

also hindering the progress of this fishery.

Problems involving financing, which have forced some exporters to suspend activities, have also upset the industry, but seafood dealers see signs that local bankers are taking another look at the industry.

Finally, the establishment of the Marine Products Export Development Authority is seen as a move which may cause some initial hardships, but which the industry feels will have a long-range beneficial impact on the country's shrimp exports.

## OTHER EXPORTS

The canning and dried seafoods industry apparently suffered from severe setbacks in 1972, with exports declining. The dried fish and prawn industry were reportedly the hardest hit. There were no explanations for these setbacks. ("Seafood Export Journal," Annual, January 1973 and other sources.)

Prepared by NMFS International Activities Staff.

## Letters<sup>1</sup>

### Status of FPC in U.S.

ROBERT W. SCHONING  
Acting Director, NMFS

...would you...ask someone on your staff to forward me an up-to-date report on the status of FPC in the U.S.A. if one is available...

HUGH MUNRO  
566 Minette Circle  
Mississauga, Ontario  
Canada

Regarding the present status of FPC in the U.S., a decision was made recently to terminate the National Marine Fisheries Service's 12-year FPC research and development program. This was due in part

to the overall budget cutbacks experienced by our Agency, as well as the expiration of the FPC Act (PL-89-701, as amended) on June 30, 1972.

Plans are being developed to dispose of the Experiment and Demonstration Plant in Aberdeen, Washington, and the limited quantities of product remaining from its operation. We are also currently compiling information so as to provide as complete an information package as can be developed for anyone generally interested in FPC or considering its commercial development. This will make available all information generated by our activities over the past years, as well as a detailed discussion of the state-of-the-art and a description of the remaining unresolved problems. This information package will be put on microfilm and its availability publicized. If you would be interested in obtaining a copy, please write:

Dr. George Knobl  
Director  
College Park Fishery  
Products Technology Laboratory  
Regents Drive  
College Park, Maryland 20740

It should be available in 2-3 months.

Limited domestic interest in FPC within the industry appears to be continuing, based upon our contacts, as well as the number of requests for samples of the product produced in Aberdeen. However, until the one pound packaging restriction presently in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations is removed, the emergence of a domestic industry is unlikely. A petition to remove this restriction is presently being considered by FDA and a favorable disposition is expected shortly.

Regarding international interest in FPC, I suggest you write Dr. Steve R. Tannenbaum at the following address and request a copy of the proceedings from an international conference on FPC held in Cambridge in June 1972.

Dr. Steve R. Tannenbaum  
Associate Professor of  
Food Science  
Department of Nutrition  
and Food Science  
Massachusetts Institute of  
Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

This will give you a summary of both the interest and activities of the many countries represented at the conference.

JOSEPH W. SLAVIN  
Associate Director for  
Resource Utilization

## Publications

### "Our Living Oceans"

A new NMFS publication series, "Our Living Oceans," developed jointly by the NOAA Publications Office and the Extension Division, has been established. The first number issued is "Secrets of the Sea."

The series is primarily oriented toward educational user groups, ages 8 to 18. Much of the information, however, should also be useful to anyone interested in living marine resources.

Copies of "Our Living Oceans" are available from NMFS Regional Coordinators. Additional copies are also available from D83, Technical Information Division, Environmental Data Service, NOAA, Washington, DC 20235.

### "Hawaiian Reef Animals"

NMFS scientist Edmund Hobson is co-author of a new book, "Hawaiian Reef Animals," published by the University of Hawaii Press with support in part from the State of Hawaii and from NOAA's Sea Grant Program. Dr. Hobson wrote the introduction and the section on fishes. E.H. Chave, University of Hawaii, contributed a section on invertebrates.

The book is illustrated with 86 superb full-color photographs of the fishes and invertebrates. These were all taken by Hobson, a skillful diver and photographer of professional ability.

Hobson received his doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles. At present he is working at the Marine Science Center, Avalon,

<sup>1</sup>Editor's Note: The plural here is an optimistic misnomer, since we have only one letter. But it deals with an important topic. We would like to use this space to print answers by NMFS specialists to fishery questions of general interest. If you have such a question, please address it to the Editor, *Marine Fisheries Review*, Room 450, 1107 N.E. 45th St., Seattle, WA 98105. We reserve the right to edit letters.