okinawan and South Korean vessels landing catches in Japanese ports. But, starting in 1967, purchases from South Korean and Taiwanese vessels operating in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans began to increase. Imports from those countries consist largely of bluefin and big-eyed--because the South Koreans and Taiwanese sell their albacore and yellowfin tuna catches primarily to the U. S. and Italy. ("Suisan Tsushin," Feb. 10, 1968.)

SHRIMP IMPORTS ROSE IN 1967

In 1967, Japanese frozen shrimp imports totaled 44,466 metric tons worth 28.7 billion yen (US\$79.7 million) on a customs-clearance basis. This is an increase of 23 percent in volume and 33 percent in value over 1966 imports of 36,156 tons worth 21.6 billion yen (\$60.1 million).

Shrimp Imports, 1964-67

Principal Country of Origin	Value 1967 US\$1,000	Quantity Imported			
		1967	1966	1965	1964
	 (Metric Tons)			
Soviet Union. . . .	10,314	9,836	6,518	1,632	54
Mexico.	19,440	7,995	4,889	5,210	4,663
Thailand.	7,412	5,090	3,691	1,976	1,485
Communist China .	10,334	5,004	11,769	5,875	5,484
Hong Kong.	3,213	3,002	3,170	2,579	1,679
India.	2,777	2,147	993	850	642
South Korea. . . .	4,614	1,401	847	1,003	1,030
Australia.	2,592	966	685	563	694
United States . . .	1,916	754	230	17	192
Others	17,131	8,271	3,364	1,306	1,164
Total	79,743	44,466	36,156	21,011	17,087

The number of countries exporting shrimp to Japan also jumped from 28 nations in 1966

to 56 in 1967. The Soviet Union's 9,836 tons made her the leading shrimp exporter to Japan in 1967. ("Suisan Tsushin," Feb. 9, 1968.)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS TIGHTENED IN JAPAN SEA

The Japanese Government has advised all her fishing vessels in the Japan Sea to observe strictly the safe navigation rules in the Maritime Accident Prevention Law. The Government acted to ensure the safe operation of Japanese fishing vessels because tension has heightened there since North Korea's seizure of the U. S. naval vessel "Pueblo."

One crab fishing vessel reported gear loss caused by passage of a huge foreign naval ship. Some fishermen claim their vessels were surrounded by foreign patrol boats.

Government Cautions Fishermen

Japanese fishing vessels in the Japan Sea (over 6,350 of them) have been cautioned to display the national flag clearly, refrain from approaching foreign military vessels operating in the area, and to stay away from South Korea's exclusive fishing zone.

The Government also has requested the U. S., the USSR, and South Korea to consider the safety of Japanese vessels fishing in the Japan Sea. ("Minato Shimbun," Feb. 10, 1968.)

PLANS LARGER TRAWLERS

Led by Nippon Suisan Kaisha, whose 3,910-ton "Niitaka Maru" left Japan Jan. 31 for Arctic waters, other large firms are moving up to 4,000-ton-class trawlers. The trend stems from dwindling local fishery revenues and the need to seek new distant-water grounds.

Besides the "Niitaka Maru," Nippon Suisan has completed another vessel of 3,950 tons, the "Fuji Maru." It plans 2 more trawlers of the 4,000-ton class this year.

Other Companies' Plans

Other companies with similar plans include Taiyo Fishing Co., Hoko Fishing Co.,

Japan (Contd.):

and Kyokuyo Hogeï. Cost of these 4,000-ton-class trawlers is about US\$2.8 million each.

Even European fishing companies that made early advances into pelagic fishing still lack 4,000-ton trawlers.

All the latest large Japanese trawlers are equipped with cold storage and filleting and meal-processing facilities. ("Japan Economic Journal," Feb. 6, 1968.)

TALKS ON AUSTRALIAN 12-MILE FISHERY ZONE END

The Japanese-Australian talks in Canberra concerning continuation of Japanese fishing inside Australia's 12-mile exclusive fishery zone ended on Feb. 9 without agreement. The talks, which began Jan. 30, are expected to resume in late April or early May 1968.

Interim Agreement

An interim agreement was reached permitting Japan to continue fishing in the contiguous zone, except in one specified area.

At present, about 200 Japanese long-liners are fishing off the coasts of Australia. In 1967, they took 4,500 metric tons of tuna, mostly bluefin and yellowfin. The Japanese are also fishing shrimp in the Gulf of Carpentaria. ("Suisan Tsushin," Feb. 12, 1968.)



South Korea

PLANS FOOD PROCESSING EXPANSION

A South Korean fishery and agricultural exhibit will be held at Seoul in June 1968, sponsored by the Government-backed Agriculture and Fishery Development Corporation (AFDC). The exhibit will encourage domestic investment in agriculture and fisheries. It will feature commercial gardening, food processing, and marketing technology. AFDC's goal is to create large food-processing complexes to expand domestic consumption and to export fishery and agricultural products.

Adviser Sought

The Government also seeks a food-processing adviser for AFDC. His major responsibility will be to establish basic policies for future operations by selecting products to produce and ways of marketing them. AFDC expects to obtain the adviser from the U. S. food industry for an initial 6-month period. (U. S. Embassy, Seoul, Dec. 29, 1967, and Jan. 24, 1968.)

TUNA FLEETS TO FISH IN INDIAN OCEAN

Two South Korean tuna fleets departed for the Indian Ocean early in January 1968. Ten vessels will stop at Shimonoseki, Japan, to refuel and pick up supplies, gear, and bait. The first fleet, which consists of 4 boats each 348 gross tons, belongs to Ko Ryo Distant-water Fishing Co. of Seoul. The second fleet consists of 6 vessels, each 91 tons, and is owned by A Jin Fishing Co. of Pusan.

Japan Permits Entry

Entry of foreign fishing vessels into Japanese ports is restricted, but these S. Korean fleets were permitted entry because they did not intend to fish off Japan.

The first fleet will operate out of Durban, South Africa, and second will be based at Penang, Malaysia. They were scheduled to begin fishing in mid-February 1968. ("Nihon Suisan Shimbun," Jan. 15, 1968.)



Taiwan

EXPANSION OF FISHERIES PLANNED

Taiwan has programmed a 5-year fishery development plan to increase the catch from 497,000 metric tons in 1967 to 800,000 tons by 1972. A budget of NT\$5.9 billion (US\$146.2 million) will cover construction of tuna and other fishing vessels to more than double the existing tonnage of 142,000 gross tons.

An additional NT\$5 million (US\$125,000) will be loaned by the Joint U. S.-Taiwan Commission on Rural Reconstruction to marine processing plants. The loan will help plants improve the quality of marine products and so increase exports.

Taiwan (Contd.):

Technical Assistance

Also, the Joint Commission will provide technical assistance to the Provincial Marine Research Institute's 2-year study of fish culture and fish-processing techniques. The study is supported by a 1966 grant of \$150,000 from the Rockefeller Foundation. ("Taiwan Industrial Panorama.")



Malaysia

SHRIMP INDUSTRY EXPANDS IN NORTH BORNEO

Shrimp fishing for export is a fast-growing industry in the Brunei and Sabah regions of Malaysia. Two hundred trawlers operate year-round from the port of Sandakan to supply 2 freezing plants. Two more plants are planned.

Sabah Fishing and Industrial Co., Ltd. (SFIC) pioneered the export of frozen shrimp from Sandakan and currently purchases the catch of 75 trawlers. U.S. Federal standards are used as a guide during all phases of processing because most shrimp exports go to the U. S. Japan shares the largest remaining portion of the shrimp exports; markets in Scandinavia and South America also have been established.

Concern About Overfishing

Officials of SFIC, fearing shrimp stocks may become overfished, have suggested closed seasons. The Malaysia Government will carry out a survey early in 1968 to assess the condition of commercially important marine species, including shrimp. ("Daily Star," Dec. 12, 1967; "Borneo Bulletin," Dec. 16, 1967.)



SOUTH PACIFIC

Tahiti

REPORT ON SKIPJACK FISHERY

Ninety diesel-powered vessels (30 to 38 feet long and 70 to 160 hp.) are now fishing skipjack tuna with pole and line, without bait, from the port of Papeete in Tahiti. Each boat carries 2 or 3 men. Also, the same type of 3-man vessel is now operating in the long-line fishery. The fish are brought to market in Papeete and sold as fresh fish. One wooden Hawaiian sampan-type boat is now being constructed at the Papeete shipyard and is expected to be ready in March 1968.

Annual Catches

The annual catch of skipjack was about 730 metric tons in 1966 and 530 metric tons in 1967. These landings represent 43 percent and 29 percent of the total catch of fish (1,700 metric tons in 1966 and 1,850 metric tons in 1967). The total catch consisted of yellowfin tuna, big-eyed tuna, albacore, akule, reef fish, and skipjack tuna. There are some seasonal fluctuations in landings of skipjack tuna and other species.

Catch Below Demand

The present catch seems to be far below the demand. The population has grown rapidly from about 50,000 in 1962 through immigration from the French mainland, Algeria, and other French territories.

Fishing gear and techniques used are similar to those of the Hawaiian pole-and-line skipjack fishery. An exception in the use of artificial lures made of local "mother" or "half-pearl" shells. As soon as boated, tuna are killed by hitting the head with a wooden bar. Then they are eviscerated.



AFRICA

South Africa

DEVALUATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO HARM FISH MARKET

Great Britain's devaluation of the pound sterling should have virtually no effect on sales of South African canned fish, fish meal, or fish oil to that market, said the chairman of Federal Marine Ltd. The latter is the marketing company for the South African Inshore Fishing Industry. Because of its reasonable price and high protein value, canned pilchards as food could not be replaced on the British market. Therefore, its sales would not be affected by devaluation.

The fish meal and fish oil market depended entirely on Peru and would not be affected by devaluation.

Britain is one of the main buyers of canned fish and fish meal produced in South and South-West Africa. She takes the entire fish oil production. ("The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review," Dec. 1967.)

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SOUTH AFRICAN HAKE SHOULD BE FROZEN AT SEA, U. K. REPORT SAYS

The latest annual report of Great Britain's Torry Research Station, covering work in 1966, includes the results of studies on the most suitable ways of processing Cape hake for the British market.

The report states: "The notorious softness of hake, as it is currently processed, often leads to unacceptable amounts of break-up, and so means of improving the appearance of such broken fillets with polyphosphate and brine dips were also looked into. These experiments appeared to be fairly successful although their products aroused a certain amount of controversy."

Rapid Chilling, Adequate Bleeding

Torry affirmed the importance of rapid chilling and adequate bleeding of the catch before freezing at sea, either as fillets or whole fish. The eating quality of hake frozen at sea has been shown superior in most cases to the more usual product frozen on shore after chilling at sea. Torry believes "an improvement can be made on the quality of hake currently being imported from the southeast Atlantic."

U. K. Market Less Favorable

Under pressure of price-slashed exports from other producers, South African frozen fillets have not been doing as well in the United Kingdom as in 1966.

Imports for the first 9 months of 1967 show an increase of nearly 70,000 cwt. in fillets from all areas--from 509,470 cwt. to 578,336 cwt. But the total paid dropped from about US\$17.2 million to \$17.1 million. From 55,007 cwt. in the 9-month period in 1966, South Africa's share fell to 51,416 cwt; this earned \$1.1 million, compared with \$1.2 million.

Whole frozen hake, however, continues upward in Britain. Sales in 9 months of 58,064 cwt., worth \$954,000, exceeded the 1966 total. They were far above the 39,356 cwt. and \$708,000 of the first 9 months of 1966. ("The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review," Dec. 1967.)

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WILL SUBSIDIZE BUILDING FISHING VESSELS OVER 500 TONS

The South African Minister of Economic Affairs announced, at a new shipyard's opening in Durban in November 1967, that fishing vessels of 500 gross tons and over would qualify for the Government's shipbuilding subsidy. The minister stated that this assistance was very substantial; in fact, it exceeded that given to any comparable secondary industry. As shipbuilding continued to develop, both in Durban and Cape Town, he foresaw that the Government's financial burden would become considerable.

Government Aid Will Lessen

The assistance had been designed to put shipbuilding on its feet as rapidly as possible. The Government was determined to reduce its help as soon as possible. For this reason, the minister said, industry progress would be carefully watched. The Government intended to develop Rietvlei in Table Bay as a modern fish harbor--and provide for the development of a large shipbuilding industry.

Government Aid Welcomed

The chairman of the shipyard corporation said of the aid: "It is welcomed by us, and I

Africa (Contd.):

am sure, by the fishing fraternity. . . . It will, without doubt, assist them greatly in their fight to compete with the big overseas trawlers which are invading our traditional fishing waters in ever increasing numbers." ("The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review," Dec. 1967.)



Spanish Sahara

JAPANESE TRAWLER SEIZED
OFF SPANISH SAHARA

The Japanese trawler "Inase Maru No. 1" (300 gross tons) was seized off the coast of Spanish Sahara by the Spanish Navy on Dec. 27, 1967. The captain was charged with violating Spain's 12-mile exclusive fishery zone. This is Spain's first seizure of a Japanese vessel involving violation of the 12-mile zone.

The Japanese report that the trawler was seized 12.3 nautical miles off the territorial coast. The vessel was escorted to Las Palmas, where her catch of about 7 tons of "Monko" squid and other fish were confiscated. Also, she will be fined anywhere between US\$850 and \$8,500. ("Suisancho Nippo," Jan. 6, 1968.)



Cameroon

NEW U. S.-CAMEROON
SHRIMP FISHING VENTURE

In late 1967, the Government of Cameroon granted significant concessions on taxes and import duties to a new shrimping company--Crevettes du Cameroun. Now the firm has only to find a suitable site on the Douala waterfront to begin operations.

The firm is a joint venture of the subsidiary of a U. S. seafood company and the Cameroonian fishing firm SOPECOBA. It is being established with initial capital of US\$700,000: the U. S. firm 50 percent, Cameroon 15 percent, and the remainder from SOPECOBA and its shareholders.

SOPECOBA Pioneered

SOPECOBA was established at Douala in November 1952 with \$152,000. It pioneered industrial fishing and now operates 4 trawlers. Its annual production of fresh fish is 4,500 metric tons. As of June 30, 1966, its investment had grown to \$563,000.

Crevettes' Operations

Crevettes du Cameroun will catch, process, and freeze shrimp for export, almost all to the U. S. Eight specially equipped steel trawlers will fish for the 2 varieties of shrimp most common to the Gulf of Guinea: the Penaeus duorarum and the Penaeus aztecus (brown shrimp).

Seven of the trawlers are 70 feet long and will be able to remain at sea up to 20 days. The eighth will be larger and capable of more extensive operations.

Shore installations will comprise harbor facilities for the trawler fleet and a modern plant to sort, clean, freeze, and pack up to 4 metric tons of shrimp per day, in 5-lb. cartons. The plant also will be capable of producing 40 metric tons of ice per day.

The Operating Plan

To operate profitably, the firm sees a minimum annual production of 680 metric tons, or 300,000 5-lb. cartons. This will require landing 750 metric tons (8.5 tons per boat per month for 11 months of the year). The company will employ 88 persons (41 on vessels, 47 on shore). At the outset, the trawler captains will be Latin Americans with long experience in shrimp fishing. However, they also will train Cameroonian fishermen. The vessels will have Cameroonian registry.

Operations are scheduled to begin in August. The new enterprise unquestionably represents an investment favorable to that country's economic development. Beside the influx of foreign capital and the employment and training provided, its 8 vessels will increase by 50 percent the size of the commercial fishing fleet (15 vessels now).

The shrimp exports will earn about US\$1 million a year in foreign exchange, and an estimated \$32,000 in revenues from export taxes. (U. S. Embassy, Yaounde, Feb. 6, 1968.)

