INTERNATIONAL

EUROPEAN COMMON FISHERIES POLICY ADVANCES

The Common Market's (European Communities') Agricultural Ministers agreed in principle on June 29 to introduce a common fisheries policy before Nov. 1, 1970. The six member countries originally agreed on an April 30 deadline, but disagreement between France and others postponed it.

French Pressure on EC

France had maintained that fishery policy should be completed before negotiations starting June 30 for entry of countries into Common Market. The other member countries advocated postponement until Denmark and Norway, at least, could join negotiations. However, under French pressure, the Agricultural Ministers adopted on June 29 the framework of a common fisheries policy. Denmark and Norway expressed disappointment that they were not consulted.

Limiting Fishing Proposed

To expedite adoption of policy before entry negotiations, the EC Commission proposed limiting fishing within 3-mile territorial limit for not over 5 years. During this period, the Commission would investigate problems and propose to the Ministerial Council supports designed to assure income of coastal population dependent on this fishery. (U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, July 9.)

ICNAF HOLDS 1970 MEETING

Delegates from 14 member countries attended the 20th annual meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission (ICNAF), St. John's, Newfoundland, June 1-6, 1970. Observers from FAO, ICES, and Japan were present.

The Commission approved proposals for: (1) international inspection, (2) regulation of yellowtail flounder fishery in Subarea 5, (3) modification of mesh-size regulations in Subareas 2 and 3, (4) regulation of seal harvest off Canada, and (5) additional regulation of salmon fishery throughout Convention area. Regulatory proposals become effective within about 6 months if there are no objections.

International Inspection

International inspection procedures would enter into force July 1, 1971. Inspection officers of an ICNAF country would be allowed to board vessels of another member. Observance of applicable ICNAF recommendations could be verified. Infringements would be reported to country of vessel concerned for further handling.

Yellowtail Flounder Fishery

For yellowtail flounder, the proposals would apply quota and trawl regulations in Subarea 5. Quota would limit catches during 1971 to: (a) 16,000 metric tons from grounds east of 69° W. long. (b) 13,000 metric tons from fishing grounds west of 69° W. long. After any closure required by quota, vessels affected would be allowed incidental catches of yellowtail flounder not over 5,000 pounds, or 10% of their total catch in area. This is the same now provided for haddock and cod.

The trawl regulation proposed would extend trawl regulations in Subarea 5 to yellowtail flounder. Mesh sizes at least $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches (synthetic fiber) would be required.

The Commission also asked ICNAF scientists to assess further yellowtail flounder resource during coming year so Commission can consider regulatory adjustments in 1971.

Modification of Mesh Size

The Commission recommended that mesh size required for regulated species in Subareas 2 and 3 be increased from $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches to $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches (synthetic fiber). Proposed date of entry into force for requirements is July 1, 1971. Present exemption for redfish (ocean perch) fishing in Divisions 3N, 3O, and 3P of Subarea 3 will be continued under proposed new requirements.

Harp Seal Harvest Limit

The Commission proposed a harvest limit of 245,000 harp seals from ice pack off Canada in 1971. This is first time Commission has approved quota for seal harvest.

The Commission also proposed that 1971 open season for harp and hooded seals begin not earlier than March 12, and close not later than April 24.

Salmon Fishery

Several ICNAF countries did not accept 1969 proposal for ban on high-seas fishing for salmon outside national fishery limits. As interim measure, Commission has proposed that countries fishing for Atlantic salmon freeze size of their fleets and level of catch at 1969 level. This freeze would apply during 1971 and be reviewed further in 1971.

1971 Annual Meeting

The 21st annual meeting of the Commission will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, May 25-June 5, 1971.

USSR & JAPAN TO DISCUSS 'SAFE-FISHING OPERATIONS' IN NORTH PACIFIC

On July 14, the Japanese Ambassador to Moscow presented a plan for operation, free from Soviet seizure, of Japanese fishing vessels around Soviet-held islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup off Hokkaido.

Plan highlights are:

(1) Japanese fishermen shall operate without Soviet interference inside 12 miles around the 4 islands, but not within 3 miles of coastline; (2) Japan is willing to comply "as much as possible with countermeasures that may be devised by the Soviet Union regarding the operation free from seizure of Japanese fishing vessels"; and (3) the Japanese vessels in the "safety zones" will be mainly those that operated there before.

Negotiations between USSR and Japan are scheduled for Moscow in September 1970.

Many Seizures Since 1946

The Soviet Union has been holding the 4 islands since World War II. She has promised to return Habomai and Shikotan when a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty is negotiated. However, she appears adamant about retaining Kunashir and Iturup, but Japan is not abandoning her claim.

The Soviet Union claims a 12-mile territorial limit, and has seized all Japanese fishing vessels and crews in those waters. Between 1946 and 1969, the Soviets apprehended over 1,300 Japanese fishing vessels and nearly 12,000 Japanese fishermen. Over 20 Japanese vessels were sunk and 32 fishermen drowned in those seizures. Three vessels and 8 fishermen are still being held.

Soviets Seek Japanese Aid

According to Japanese sources, the Soviets are eager to get Japanese financial and technical assistance to expand their Far-Eastern facilities for processing, preserving, and distributing fishery products. The Japanese expect the Soviets to ask for this assistance as a price for granting fishing rights off the 4 islands. ('Kyodo,' July 15; 'Japan Times,' July 15 & 16; 'Yomimuri,' July 14.)

FISH CULTIVATION MAY INCREASE 5 TIMES BY 1985

World fish cultivation has grown to roughly 4,000,000 metric tons of fish and shellfish. It could expand to 20,000,000 tons by 1985, according to FAO estimates.

If achieved, it would help to provide better diets and protein-rich foods in developing areas, especially where malnutrition is aggravated by a steadily increasing population. "Aquaculture, often in combination with agriculture, is a promising means of exploiting fish as a source of highly nutritious, inexpensive proteins," FAO says.

Based Partly On Questionnaire

The estimates are contained in the current FAO Fish Culture Bulletin. They are based on questionnaires sent to governments and on available data.

The authors of the article emphasize that the research is tentative and suitable statistics are lacking, especially for shellfish culture.

"We do not claim a high degree of accuracy for the above figures. . .but believe that they indicate at least roughly the magnitude of the industry." The figures are an estimate of average national production in recent years.

In Indonesia, breeding fish involves 200,000 Javanese. Fish and rice are staple diet. FAO encourages raising fish in ponds. (Photo: UNations)

The study estimates finfish cultivation in 36 countries, producing 100 tons or more, at 3,000,000 metric tons. The remaining one million is a composite of shellfish production for all countries.

Asia No. 1

Mainland China is first among the 36 nations with 1,190,000 metric tons. Japan is second with 487,000 tons, followed by India with 480,000 tons, and the USSR with 190,000 tons. Of the 3 million tons, more than 2,600,000 came from 9 countries of Asia and the Far East.

The FAO Bulletin states: "This shows the unequal distribution of the industry in the world. In the continents of Africa and South America, aquaculture is in its very early infancy and probably those regions have the maximum area available for cultivation of fresh and brackish-water species. Even in Asia and the Far East, which produce the major proportion of cultivated fish, there appears to be considerable scope for expansion. For example, in the Philippines, Indonesia and India, which already have a total of about a million hectares under culture, there is still an estimated area of about 8.2 million hectares that can be reclaimed for fish culture."

COMMUNIST CHINA & JAPAN CONCLUDE 'PRIVATE' FISHERY AGREEMENT

On June 20, in Peking, Japan and Communist China extended for 2 years their nongovernmental agreement on the fisheries in East China and Yellow Seas. The new agreement was signed only 2 days before the old one expired. It was the first time since Dec. 1965 that the 2 countries have conducted full negotiations.

Political Aspects

The joint communique included: condemnation of Sato government's policies toward U.S. and Asia, renewal of U.S.-Japan security treaty, U.S. intervention in Cambodia, and "revival of Japanese militarism and expansionism." The Chinese press claimed "sabotage activities" by a handful of reactionaries in Japanese fishing circles and violation of earlier agreements had hampered negotiations.

Japanese Eager for Agreement

The Japanese catch in the agreement area is about 700,000 metric tons. So the Japanese negotiators accepted all political demands. The new agreement will run longer than previous ones. It includes new clauses on fishing practices and conservation.

Regulations

Supplementary regulations include: clear designation of vessel names, better "surveillance procedures for violators," stricter punishment of offenders, seasonal ban on "Taisho" shrimp fishing, restrictions on trawl fishing, and a ban on "tackle-net" fishing. "Tackle-net" gear is believed to be stick-held dip net (Boke ami).

Ban on Tackle-Net

The tackle-net ban is most controversial item of the new agreement because the Japanese use it to catch about 400,000 metric tons of mackerel and horse mackerel. The Chinese do not use tackle-nets. Their demands for ban are attributed to "showy fishing methods of big (Japanese) fishing fleets" whose "fish-attracting lights irritate the Chinese."

The Japanese also agreed to pay US$55,60 as "reparations for 20 cases of injury."

Japanese News Media Favorable

Reaction of the Japanese news media has been generally favorable. They have played down political aspects in favor of what is felt to be real progress in management of East China Sea and Yellow Sea fisheries. Though "private" negotiations may frequently be cumbersome and useless, the Japanese Government supports them. They will continue until Japan and China restore diplomatic relations.

CANADA

NEWFOUNDLAND PLANS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The development of new catching methods and intensified search for unexploited stocks are among major items of the about C$1 million 1970 federal-provincial program for Newfoundland fisheries.

The program calls for introduction and demonstration of new and improved fishing gear and fish-processing equipment; exploration for more pelagic fish (herring, sand launce, and capelin), shellfish, and Irish moss; and technical demonstrations to fishermen.

New & Traditional Methods

Newfoundland fishermen will be made familiar with new and traditional methods. A large side trawler will test feasibility of using seine-netting gear on this type of vessel, particularly for flounder on Grand Banks.

Bottom Trawls on Stern Trawlers

Bottom trawls (Atlantic western trawls) will be built in Newfoundland and their ability on stern trawlers demonstrated. These trawls have been successful on side and stern trawlers in other areas. They have very high vertical openings permitting catch of more high-swimming bottom fish than conventional bottom trawls. They are more effective on rough ground, and repair costs are much less.

Exploration & New Traps

Two large vessels will explore for herring, sand launce, and capelin off Newfoundland. New types of capelin and herring traps will be demonstrated to fishermen in Ferryland area and Placentia Bay, where crabs will be explored. Experiments with cod traps of synthetic materials and Japanese-designed, low-cost, fish-catching and handling devices will continue. (Fisheries Council of Canada, June 1970.)

* * *

SALTFISH CORPORATION CREATED

On April 1, Canada set up the Canadian Saltfish Corporation as the sole marketing organization for saltfish. Headquarters is St. John's, Newfoundland.

During its first year, the corporation will follow most policies already set by commercial markets. At the same time, however, it expects to plan the development of new markets and products for the consumer in 1971.

Explores New Ideas

The corporation is exploring new marketing ideas--boneless or semiboneless fish, consumer-ready portions, etc. It hopes to develop these in consultation with fishermen and marketing outlets outside Canada, particularly New York and Puerto Rico. (U.S. Consul, St. John's, Newfoundland, June 16.)

* * *

SALMON FLEET VALUE INCREASES

The number of vessels in British Columbia's commercial salmon fleet is decreasing, but replacements are adding to overall investment in fishing capacity. Jack Davis, Canada's Fisheries and Forestry Minister, froze the fleet in Sept. 1968.

This year, 6,581 vessels are registered--compared with 6,925 last year--a drop of 5%, but value has increased 3.3%, or C$3 million.

Davis Disappointed

Davis was disappointed in results and hinted further restrictions to limit continued value increase. He said: "With a good season in 1970 there is the danger that boat construction will pick up and tonnage rise. We must prevent this from happening and I therefore plan to make a further announcement soon about salmon vessel replacement."

Regulations

It is now mandatory to remove a "category A" boat from the fleet before bringing in another. Exceptions are boats under construction in 1968 and those lost at sea.

Value of Fleet

Value of the fleet in 1970 is $98 million, up $3 million from 1969. This includes $2½ million resulting from replacement of 112 "category A" boats by higher-value vessels; 8 vessels for $265,000 were brought into fleet along with 5 vessels for $165,000 built under Indian Fishermen's Assistance program this year.

CANADA (Contd.):

Company Boats Down By 60

Company-owned salmon vessels decreased by 60 this year. The minister wants these maintained at last year's ratio of 12% of total fleet. In 1969, company boats totaled 793 worth $12.5 million. In 1970, total dropped to 733 worth $13 million. Difference reflects higher value of replacement vessels. (Department of Fisheries, June 19.)

* * *

REPLACEMENT RULE ON SALMON VESSELS IS IN EFFECT

A ton-for-ton replacement rule to bring new category "A" boats into commercial salmon fleet has gone into effect. A fisherman who plans to bring a new boat into the fleet must have one with matching tonnage to take out--or a collection of smaller boats to equal that tonnage. However, if a large vessel is retired, only one new vessel can be licensed to replace it. Boats under construction at the time of announcement are excluded.

100% Increase in License Fees

Next year, there will be a 100% increase in salmon-fishing license fees for all "A" category vessels, except smallest class (29 feet and under), which remains $100. Boats over 30 feet, but less than 15 tons, go from $100 to $200; those over 15 tons from $200 to $400.

Owners of category "A" vessels can drop back to "B" category and pay the $10 license fee; this license has a 10-year terminal date.

License fees were raised this year to set up a "buy-back" fund to allow government to buy salmon vessels offered on the market. It stands at C$0.5 million today; next year's fees will add $1 million.

Present Regulations

Present regulations, set Sept. 1968 when the salmon fleet was frozen, allowed a boat-for-boat replacement. Since 1968, there has been a reduction of 788 vessels in the fleet, but only a slight reduction in tonnage. This was caused by larger higher-powered vessels replacing smaller category "A" boats and boats under construction when freeze was announced.

The initial freeze increased value of category "A" boats. Company ownership of salmon boats was curtailed by setting a ratio of 1:8 to total fleet. Fleet reduction will speed up, and fishermen should see improved economic returns for their work and investment. (Dept. of Fisheries, June 26.)

* * *

HERRING STOCKS OFF BRITISH COLUMBIA RECOVER RAPIDLY

Although herring stocks off Canada's west coast, at a low ebb since disastrous season in 1968, are rapidly recovering, there will be no commercial reduction fishery this year.

The herring spawn deposit was 270 miles, more than twice the mileage in 1969 and greater than 25-year average of 204 miles.

Herring Move Inshore

In the fall, herring move inshore and, during the spring, spawn along shoreline. It requires 250,000 tons of herring to produce spawn deposit found this year. Eggs are found on vegetation and 500 eggs may be attached to an inch of eel grass.

Small Surplus

Dept. of Fisheries regional director said there will be a small surplus this winter above spawning requirements, but not sufficient to bring an economic return to fishermen. The advisory group said a greater effort should be made to encourage development of a herring food industry.

In 1963, the peak herring season, more than 250,000 tons were harvested. Production decreased to 133,000 tons in 1967, and to 18,000 tons in 1968. (Dept. of Fisheries of Canada, June 23.)

EUROPE

EUROPEANS LOOK TO U.S. FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS

Despite fairly good supplies of locally caught fishery products, European markets increasingly are finding insufficient supplies of certain species to meet demand. But it is rising consumer demand that causes rising price trend in this already high fish-consuming area. With the inability of European fleets to supply adequate quantities, buyers are looking for other sources.

U.S. Shrimp Sales Double

Since 1964, U.S. shrimp sales to Europe have doubled each year. In 1969, frozen shrimp, mainly from Maine and valued over US$5 million, were sold largely to Sweden. Shrimp from Alaska now is entering the markets. Markets in Norway and Denmark also are taking more. In Norway, shrimp fishermen have been concerned somewhat by the low prices, which undercut their sales; they are now seeking ways to improve marketing.

Eels Popular

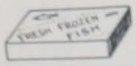
Eels are another U.S. product gaining sales in Europe. For some years they have been selling in the Netherlands but, recently, active buying interest was found in West Germany and Denmark. U.S. producers have found market possibilities excellent.

New Demand for Crayfish

Each year, during early August, Scandinavian festivals require tons of freshwater crayfish. In the past, these have been obtained from Turkey, other southern European countries, and locally. These supplies are no longer adequate. This year, for the first time, crayfish from the U.S. Pacific Northwest are being shipped to Scandinavia.

Herring Wanted

Herring packing plants in West Germany use large quantities of fresh and frozen herring in their preserved snacks. Herring supplies are short in Europe, so they seek them from fisheries off the U.S. and Canada. A new filleting plant opened recently in Massachusetts to pack shipments for German and Scandinavian markets. (U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Aug. 13.)



WEST GERMANY

FACTORY TRAWLER LANDS
780 TONS OF FILLETS

The new West German factory trawler 'Sonne' set a record for Bremerhaven with a landing of 780 metric tons of cod, redfish, and saithe fillets--and 308 tons of fish meal produced from a catch of more than 2,000 tons. The Sonne record was made on an 83-day trip that spanned northern waters of North Atlantic.

Completed in March 1969, the vessel is 284 ft. long, has 3 machine processing lines, and can fillet and freeze 40 tons of fish a day.

Switch-Fishing Vessel

Like some other large German stern trawlers, she is a switch-fishing vessel. She can change in about 30 minutes from bottom to midwater gear. She has a complex array of acoustic fish-finding devices.

From her maiden trip, the Sonne brought back 625 tons of fillets from a catch of 1,600 to 1,800 tons. The second trip produced 725 tons of fillets. On the third trip, she went after herring in northwest Atlantic. She returned in Dec. 1969 with the fillets from a 2,000-ton catch. Her fourth trip produced about 600 tons of fillets.

Exceeded Fish-Room Capacity

On Mar. 4, 1970, the Sonne left St. Pierre and trawled off Labrador, West Greenland, and in Barents Sea. Towards end of May, her fillet production began to exceed the 750-ton capacity of her fish rooms; the surplus had to be put into provision rooms.

The price paid for her record landing was not revealed, but she earned over US$360,000 from her latest voyage. ('Fishing News', June 2.)

IRELAND

1969 WAS BEST YEAR

In 1969, according to Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Irish fishing industry enjoyed its best year ever. Catch value of sea fish (excluding salmon) was US$7.2 million, a 24% increase over 1968.

Exports are rising steadily due to increase in landings and new marketing patterns that are improving prices and providing exporters with new opportunities.

Between 1968 and 1969, exports rose from 25,094 to 52,576 metric tons and value from $6.4 to $8.5 million. Varieties accounting for increase were herring, lobster, shrimp, scallops, and oysters.

Research & Development

Research and development are opening possibilities. Development work on mussels resulted in 10% increase in production and 25% rise in value of landings. Oyster production jumped 72% and value 122%. Crab landings of 600 tons, worth $96,000, were processed at new plants along coast. Including value added by processing, this crab meat netted about $240,000 in exports.

Due to uncertain landings and sizes, industry has not shown enough interest to fulfill potential.

Encouragement by Government

One main objective of Sea Fisheries Board in trying to resolve this situation was to stimulate onshore activities.

A first step was to improve size and quality of fishing fleet. It has been doing this by providing grants for boat building, equipment, and gear. Investment in vessels grew from under $1.2 million in 1968 to $2.4 million in 1969. The latest projection sees an annual investment rate of $3.8 million by 1972.

To complement investment in vessels, the Board tried to persuade individuals and companies to invest in industry. It was only achieved by introducing a high-powered marketing style tailored to individual needs. Since mid-1967, this approach has met with some success--new investments total $3.2 million and new companies 17. Eleven companies are completely Irish, 5 have foreign participation and one, a fish-meal factory, is owned by a Scottish firm.

Another 30 projects are said to be under construction. (U.S. Emb., Dublin, June 17.)

ICELAND

HERRING CATCH FELL 60% IN 1969

Iceland's 1969 herring catch was 56,893 metric tons, a decline of 60% from the 142,82 tons in 1968. Only 87 vessels fished; in 1968 119.

The 1969 catch:

Where Caught:	Metric Tons
Southwest of Iceland	22,111
North Sea	21,926
Off U.S. East Coast	12,785
Arctic Waters	71
	56,893

Use of Herring Catch

	1969	1968
	Metric Tons	
For Freezing	4,177	7,776
Salting	19,379	28,834
Canning	1,266	1,451
Reduction	3,808	55,712
Landed on Ice	28,078	49,204
Other	185	157
	56,893	142,820

Mostly between June and October, 6 vessels fished herring off U.S. east coast. The 12,785 tons caught were transferred to freighters outside 3-mile limit for transfer to shore reduction plants. Catch value was US$197,000. (U.S. Emb., Reykjavik, July 7.

DENMARK

COLDER CLIMATE WILL AFFECT FISH STOCKS

Greenlandic industrial life may be seriously affected by a rapidly changing climate. In all probability, weather will get colder during next 10-20 years; a new mild period is not expected until next century. This prediction by H. C. Ørsted's Institute, Copenhagen, is based on studies of core drillings east of Thule.

Further Investigations Planned

If further investigations confirm this, Denmark's investment policy in Greenland would have to be altered, an official said. Of primary concern is the possibility that cod stocks would move south, and Greenlanders would have to find new catch areas to maintain their plants.

U.S. to Aid

Recently, the National Science Foundation, Washington, announced US$1.2 million would be available for research in ice-cap borings to determine previous climatic trends. New investigations must be carried out with aid from U.S. because Denmark does not possess necessary equipment for drilling inland ice.

Milder Climate Better for Fish

Milder climate, which prevailed from late 1800s up to 1930, caused a decline in seal and whale catch but provided better conditions for fish. By end of 1930s, however, signs of a decline in temperature appeared before man had an opportunity to use fully the new fishery wealth. In the 1950s, there was evidence of a significant rise in sea temperatures, but not to level of the 1930s. Recent poor cod year-classes are believed result of new temperature declines. (U. S. Emb., Copenhagen, June 30.)

NORWAY

SEEKS CONTRIBUTIONS TO 'NORWEGIAN SALMON SHOP'

The head of the Norwegian Directorate for Fish and Wildlife proposes that Norway start negotiations with other salmon-fishing nations for direct contributions to the operation of the "Norwegian Salmon Shop." He said Norway is carrying entire expense for cultivation of salmon-spawning grounds and inspection of fishing area--while other countries, especially Denmark, West Germany, and Sweden, catch Norwegian salmon.

He Proposes Contributions

The director proposes that these nations contribute to cultivation work in Norwegian rivers and inspection of fishing areas by contributing to fund that might be administered by his directorate. (U.S. Emb., Copenhagen, July 9.)

* * *

SARDINE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT TRENDS REPORTED

A few years ago, the winter herring kept canneries busy early in the year. Industry's raw fish need for kippers was only about 1% of season's catches. Things have changed. In 1969, total catch was not more than Norwegian industry could utilize; the situation is repeating itself in 1970. At auctions this year, fresh-fish buyers could outbid canning industry, which has been left with trifling quantities at prices 2 to 3 times higher than last year.

Despite this, the canneries have been able to maintain production fairly well, processing frozen raw material for sild sardines.

Exports Compare With 1969

Exports of sardines this year compare favorably with same period 1969. But exports

1969 Exports to Main Markets

	Jan.-Dec. 1967		Jan.-Dec. 1968		Jan.-Dec. 1969	
	Tons	US$1000	Tons	US$1000	Tons	US$1000
United States	11,506	10,109	12,355	11,066	12,331	11,636
Great Britain	4,931	3,763	4,340	3,459	3,568	3,047
Australia	1,891	1,416	2,006	1,602	1,918	1,571
South Africa	1,317	897	1,497	1,020	1,433	1,002
Canada	841	788	804	785	798	818
Sweden	2,034	1,427	2,124	1,461	2,638	1,711
Total	28,216	22,262	28,992	23,345	27,277	23,123

NORWAY (Contd.):

to biggest market, the U.S., were interrupted by U.S. longshoremen's strike in Gulf and East Coast ports during first months of 1969. ('Norwegian Canners Export Journal,' Mar.)

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PURSE SEINERS MAY SEEK CAPELIN OFF LABRADOR

Some of Norway's largest purse seiners probably will fish capelin off Labrador--following research leader Finn Devold's report to the Norwegian Fisheries Association of large resources. The association advocates a guarantee of about US$5,600 to explore that fishery.

Would Fish During Summer

If research cruise is successful, the purse seiners will go off Labrador during the summer. It would then be necessary for motherships to bring raw material to fish-meal factories, particularly in northern Norway.

The capelin resources off Labrador are not exploited today. (U.S. Emb., Copenhagen, July 16.)

* * *

GOVERNMENT AND UNION SIGN AGREEMENT

The Norwegian Fisheries Department and the Fishermen's Union signed a one-year agreement in June to support the fishing industry, particularly where coastal populations would have trouble finding other jobs.

The agreement provides for US$34 million, down US$2 million from 1969's agreement, but about US$1.8 million above June 1968 agreement. These amounts do not include money provided specifically to support stockfish trade. The support proposed must be approved by parliament.

5-Year Program Fails

The year ending May 31, 1969, ended the 5-year period in which the union and government pledged to make the fisheries independent of State price support (General Fisheries Agreement of 1965). Actually, state price support has gained substantially since 1964-65. The agreement was based on assumption that support would result in a reasonable improvement in fishermen's income through greater efficiency. Incomes would have been unreasonably low without state financial aid.

Cod Fishery Aid

The new agreement, when approved, will be valid from June 1, 1970, until May 31, 1971. The support will involve US$8.7 million for cod fishery (US$8.8 million in year ended May 31, 1970), and US$5.3 million for herring fishery (US$9.5 million). Also, US$2 million (US$0.7 million) will be available to Fisheries Department for special support to coastal fisheries, including stabilization efforts in case of unexpected market failures.

Subsidy Amounts

The estimated subsidy for cod will remain at 0.5 cent per lb.; mackerel and sprat for human consumption will get 0.6 cent/lb.; herring 0.7 cent/lb.; shrimp 0.5 cent/lb.; crab 0.7 cent/lb.

The arrangement for freight subsidies from distant waters has been expanded to include Faroe Islands, Shetland Islands, Orkney Islands, and Irish Sea. Norway has been criticized for keeping prices artificially low by these support devices. (U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, July 21.)

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INCREASES MACKEREL EXPORTS TO U.S. & SWEDEN

Fifty thousand 400-gram packages of frozen mackerel fillets were scheduled for shipment to U.S. during July, the director of Norway's Mackerel Association reported. The association has been trying to develop the U.S. market. It looks forward to larger orders. The director expects to visit the U.S. later this year to learn more about market prospects.

Swedish Interest

Sweden has imported large packs of round mackerel during 1970. She is interested in this product. Market prices in Sweden are good, and sales are expected to increase. Frionor covers the market.

ORWAY (Contd.):

etherlands

The Netherlands previously imported ackerel from Norway. She has been unable meet the price increase during 1970. Beause of 20% duty increase by European Comnities on June 15, imports from Norway ve practically stopped. The Netherlands w is importing French and Japanese mackel.

w Foreign Markets Important

Norway learned in 1969 the importance of veloping new markets abroad and increasg mackerel sales. The association believes essential for Norway to deliver her own oduct to live up to standards foreign counies expect of her products. ('Fiskaren,' une 25.)

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ACTORYSHIP TO OPERATE FF NORTH COAST

The factoryship 'Norglobal', recently built rom a bulk carrier, was slated to start fish neal and oil production in mid-July near Bear sland for summer capelin. The fishing oprations at Bear Island will allow experts to reak in the machinery before the vessel sails or the South Atlantic later this year.

ontinuous Production

The production machinery will handle a aximum of 300 metric tons of raw material 24 hours. Production will be continuous in -hour shifts manned by 25 men. The ship's rmal crew is 60-65 men. The raw material orage capacity corresponds to 40 hours of ll operation. The meal pellet storeroom n hold about 10,000 tons; the fish oil storeooms about 2,400 tons. The storerooms can filled in one month if sufficient supplies of w material are available.

Will Be Mothership

The factoryship has the most up-to-date oduction and transport equipment. The hip's discharge pumps have a capacity of 00 tons of fish an hour and fully automatic cales. The fish meal is pelleted in four pellet resses; each handles hourly a minimum cacity of 8 tons of pellets. The vessel will e mothership to a purse-seine fishing fleet f 12 to 15. The vessel's products will be anded by transport vessels, which also serve the expedition.

World's Largest

The Norglobal is the largest floating fishmeal factory in the world. It has a deadweight of 27,300 tons. Total investment is about US$7 million. Nordsildmel will market the products. (U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, July 23.)

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GROUP STUDIES AFRICAN MARKETS

A Norwegian fishery delegation recently visited 4 African countries to study market conditions, especially for stockfish in Nigeria. Up to now, governments have not permitted stockfish imports due to exchange problems. In Nigeria, a license to import Norwegian stockfish is expected to be issued, but the quantity is unknown. The delegation offered a government loan credit to Nigeria to buy stockfish, and a gift of some aid to areas hardest hit by the civil war. Nigeria was considering the offer.

Other Potential Markets

The Norwegian delegation found sales possibilities in Liberia, Ivory Coast, and Ghana. Excluding stockfish to Nigeria, Norway's fish exports to Africa have been minimal.

Seven Norwegian trawlers are fishing off Ghana.

The 4 Want Fishing Trade

The four countries visited are attempting to develop a fishing trade but lack know-how. Their governments contract with foreign trawlers, especially East European, to deliver frozen fish. A refrigerated distribution chain is being developed throughout the four countries.

Non-African Countries Active

The number of U.S. tuna vessels in the area has increased. The French fleet is particularly active in the Ivory Coast. Italy has offered aid to expand the fleets of the 4 countries. (U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Aug. 13.)

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NORWAY (Contd.):

FRIONOR EXPECTS NEW FISH-FILLET RECORD IN 1970

The director of Norway's Frionor Frozen Fish A/L reports the freezer plants' frozen-fillet production and sales have never been steadier than now. Unless a raw material shortage occurs, last year's record production of 82,000 metric tons (200,000 tons of raw material) will be surpassed by far. During the first 5 months of 1970, production was running about 30% higher than in same period 1969, and plants were working full force without restrictions.

Presently, there are no stocks at the freezer plants because exports are in step with production. Market prices also continue to rise.

Coastal Areas Aided

This expansion is important to the coastal areas. Problems in other industry sectors have been somewhat eased. When difficulties arose in dried fish sales, many fishermen sold to filleting plants. Improved utilization has reduced operating costs, but these have been counterbalanced by higher prices for fish and increasing duties in the Common Market. The duty into France is 24% ad valorem, and into Western Germany and Benelux countries 16.2%.

Frionor's Annual Report

Frionor's last annual report showed major progress in selling more processed products--grill products, fish sticks and portions; these gained 34.5%. The regular fillet trade increased 26.4%. Sales of frozen fish in the round increased 23.2%.

The U.S. market has been the largest purchaser of Frionor products: about 38%.

Frionor noted good progress also in exports to EFTA countries and Australia, but exports to the Common Market declined somewhat due to recent tariff increases. Communist Bloc (COMECON) purchases, previously large buyers of Frionor products like saithe fillets, also declined. These sales have increased recently. (U.S. Embassy, Copenhagen, Aug. 13.)

* * *

VESSEL WILL FISH SALMON OFF GREENLAND

The Norwegian M/S 'Skrolsvik' recentl headed for Greenland waters via Cape Far well, Faeringehaven, and Disko Bay, whe the gear will be tried out for salmon fishin This is the first time in many years that vessel from north Norway will participate the salmon fishery off Greenland. About Danish vessels fish in the area. Some fro Møre, Norway, are expected to leave f Greenland waters.

600 Nets

Skrolsvik, manned by 10, is equipped wi about 600 monofilament salmon nets; 500 these will be used at first, the remainder hel in reserve. The vessel will fish off West an East Greenland until November. Investmen cost for gear, nets, floatage, drift materia and food is about US$36,700. (U.S. Embassy Copenhagen, Aug. 11.)

* * *

REPLACES 120 SHRIMP PEELERS WITH TWO NEW MACHINES

Two Danish shrimp-peeling machines hav been installed in Norway. If they meet ex pectations, they would operate 24 hours an peel 176 lbs. of raw shrimp an hour, or mor than 4 metric tons a day. They would replac about 120 female shrimp peelers.

The two machines, including cost, trans portation, installation, and additional equip ment cost over US$70,000.

12 Machines Produced

A Danish engineer who installed the said his firm previously had manufactured 1 similar machines. Several were sent Greenland; one to Alaska. With these ma chines, Norwegian shrimp production ma soon equal Greenland's. The market fo frozen shrimp is reported stable, and th demand increasing.

15 Vessels Supply Plants

The supply of raw material for Norway's industry has been much larger than industry was able to handle. Fifteen vessels now are delivering raw material to the peeling plants Several of the vessels, however, had to shi their catches to other areas.

The new shrimp-peeling machines and 6 shrimp peelers are expected to handle mor than 5 metric tons a day. (U.S. Embassy Copenhagen, Aug. 4.)

USSR

ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES WILL AID FISHERY RESEARCH

Soviet scientists plan to use artificial earth satellites for fishery and oceanographic research. They believe satellites are necessary to exploit successfully resources in the seas far from shore and Continental Shelf. Some 156-187 million square miles will be surveyed.

At 10-15 day intervals, the satellites will map currents, temperature, chemical composition, and density of the waters. These data are essential for determining commercial concentrations of fish, other marine animals, and distribution by species.

Fishery Expansion Needed

There is a need for large-scale expansion of fisheries into the open oceans because stocks along coasts and on Continental Shelf fished by Soviets are approaching maximum sustainable yield. Global exploration for commercial concentrations of fish can be carried out only by satellites.

Plankton Surveys

The scientists also plan plankton surveys. They expect plankton to be used for human consumption in the future. Data on salinity, temperature, chemical composition, and density of ocean waters will be collected partly by satellites and partly by buoys that will transmit information to orbiting satellites.

Some studies of world's oceans already have been conducted by satellite "Soyuz-9". ('Izvestia,' July 1.)

* * *

TEST NEW TRAWLS, DEVELOP ACOUSTIC SYSTEM

The Kaliningrad fleet of Soviet Western Fisheries Administration is introducing aboard its 'Atlantik'-class factory stern trawlers a new, light weight bottom trawl with a vertical opening of 65.6 feet. This is 19.7 feet larger than opening of conventional trawls designed by Atlantic Fisheries Research Institute (ATLANTNIRO).

The new trawl makes it possible to increase vessel's towing speed to 6.6 knots and catches by 30%. The Far Eastern and Azov-Black Sea Fisheries Administrations will adopt the new trawl soon.

Test New Trawls

The Soviets also are testing in east-central Atlantic a large-mesh midwater trawl, and a wingless trawl with 20-inch mesh size. When tests are completed, the trawls will be introduced aboard Atlantik-class stern trawlers.

The lightweight bottom trawl with a large vertical opening is a modified conventional trawl. It is suitable only for very smooth bottom because a rough bottom would tear the light twine.

Large-Mesh Midwater Trawl

The large-mesh midwater trawl with very wide opening can be used for herring, mackerel, or alewives. The purpose of large-mesh netting at trawl mouth is to "corral" fish toward center and cod-end of trawl, where mesh size is reduced to normal 4.5-5 cm.

The Soviet mesh size is relatively "modest" compared to Canadians' midwater trawls with 42" meshes at trawl mouth tested in 1969.

If tests are successful, as Soviets claim, stern trawlers may be expected to use the new trawl to fish herring and mackerel.

New Underwater Acoustic System

The Sakhalin branch of the Soviet Science Academy has designed an underwater acoustic-electronic device ('Kalmar'), now in serial production. The device fits into a small buoy. It is intended to detect sounds made by marine mammals and warn against underwater earthquakes and tsunami waves.

The new device is not the echo-sounder 'Kalmar' used aboard Soviet vessels to locate fish schools.

CHILE: A small fishing port where fishermen sell catch directly to customers from open boats. (FAO: S. Larrain)

LATIN AMERICA

PERU

EPCHAP TAKES CONTROL

On July 1, Peru's EPCHAP assumed complete control of Peruvian fish meal and oil sale. EPCHAP is Empresa Publica para la Commercializacion de Harine y Aceite de Pescado. EPCHAP already had sold 30,000-40,000 tons of fish meal.

Although there are many unanswered questions about what payment fishmeal plants will receive, the operation is working and market conditions should hold up prices.

EPCHAP will receive 3% of gross value of meal it sells in payment for its marketing service. In 1969, this would have produced about C$6.6 million.

To Take Over Consorcio

To facilitate marketing, EPCHAP will take over control of the foreign and domestic installations and equipment of Consorcio Pesquero del Peru. The Consorcio has substantial cargo-discharging facilities in Stockton, California; Wilmington, North Carolina; and Europe. Previously, it has controlled 40% of Peru's fish-meal exports.

Because Consorcio has charged its members only 1.5% of gross value, movement is reported in industry to have government reduce 3% rate authorized for EPCHAP.

Closed Season For Anchovy

On July 1, the official newspaper, "El Peruano," announced a complete closed season, or "veda", for fishing anchovy (basis of fishmeal industry). It was to run from July 11 to August 31. The Government had imposed a partial veda on May 13. This allowed port of Ilo to continue operating; it also allowed fishmeal plants that had not caught 10,000 tons during regular season to catch 300,000 tons more.

This unusual "complete" closing may be response to fears that anchovy was overfished in 1969/70 season. The announced reason was to permit a joint Norwegian-Peruvian study of migratory habits of anchovy. This investigation will cost about $50,000 and involve marking 200,000 anchovy along coast during veda. Once fishing season opens, marked fish will be retrieved electronically at fishmeal plants. Presently little is known about anchovy's migratory habits. (U.S. Embassy, Lima, July 7.)

PANAMA

1969 SHRIMP CATCH DROPPED BELOW 1968's

Panama's 1969 shrimp catch (preliminary information) was 12,230,892 lbs., down 969,460 lbs. from 1968. The 1969 figure does not include 231,714 lbs. of "Solencocera" variety.

Value of shrimp exported decreased from US$9.64 million in 1968 to slightly more than $9 million in 1969 (f.o.b. Balboa).

Catch of premium-grade whites remained close to levels of recent years. However, catch of pinks dropped to almost half of 1968 and to ten-year low.

Greater Production Sought

Industry and government are trying to develop more efficient use of marine resources. This may lead to greater shrimp production in the future.

Two developments are especially encouraging: 1) an experiment to forestall shrimping before shrimp reach maturity was conducted in March 1970; the results were promising.

The government, on recommendation of National Fishing Association, declared 1-month closed season on shrimping. Government studies concluded that industry was not getting maximum yield because shrimp, especially more valuable whites, were being caught before maturity. The experiment was considered very successful and probably will be repeated in 1971.

2) Industry experiments point to possibility of profitable shrimp fishing in waters not fished before. (U.S. Embassy, Panama, May 13.)

ASIA

JAPAN

TUNA CO-OP PLANS DIRECT SALES TO RETAILERS

In an effort to stabilize fish prices, the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations (NIKKATSUREN) plans to sell tuna directly to retailers. Fish wholesalers will be bypassed. Savings will be passed on to tuna producers and retailers by buying at high prices from producers and selling at low prices to retailers.

How It Would Work

The tuna purchased from vessel owners will be sold to retailers in round or dressed form. Since freshness cannot be determined until fish are thawed and cut open, NIKKATSUREN will assume the buyer's risk of getting round fish of substandard quality. In the beginning, retail outlets will be volume consumers--supermarkets, hotels, "sushi" (raw fish served with rice) restaurants, and wholesalers in outlying areas. A plan also under consideration would establish eventually cold-storages, distribution centers, and processing facilities in consumer areas.

Direct Sales Are Test

NIKKATSUREN's idea of direct sales will serve as a test case in reforming existing fish distribution system. Representatives of NIKKATSUREN and major supermarket chains have discussed the direct sales plan. Supermarket operators welcomed the idea as an improvement in customer service, although concerned about possible friction with established wholesalers and brokers.

NIKKATSUREN officials explained that they do not intend to ignore existing marketing structure. They hope venture will stimulate business. They stress the fact that direct sales would comprise only a fraction of fish trade's total volume, their objective conforms to Government's price stabilization policy.

The venture will be a 3-year experiment. During that period, NIKKATSUREN hopes to sell 7,430 metric tons of tuna worth US$6.8[illegible] million. ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun,' May 29.

* * *

PLANS TUNA-REARING EXPERIMENT

Japan's Shizuoka Prefectural Fisheries Experimental Station plans a tuna-rearing experiment this year.

The first objective is to rear young bluefin taken in Suruga Bay's set-net fishery during May-Aug. each year to marketable size. This would increase their commercial value.

The ultimate aim is to rear the tuna to maturity and achieve spawning and fertilization under controlled conditions.

US$7,000 has been earmarked for the project, which includes building two octagonal floating pens for Uchiura Bay off Numazu City. Each side of the pen will be 16.4 feet long, the enclosure 30 feet deep. One-year-old bluefin trapped in the set nets will be transferred to the pens and reared until two years old. About 100 fish will be placed in each enclosure.

Bluefin Yearlings

Bluefin yearlings captured in the set nets measure 12-16 inches and weigh 0.7-1 pound. Two-year-olds reach 4-18 pounds. They would grow considerably if they could survive winter in Japan, where water temperature drop to 12°C. (53.6°F.). This and feeding are the major problems in the experiment.

One Successful Experiment

The only successful Japanese bluefin rearing experiment so far was the one by Nagasaki Prefectural Fisheries Experiment Station. One tuna was kept alive for one month; the fish grew from 4 pounds to about 5.7 pounds. ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun,' Apr. 22, and Japanese press article from W.L. Klawe, IATTC.)

* * *

Apr. 1 and Mar. 31 Fiscal Year	Planned Sales Quantity	Planned Sales Value	Estimated Average Monthly Sales	Estimated Average Price
	Metric Tons	US$1,000	Metric Tons	US$/Metric Ton
1970	1,286	1,072	160	833
1971	2,160	1,944	180	900
1972	3,984	3,873	332	972
	7,430	6,889		

JAPAN (Contd.):

NCREASE PRICE FOR EXPORT CANNED WHITE-MEAT TUNA

Effective May 12, the Tokyo Canned Tuna Sales Co. announced new prices for canned white-meat tuna packed in brine for export to U.S. In standard pack (48 7-oz. cans), new price reflects a US$0.55 increase, which brings U.S. destination price to around $17.70 a case.

Canned White Tuna in Brine Export Prices (Exwarehouse Shimizu)

Can & Case Size		Price per Case New Price US$	Old Price US$
Solid:	7-oz. 48's	13.22	12.67
	3½-oz. 48's	7.97	7.69
	1⅓-oz. 24's	12.83	12.31
	66½-oz. 6's	15.28	14.64
	6.6-lb. 6's	26.39	25.28
Flake:	6½-oz. 48's	9.67	9.28
Chunk:	6.6-lb. 6's	23.58	22.56

Reason for Rise

Decision to raise price was based on: (1) lack of supply to meet vigorous demand by trading firms; (2) continued firm frozen tuna export market in U. S.; and (3) high albacore prices on domestic market.

Export prices for canned light meat tuna remain unchanged. ('Suisan Tsushin', May 11.)

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FROZEN-TUNA EXPORTS DROP DURING JAN.-JUNE 1970

During first-half 1970, Japanese frozen-tuna exports were 22,432 metric tons--about 10,500 tons, or 32%, below same period in 1969 and less than half 1968 period. Particularly notable is the sharp decline in exports of albacore, sold mostly to the U.S. ('Suisan Tsushin,' July 24.)

* * *

1969 LANDINGS WERE SLIGHTLY BELOW 1968's

In 1969, Japan's fishery landings totaled about 8.61 million metric tons (excluding whales), slightly below 1968 landings of 8.67 million tons. Decline was due largely to sharp reduction in squid and saury catches. ('Suisan Tsushin,' May 7.)

* * *

NEW FIRM TO BUILD 1,100-GROSS-TON TUNA PURSE SEINER

On June 5, 1970, Overseas Purse Seine Fishing Co. was established with capital of US$194,000, invested jointly by 8 Japanese fishing firms. The new company plans to build a 1,100-gross-ton, 800-ton carrying capacity tuna purse seiner by Jan. or Feb. 1971 for use in eastern Pacific yellowfin tuna fishery.

Original plan was to have vessel built in U.S., but higher costs there ($2 million compared with about $1.6 million in Japan) changed plan. Total cost: about $1.8 million.

The company plans to hire a U.S. skipper. The seiner will have a brine-freezing unit (minimum temperature -18° C., or -0.4° F.), and 4 speedboats and one skiff to be purchased from U.S. for estimated $56,000. Deck gear will include power block costing about $83,000.

Plans For Seiner

The present plan is to send seiner in early 1971 to eastern Pacific yellowfin tuna regulatory area until season closes around April. Then vessel will operate 2-3 months outside area. If fishing is not good, it will go to Caribbean Sea and fish until mid-May. Then, across Atlantic to operate off west Africa. Operations may be extended to bluefin tuna fishery in Indian Ocean between Indonesia and Australia. Operational plan is for continuous fishing for 4 years without returning to Japan. Replacements (for 16-man crew) will be flown from Japan periodically.

Much Hope in New Industry

Industry hopes new company will modernize outmoded purse-seine fishery.

The Japanese Fisheries Agency intends to back the plan financially. It is considering a subsidy in fiscal 1971 for exploratory trips to develop new grounds. ('Suisan Tsushin,' June 8 & 9.)

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JAPAN (Contd.):

TUNA PURSE SEINER MODIFIED FOR EASTERN PACIFIC TRIP

The Japanese Kawajiri Gyogyo-owned purse seiner 'Hakuryu Maru No. 55' (499.5 gross tons) experienced failures in eastern Pacific yellowfin tuna fishery in 1969 and early 1970. It returned to Japan in late April for modifications.

Important Changes

Important changes included conversion to double deck, enlargement of fish holds, and improvement of engine system. Modifications were completed in mid-June.

The vessel is fishing off the Japanese islands until fall, when it will depart for eastern Pacific tuna fishery. ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun,' June 4.)

* * *

TUNA LONGLINERS FISH ATLANTIC IN RECORD NUMBERS

Around 250 tuna longliners were fishing in the Atlantic at the end of July, a record: 100 Taiwanese, over 70 South Korean, about 50 Japanese, and 10 each Cuban and Panamanian.

The Panamanian flag vessels are manned mostly by South Koreans, and practically all are under charter to a South Korean fishing company. (The use of foreign-registered vessels by Koreans is due to their country's law prohibiting import of vessels older than 7 years.)

Fleets May Increase

Tawian, and possibly Cuba and Panama, may add to its tuna fleet. Japan fears increased Atlantic tuna fishing effort may lead to Atlantic Tuna Commission's questioning of longline-fishing intensity. In the past, the Japanese had close to 180 longliners in the Atlantic during peak periods. They believe tuna fishing most stable when this fleet numbered about 100-120 vessels. ('Suisan Tsushin,' July 30.)

* * *

LARGE STERN TRAWLER WILL BE BUILT

A 5,300-gross-ton stern trawler, largest of its kind in Japan, will be built by Usuki Shipyard for Hoko Suisan Fishing Co. Construction is to start Dec. 1970 and be completed in Oct. 1971.

Outstanding Features

Outstanding features will be a "surimi" (minced fish meat) producing plant and plant to reduce fish into meal and solubles. The vessel will join Hoko Suisan's 4,252-ton trawler 'Katata Maru' in the North Pacific. ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun,' July 13.)

* * *

TWO TRAWLERS SENT TO NORTHWEST ATLANTIC

On April 11, 1970, the Japanese Fisheries Agency licensed two stern trawlers for the northwestern Atlantic north of 45° N. lat. on a 6-month experimental basis. The vessels, owned by Nihon Suisan, are: 'Tokachi Maru' (2,501 gross tons) and 'Zao Maru' (2,530 gross tons).

In 1971, the firm plans to send to northwest Atlantic a 4,000-ton-class stern trawler costing over US$4 million.

In the past, several major Japanese fishery firms have explored in that area for alternate resources for their trawlers operating off west Africa.

Membership In ICNAF Sought

The Fisheries Agency is seeking Diet (parliament) approval of Japan's membership in International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF). If admission is gained, Japanese trawlers will be allowed to extend operations beyond present northern boundary established by the Agency. ('Shin Suisan Shimbun,' May 11.)

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APAN (Contd.):

ICENSES 33 VESSELS FOR ASTERN PACIFIC SAURY FISHING

The Japanese Fisheries Agency decided to cense 33 saury vessels this year to fish in e North Pacific east of 165° E. longitude. he 33 do not include the 2 vessels licensed early 1970 for exploratory saury fishing in e eastern Pacific. The 2 vessels received 75-million-yen (US$208,000) Government bsidy.

pplications Limited

By mid-July, owners filed applications for vessels. To limit number to 33, June 20 as set as cutoff application date. Decision as based on fear that unrestricted fishing ff North America would create international roblems and might irritate U.S. fishermen. he Agency action showed the government was ontrolling saury operations. (In 1969, 7 apanese vessels fished saury in eastern acific.) Most of the vessels vary from 291 to 49 gross tons. Included is a 1,167-ton moth- rship (with three 96-ton vessels) and one 90-ton mothership (with 296-ton vessels).

Fishing E. Pacific

In mid-July, 2 of the 33 vessels licensed were fishing in eastern Pacific. The 535-ton 'Tone Maru' was off San Francisco, exploring northward toward Seattle. It was landing about 1 ton of saury a day. Size of fish was small and schools sparse. This indicated best fishing season in that region may be from around late-Aug. to Oct.

ubsidized Saury Explorations

The 2 trawlers exploring for saury in North acific on Government-subsidized cruise are 'Akebono Maru No. 15' (499 gross tons) and 'Habomai Maru No. 21' (299 gross tons). hese were fishing in central Pacific between 160° E. and 170° E. longitudes. Fishing was not good; catches average 2 to 4 tons per vessel a day. The 2 vessels were scheduled to return to Japan in September. They will depart then for west coast of North America (Pacific Northwest). ('Suisan Tsushin,' July 15 & 22.)

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JAPANESE & MAURITIANS SIGN TUNA-FISHING AGREEMENT

A new tuna fishing/cannery agreement was signed July 15 by Japanese and Mauritian interests. The invested capital for new firm, Mauritius Tuna Fish and Canning Enterprises, Ltd. is about US$800,000; each side has half the shares.

Job Possibilities

It is hoped that up to 1,200 Mauritians will get jobs: some on new vessel to be purchased, others in cannery and tin-producing plants to begin operation early in 1971, and others in cold-storage plant under consideration.

After the signing ceremonies, Mauritius Minister of Commerce Guy Marchand, sensitive to local unemployment, emphasized these employment possibilities at a press conference. (U.S. Emb., Port Louis, July 18.)

* * *

JAPAN & S. KOREA WILL DISCUSS CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY

Japanese and S. Korean firms plan to exploit oil and natural gas resources on Continental Shelf in Sanin coastal area, Korean Straits, and East China Sea. The plans are incentive for negotiations to establish a boundary on Continental Shelf between the two countries.

Korean "Sea-Bed Mineral Resources Development Law," Jan. 1970, set up 7 mining areas on Shelf; 3 of these overlapped areas Japanese seek to exploit.

Talks in Fall

Both Korea and Japan are expected to "suspend" claimed rights over Shelf until agreement is reached. Talks are to begin in September or October. ('Asahi,' July 9.)

Neither country is party to Convention on the Continental Shelf. It provides that, in absence of other agreement, Continental Shelf boundary between two member countries is median line.

NORTH VIETNAM

FISHERIES MINISTER SEEKS POLISH AID

During a visit to Poland, the North Vietnamese Minister of Fisheries, Nguyen Trong Tinh, was interviewed by a Gdansk newspaper, 'Glos Wybrzeza'. Tinh said:

". . .Fish is the second staple after rice for the North Vietnamese. It is thus not surprising that the Government attaches so much importance to the increase in fishery catches--the second bread of Vietnam.

"At the time of France's colonial rule over Vietnam there existed only private fishing. Influential shipowners, representing French capital, exploited fishermen. The situation changed after we gained independence. Private fishing enterprises ceased to exist. Cooperatives were set up run by the fishermen themselves."

Fishing During War

How do they fish during war?

"Our fishermen sailed on the Bay of Tonkin at night. Units which did not manage to come back before daybreak fought against the enemy. Fishing units barely equipped with arms shot down 32 aircraft."

Development Plans

"Fishing is administered by the Central Office of Fisheries Administration, established in 1960. State and cooperative enterprises are subordinate to it. The Office's task is to work out plans for the development of fishing and supervise it.

"The plans envisage the development of the three basic sectors of fishing: breeding (fish culture), catching, and processing. Availing ourselves of the assistance of the socialist countries, especially Poland, we want to develop gradually all kinds of fishing, from boat fishing in the Bay of Tonkin to trawler fishing in the South China Sea.

"The abundance of fish in the Bay of Tonki makes it possible to intensify fishing by introducing gradually limited mechanization. Thi applies to processing as well. At present th processing industry produces sauces an fried fish. The long-term plan envisages th setting up of 2 new central enterprises and provincial ones. In this way a large sta fishing enterprise will be situated in eve seashore province.

"At present North Vietnam has about 8,0 various kinds of vessels catching abo 500,000 metric tons of fish. Among them a the traditional junks but we have more an more motorboats. The enterprise in Haipho has two refrigerating (freezer) trawlers an well-organized preserving (canning) and fis meal plants, constructed with the assistanc of Soviet specialists.

"The Bay of Tonkin, abounding in fish (ther are more than 900 species), guarantees. . .th possibility of a rapid development of fishing.

"Minister Tinh's current visit to Polan is also to serve this goal," the newspaper said

TAIWAN

TUNA FISHERY GROUP FORMED

On June 16, the Taiwan Regional Tuna Ex porters Association was formally establishe to represent tuna producers and exporter It will help to obtain government loans an provide guarantees. Presently, its activitie are limited to advisory services.

60 Members So Far

Only 60 of Taiwan's 352 companies in tu fisheries and exports have joined. Eventuall all companies in the tuna industry are ex pected to participate. ('Katsuomaguro Tsu shin,' June 26.)