Products Company) plan to operate five and four vessels, respectively, and a Taiyo-affiliated trading firm will employ two vessels, for a total of 11.

Papua New Guinea, an Australian territory which is scheduled to become a self-governing state in December 1973, for several years has been focusing attention on the development of the fishing industry for establishment of an independent economy and has been actively seeking foreign fishery investments, particularly from Japan.

The shrimp exploratory survey is the administration's second fishery development project, the first being the skipjack fishing and canning venture by the Papua New Guinea Canning Company, which is likely to begin commercial-scale operations next year with the participation of Japanese, American, and Australian interests.

Publications

Recent NMFS Scientific Publication

NOAA Technical Report NMFS CIRC-376. Colton, John B., Jr., and Ruth R. Stoddard. "**Bottom-water temperatures on the continental shelf, Nova Scotia to New Jersey**." June 1973. 55 p. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Price: 60 cents. (No abstract.)

Monthly Fishery Market Review

Tight Supplies, Heavy Demands Are the Rule

FISH FILLETS

Supplies of major groundfish fillets (cod, flounder, haddock, and ocean perch) available for consumption in June were well above a year ago (Table 1). Gains in consumption of fillets, however, fell far short of matching the increases experienced on the supply side. The result has been a large inventory buildup of major fillet items during the first half of the year.

The fact that consumption has not kept pace with growing supplies does not appear to be closely related to higher prices (Table 2). Rather, stockpiling of fillets appears to have become a major inventory strategy this year. Fillet inventories are now more than double year ago levels (Tables 3-6). In the coming months, the meat and poultry shortage is expected to become acute. Demand for fishery products, in turn, likely will increase and the heavier inventories will be available to satisfy any increase in demand.

It is also expected that import prices for fillets, cod in particular, will increase for the following reasons: a) poor catches in most major supplying nations; b) strong world demand; and c) continued currency realignments.

Given this outlook, many U. S. processors, by purchasing heavily now, may be trying to hedge against future fish supply difficulties and price competition with foreign buyers.

BLOCKS, STICKS, AND PORTIONS

The block shortage continued to worsen in June compared with a year ago, although there was some very slight improvement in holdings from the previous month (Table 7).

Imported block prices had been soaring all year (Table 8), and by June the margin between the raw material (blocks) and the finished goods (sticks and portions) had narrowed to a point where the replacement cost of the raw material was higher than the revenue received from sales of the finished goods (Figure 1). The announcement of the price freeze in early June placed sticks and portions producers in a cost-price squeeze since imported block prices were free to increase while stick and portion prices remained fixed under the freeze regulations.

There is little hope for immediate improvement in block supplies; however, relaxation of price controls in Phase IV will permit processors of sticks and portions to pass on some of their higher raw material costs.

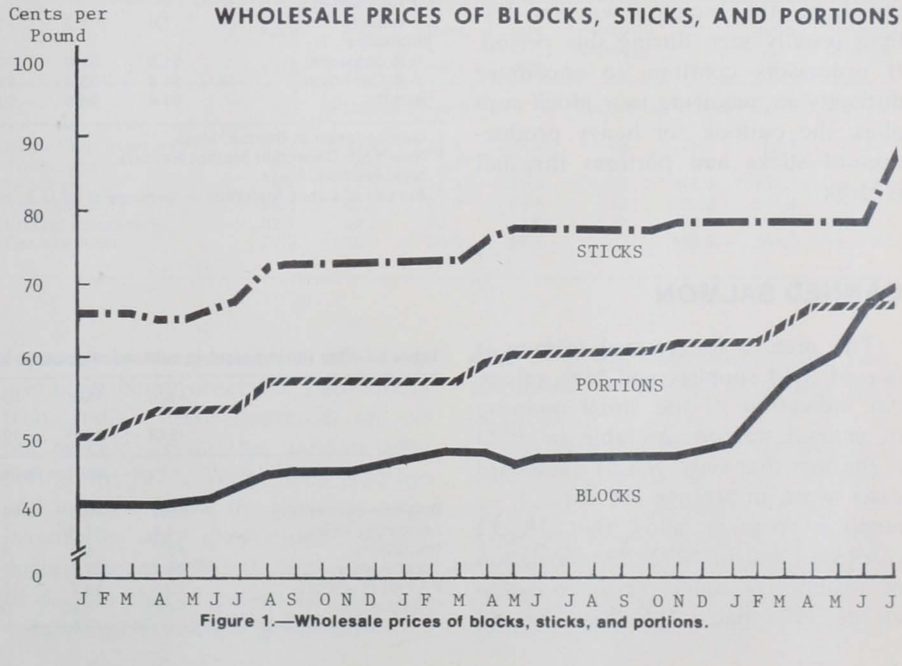

Figure 1.—Wholesale prices of blocks, sticks, and portions.

This action will result in a sudden bulge in prices for sticks and portions.

World cod supplies are very short this year, as a result of poor catches in major cod fishing nations, and U.S. processors may look more seriously at alternative species to augment dwindling block supplies. Many previously lesser utilized species are gaining acceptance by both processors and consumers, both for reasons of lower cost and higher availability. Thus, the shift towards species such as Alaska pollock, Greenland turbot, and minced blocks should become more pronounced as the year progresses. U.S. processors have drawn heavily on inventories to satisfy demand this year and this has resulted in a larger drawdown of holdings from January through June than ever before experienced by the industry. Thus, despite the fact that U.S. production of fish sticks and portions through June of this year was above a year ago (Tables 9 and 10), reserve supplies of blocks are precariously low. As of July 1, U.S. holdings of fish blocks were barely more than half of last year's level. Inventories of blocks traditionally begin to increase in May, in preparation for seasonally heavy fourth quarter production. Although block inventories did inch up slightly during June, the increase was far less than usually seen during this period. If processors continue to encounter difficulty in acquiring new block supplies, the outlook for heavy production of sticks and portions this fall is bleak.

CANNED SALMON

The picture for canned salmon is one of tight supplies and high prices. An indication of the small quantity of canned salmon available in 1973 is the fact that only 148,617 standard cases were in storage on June 1 — about 81 percent below the 778,573 cases on hand in 1972. The depletion of inventories reflects poor progress in the 1973 pack. Whereas 1-pound

Table 1.—Inventory, supplies and consumption of groundfish fillets, including cod, flounder, haddock, and ocean perch, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Million Pounds ----				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	34.3	31.1	34.5	14.9	+132	52.4	45.1	+ 16
Landings, Total	5.7	6.7	6.7	6.5	+ 3	33.3	34.7	− 4
Imports	25.5	25.4	33.9	24.9	+ 36	148.2	117.2	+ 26
Total Supply	65.5	63.2	75.1	46.3	+ 62	233.9	197.0	+ 19
Ending Inventory	31.1	34.5	42.6	17.8	+139	42.6	17.8	+139
Consumption	34.4	28.7	32.5	28.5	+ 14	191.3	179.2	+ 7

Table 2.—Ground fish prices June 1973 (all wholesale prices fob Boston, Gloucester, and New Bedford).

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Cents Per Pound ----				Percent	Cents Per Pound		Percent
COD								
Ex-vessel[1]	20.0	13.1	14.3	16.4	−13	20.1	20.4	− 1
Wholesale								
1 lb Canadian	61.5	62.0	66.1	56.0	+18	60.2	54.7	+10
5 lb Canadian	58.0	59.6	63.5	55.5	+14	55.9	53.8	+ 4
Retail[2]	184.0	174.5	170.6	124.0	+38	179.8	131.2	+37
FLOUNDER								
Ex-vessel[3]								
Yellowtail	32.37	18.30	15.78	20.92	−25	29.65	20.46	+45
Lemonsole	44.00	24.84	28.57	28.98	− 1	41.80	38.47	+ 9
Greysole	29.40	19.08	19.17	21.13	− 9	29.10	26.01	+12
Blackback	30.05	17.91	18.48	21.23	−13	26.92	32.47	−17
Wholesale								
5 lb domestic	111.3	95.7	85.6	93.8	− 9	95.6	87.7	+10
5 lb Canadian	80.5	80.2	80.0	64.0	+25	79.3	57.6	+38
Retail[2]	236.6	224.0	216.6	166.5	+30	214.3	161.5	+33
HADDOCK								
Ex-vessel[1]								
Large	49.7	44.5	40.8	39.0	+ 5	45.1	41.7	+ 8
Scrod	32.5	32.2	21.3	27.2	−22	27.9	33.5	−17
Wholesale								
5 lb Canadian	79.3	79.5	79.9	68.8	+16	78.6	60.8	+29
Retail[4]	124.2	128.7	132.2	104.9	+26	123.5	103.4	+19
OCEAN PERCH								
Ex-vessel[1]	7.6	7.5	7.5	5.3	+42	7.3	5.4	+35
Wholesale								
5 lb domestic	61.5	63.0	59.3	44.0	+35	59.5	38.1	+56
5 lb Canadian	54.3	55.4	55.5	41.5	+34	53.4	38.0	+41
Retail[4]	94.4	96.9	99.6	73.8	+35	93.4	73.3	+27

[1] Quotes taken at Boston, Mass.
[2] New York Consumer Market Reports.
[3] New Bedford, Mass.
[4] Bureau of Labor Statistics — average of 36 U.S. cities.

Table 3.—Cod (fillet weight in millions of pounds) supplies, June, 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Million Pounds ----				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	13.1	13.3	14.7	7.5	+96	16.2	6.2	+161
Landings, Total	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.3	+15	7.5	7.4	+ 1
Imports	10.7	6.4	9.4	11.1	−15	48.7	50.0	− 3
Total Supply	25.2	21.5	25.6	19.9	+29	72.4	63.6	+ 14
Ending Inventory	13.3	14.7	15.7	9.2	+71	15.7	9.2	+ 71
Consumption	11.9	6.8	9.9	10.7	− 7	56.7	54.4	+ 4

cans normally account for a large portion of production during good pack years, supplies this year consist primarily of one-fourth and one-half pound cans. The switch to packing smaller sized cans is an apparent effort to increase the number of units available for sale.

With the 1973 season's salmon pack nearly complete, preliminary reports indicate that the Alaskan pack reached only 531,000 standard cases through the sixth week of the season — down nearly 41 percent from the low pack in 1972. This was far below preseason estimates of a six percent decline from 1972.

Prices at all levels have been extremely high recently as a result of the poor packs in 1972 and 1973. Ex-vessel prices had generally stabilized at 97 cents per pound throughout much of the landings season — 29 percent above the previous year. However, they rose to $1.02 as the season came to an end.

Wholesale prices were likewise high. Prices for reds were $58 per case (48 1-lb talls), during June (up 23 percent), while pink prices were stable at $47; a 25 percent increase above the previous June.

Table 4.—Ocean perch (fillet weight in millions of pounds) supplies, June, 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	- - - - Million Pounds - - - -				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	5.9	4.2	5.5	2.8	+ 96	17.8	20.7	− 14
Landings, Total	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.1	− 14	9.7	10.3	− 6
Imports	4.5	8.1	9.5	5.4	+ 76	31.1	23.8	+ 31
Total Supply	12.2	14.0	16.8	10.3	+ 63	58.6	54.8	+ 7
Ending Inventory	4.2	5.5	10.2	3.5	+191	10.2	3.5	+191
Consumption	8.0	8.5	6.6	6.8	− 3	48.4	51.3	− 6

Table 5.—Haddock (fillet weight in millions of pounds) supplies, June, 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	- - - - Million Pounds - - - -				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	9.5	8.4	8.3	1.8	+361	9.8	8.9	+ 10
Landings, Total	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	—	1.8	2.3	− 22
Imports	3.0	3.6	4.0	2.9	+ 38	21.4	13.9	+ 54
Total Supply	12.8	12.3	12.8	5.2	+146	33.0	25.1	+ 31
Ending Inventory	8.4	8.3	8.3	2.1	+295	8.3	2.1	+295
Consumption	4.4	4.0	4.5	3.1	+ 45	24.7	23.0	+ 7

Table 6.—Flounder (fillet weight in millions of pounds) supplies, June, 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	- - - - Million Pounds - - - -				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	5.8	5.2	6.0	2.8	+114	8.6	9.3	− 8
Landings, Total	2.2	2.9	2.9	2.6	+ 12	14.3	14.7	− 3
Imports	7.3	7.3	11.0	5.5	+100	47.0	29.5	+ 59
Total Supply	15.3	15.4	19.9	10.9	+ 83	69.9	53.5	+ 31
Ending Inventory	5.2	6.0	8.4	3.0	+180	8.4	3.0	+180
Consumption	10.1	9.4	11.5	7.9	+ 46	61.5	50.5	+ 22

Table 7.—Supplies of blocks and slabs, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	- - - - Million Pounds - - - -				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	40.4	32.4	32.3	61.4	−48	75.8	62.7	+ 21
Production	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	+33	0.4	0.2	+100
Imports	18.7	29.8	31.3	32.8	− 5	143.8	181.7	− 21
Total Supply	59.4	62.6	64.0	94.5	−32	220.9	244.6	− 10
Ending Inventory	32.4	32.3	33.1	62.9	−47	33.1	62.9	− 47
Consumption	27.0	30.3	30.9	31.6	− 2	186.9	181.7	+ 3

SHRIMP

Supplies of shrimp available for consumption remained well below the previous year in June (Table 11) as imports and landings were again off, causing June 1 inventories to be drawn below 1972 for the first time this year. Although below the previous year, landings improved in June, giving some relief to the tight supply situation that had developed in the second quarter. The heavy flow of fresh water into the Gulf during the early spring apparently has not had a significant adverse effect on this year's shrimp crop as had been at first suggested. Imports also continued to decline with total shipments off 35 percent during June and 16 percent during the first half of the year.

The effects of competition with the Japanese for world supplies of shrimp are again being observed, particularly from India, where shipments are off 66 percent from the January-June period in 1972. With both landings and imports below the previous year, inventories were drawn lower further during the month, although the rate of decline slowed somewhat. By July 1, holdings had declined about 45 percent from the beginning of the year, compared to only an 8 percent drop in 1972.

The increasingly tight supply situation caused wholesale prices to move up early in the month (Table 12). After the price freeze was put into effect on June 12, prices moved down, apparently adjusting to the freeze regulations. With the start of the new

Table 8.—Prices of blocks and slabs, 1972 and 1973.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		- - - - Cents Per Pound - - - -											
Cod	1972	46.5	47.0	47.0	47.0	45.6	46.5	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	47.0	48.0
	1973	48.6	52.4	56.6	58.5	61.1	66.7						
Flounder	1972	43.5	44.4	45.3	49.2	51.7	53.3	55.6	57.0	58.0	58.0	58.7	59.5
	1973	59.5	59.6	60.0	60.0	60.0	62.0						
Haddock	1972	47.1	47.5	47.5	47.9	50.3	52.8	54.4	57.0	58.1	59.5	59.5	59.5
	1973	60.1	60.5	61.4	63.3	64.9	69.0						
Ocean perch	1972	38.5	38.5	38.7	39.5	39.5	39.8	41.6	45.0	48.0	48.3	49.4	49.5
	1973	51.2	53.1	53.9	54.0	54.8	53.9						
Pollock	1972	32.3	32.0	32.0	32.1	31.2	31.5	31.5	31.0	29.6	29.5	28.3	28.0
	1973	29.0	30.1	33.0	34.0	35.2	39.8						
Whiting	1972	33.0	33.5	33.0	33.0	33.2	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	32.0	34.1	34.5
	1973	34.6	35.8	37.5	37.5	37.5	39.4						
Wolffish	1972	49.3	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.3	50.5	51.0	51.5	51.3	51.0	51.0	51.0
	1973	51.0	50.0	54.5	52.0	52.0	52.0						

Table 9.—Supplies of sticks and portions, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	- - - - Million Pounds - - - -				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	25.9	24.3	27.5	20.3	+35	34.4	23.2	+48
Production:								
Sticks	11.6	10.9	8.6	7.9	+ 9	37.7	32.9	+15
Portions	24.3	26.1	22.5	21.4	+ 5	72.5	65.0	+12
Total	35.9	37.0	31.1	29.3	+ 6	110.2	97.9	+13
Imports	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	—	1.0	0.8	+25
Total Supply	62.0	61.5	58.8	49.8		145.6	121.9	
Ending Inventory	24.3	27.5	31.6	24.8	+27	31.6	24.8	+27
Consumption	37.7	34.0	27.2	25.0		114.0	97.1	

Table 10.—Weekly average prices of sticks and portions, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
			- - - - Cents Per Pound - - - -					
Wholesale								
Cod portions	67.0	67.0	67.0	60.5	+11	64.9	58.6	+11
Haddock	69.5	69.5	69.5	65.0	+ 7	69.2	63.4	+ 9
Cod sticks	78.0	78.0	78.0	77.0	+ 1	78.0	74.8	+ 4
Haddock sticks	80.0	80.0	80.0	79.2	+ 1	80.0	76.9	+ 4

season, ex-vessel prices declined seasonably but were nevertheless well above the previous year. Retail price movements were mixed with large count shrimp declining and medium count prices rising.

Consumption of shrimp was unseasonably high in June in spite of the relatively high prices. June consumption of 36.1 million pounds was only 4 percent above June 1972 but was 10 million pounds above the previous month. It appears that the publicity concerning high meat prices has not aided sales significantly since the quantity consumed during the first half of 1973 was only 2 percent above that in 1972.

SCALLOPS

On the basis of high inventories, supplies of scallops in June were 42 percent above the previous year (Table 13). Although landings and imports were below the previous year in June, both were higher during the January-June period, rising 5 and 27 percent respectively.

Consumption during the month was off 21 percent from 1972, probably the result of the high level of retail prices which were 15 percent above the previous year. Again, June did not reflect the six-month picture as January-June consumption was 20 percent above 1972.

Unlike retail prices, those at the ex-vessel and wholesale levels were well below the previous year (Table 14). Prices at all levels, however, have been declining in recent months; probably in reaction to the high and rising level of holdings.

AMERICAN LOBSTERS

Supplies of American lobsters were down sharply in June (Table 15) owing to a 36 percent decline in imports. Maine landings continued to show improvement over last year as a 35 percent gain in June contributed to a 57 percent rise during the first half of the year. A 36 percent drop in the quantity of lobsters received from Canada in June resulted in the 6 month total being off 9 percent. Two factors appear to have caused the recent decline in imports. First, the relatively low level of prices (Table 16), when compared to April, probably caused Canadian exporters to withhold supplies from the market. Second, the price freeze probably caused domestic importers to withdraw from the market somewhat since increased costs could not be passed on to the consumer. Because the Canadian lobster fishermen, like those in the United States, are undoubtedly having a good season, this situation is expected to be only temporary.

SPINY LOBSTER TAILS

Supplies of spiny lobsters were well below the previous year in June (Table 17) as both holdings and imports were down. Inventories, however, recorded a slightly larger increase than during the same month in 1972 as consumption was off 22 percent. The increase in holdings indicates that high prices may be affecting demand somewhat. Prices for both warm-water and cold-

Table 11.-Shrimp supplies, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Million Pounds ----				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	67.6	58.2	55.0	55.9	− 2	92.7	69.9	+ 33
Landings								
Total	7.8	14.4	27.8	28.6	− 3	82.5	89.1	− 7
Gulf	4.0	8.0	17.5	17.6	− 1	43.1	53.9	− 20
Northeast	.9	.7	1.0	1.4	−29	9.7	11.7	− 17
Pacific	2.9	5.3	7.6	8.1	− 6	27.5	20.2	+ 36
South Atlantic		.4	1.7	1.5	+13	2.2	3.3	− 33
Imports	15.2	14.5	15.4	23.6	−35	100.3	119.3	− 16
Total Supply	90.6	87.1	98.2	108.1	− 9	275.5	278.3	− 1
Ending Inventory	58.2	55.0	50.6	64.1	−21	50.6	64.1	− 21
Exports								
Total	4.4	4.2	3.5	2.7	+30	28.1	19.1	+ 47
Domestic Fresh & Frozen	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.2	+23	20.9	16.1	+ 30
Transshipments	1.6	1.1	.8	.5	+60	7.2	3.0	+140
Gulf Canned Pack	—	1.8	8.0	6.6	+21	10.7	12.0	− 11
Fresh & Frozen Consumption	28.0	26.1	36.1	34.7	+ 4	186.1	183.1	+ 2

Table 13.—Scallop supplies, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Thousand Pounds ----				Percent	Thousand Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	2,751	2,954	3,083	1,026	+200	3,736	1,585	+136
Landings, Total	683	694	560	720	− 21	3,405	3,253	+ 5
Imports	1,370	2,175	1,638	1,961	− 16	9,598	7,531	+ 27
Total Supply	4,804	5,823	5,281	3,707	+ 42	16,739	12,369	+ 35
Ending Inventory	2,954	3,083	3,159	1,012	+212	3,159	1,012	+212
Consumption	1,850	2,740	2,122	2,695	− 21	13,580	11,357	+ 20

Table 15.—American lobster supplies, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Thousand Pounds ----				Percent	Thousand Pounds		Percent
Maine Landings	317	1,280	914	675	+35	3,242	2,062	+57
Imports	1,493	3,517	5,309	8,352	−36	14,982	16,377	− 9
Consumption	1,810	4,797	6,223	9,027	−31	18,224	18,439	− 1

Table 17.—Spiny lobster tail supplies, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change	Jan-June 1973	Jan-June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Million Pounds ----				Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Beginning Inventory	7.9	7.4	6.9	7.4	− 7	8.9	4.7	+89
Imports	2.4	2.6	2.9	3.4	−15	17.7	21.5	−18
Total Supply	10.3	10.0	9.8	10.8	− 9	26.6	26.2	+ 2
Ending Inventory	7.4	6.9	7.3	7.6	− 4	7.3	7.6	− 4
Consumption	2.9	3.1	2.5	3.2	−22	19.3	19.6	− 2

water tails rose during the month (Table 18) although the price freeze retarded the increases during the second half of the month. The growth in inventories further indicates that prices may peak in the near future.

Table 12.—Shrimp prices, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Dollars Per Pound ----				
Ex-vessel					
15-20 count	2.06	2.14	2.12	2.03	+ 4
31-35	1.81	1.84	1.70	1.39	+22
51-65	1.35	1.34	1.30	.74	+76
Wholesale					
15-20 count	2.19	2.28	2.34	2.29	+ 2
31-35	1.95	1.99	2.06	1.64	+26
51-65	1.51	1.54	1.58	.97	+63
Retail					
15-25 count	3.65	3.01	2.94	2.99	− 2
31-42	2.26	2.28	2.38	2.09	+14

Table 14.—Scallop prices, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Dollars Per Pound ----				
Ex-vessel	1.76	1.44	1.44	2.01	−28
Wholesale	2.23	1.82	1.64	2.18	−25
Retail	3.23	3.08	3.03	2.64	+15

Table 16.—American lobster prices, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Dollars Per Pound ----				
Ex-vessel	1.43	1.29	1.37	1.68	−18
Wholesale					
2 lb.	2.83	1.92	1.97	2.20	−10
1½	2.55	1.87	1.96	2.12	− 8
1¼	2.06	1.80	1.93	2.18	−11
1⅛	2.00	1.77	1.90	2.18	−13
chix	1.99	1.76	1.89	2.20	−14

Table 18.—Spiny lobster tail prices, June 1973.

	April 1973	May 1973	June 1973	June 1972	Percent Change
	---- Dollars Per Pound ----				
Wholesale Price					
6-8 oz tail					
Cold-water	4.64	4.71	4.82	4.45	+8
Warm-water	3.33	3.65	3.82	3.77	+1