

## U. S. Restricts Fish Oil, Meal, Solubles Exports

The Secretary of Commerce, in early July, announced that various categories of agricultural commodities, including fish meal, fish solubles, and hydrogenated fish oil are subject to export controls, and all producers of these products will be substantially restricted in selling these products to higher priced foreign markets.

According to the ruling, none of these commodities can be exported without validated license from the Department of Commerce's Office of Export Control. Licenses will be granted on the following basis:

1. Orders accepted on or before June 13, 1973, for export prior to October 1, 1973, will be licensed to the extent of 100 percent of the unfilled balance of the order.
2. Orders accepted after June 13, 1973, for export prior to October 1, 1973, will not be licensed until further notice. A method of licensing such orders will be announced on a later date.
3. Orders accepted for export on or after October 1, 1973, will not be licensed until further notice.

These fishery products were put under export controls to close the loop-

hole in the previously imposed export controls of high-protein feed.

Substantial increase in foreign demand for high-protein feed, such as fish meal, has been caused by the export restrictions on soybeans, soybean meal, cottonseed, and cottonseed meal. Traditionally, United States production of fish meal provides only about half of the total meal in this country; the other half being imported, mainly from Peru.

Concerning fish oil, only hydrogenated fish oil is under export control. Exports of hydrogenated fish oils are negligible in comparison with exports of other fish oils. Menhaden and other fish and marine mammal oil are not subject to control.

About 85 percent of United States produced fish oils are exported (latest 5-year average) and command a relatively high price because they are used for margarine and shortening production outside the United States. The use of fish oils for food purposes is not allowed in the United States, and their major use is as raw material for protective coatings and other industrial purposes; their exports do not affect the feed situation in the United States.

Regulations enforced by the joint international inspection scheme deal with such requirements as catch quotas and national allocations, area closures, size limits of certain fish species, minimum mesh sizes of fishing nets and maintenance of daily catch records. Any breaches of regulations detected during inspections are reported to government authorities of the country concerned which is responsible for prosecutions.

Inspections are conducted under established procedures, details of which have been circulated to masters and owners of all east coast Canadian fishing vessels. Each country designates specific officers and vessels to carry out boarding and inspection missions. All inspection vessels are required to fly the ICNAF Pennant and when an inspection boarding is to be made, the International Code of signals SQ3.

Three fisheries patrol vessels, the *Cape Freels* based at St. John's, New Foundland, and the *Chebucto* and *Cygnus*, based at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and 22 fishery protection officers are authorized at present to conduct Canadian inspections. The *Cape Freels* and the *Chebucto* were equipped earlier this year with necessary boarding facilities to carry out these duties.

ICNAF member nations now participating in the scheme are: Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Norway, Japan, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

### Foreign Fishery Developments

## Canada Joins ICNAF Fishing Check Scheme

Canadian fishery protection officers started checking nets and catches aboard foreign fishing vessels in the north Atlantic in July to enforce international conservation regulations.

The inspections are part of an International Commission for the North-west Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) Scheme of Joint International Inspection entered by Canada July 1. Canadian fisheries officials view participation in the scheme as an opportunity to protect fishery resources from over-

exploitation.

In joining the ICNAF scheme, Canada is permitted to board and inspect nets and catches of most of the foreign vessels fishing off the east coast. Ten other ICNAF member countries are already participating, although one, the Soviet Union, permits inspection of catches on deck, but not below decks. The scheme requires Canadian fishing vessels to submit to inspection by inspectors of other participating countries.

## South Korea Plans Surinam Shrimping

Following the completion of six 120-foot shrimp trawlers now under construction in the United States, a South Korean fishing company will begin shrimping out of Paramaribo, Surinam, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Reportedly, Marubeni Corporation of Japan will market the catch after it is processed by a U.S.

firm based in Surinam.

The entry of South Korean shrimp-ing vessels into these waters is seen as a significant step. The Japanese cur-rently are reported to be operating 47 vessels out of Paramaribo.

#### Publications

## Recent NMFS Scientific Publications

NOAA Technical Report NMFS CIRC-381, Thorson, Lee C., and Mary Ellen Engett, "**Fishery publications, calendar year 1967: lists and indexes,**" July 1973, iv+22 p. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Wash-ington, DC 20402. Price: 35 cents.

#### ABSTRACT

The following series of fishery pub-lications of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (until October, 1970 the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) in calen-dar year 1967 are listed numerically (with abstracts) and indexed by author, subject, and geographic area: Circular, Data Report, Fishery Industrial Research, Fishery Leaflet, and Special Scientific Report—Fisheries.

NOAA Technical Report NMFS CIRC-382, Engett, Mary Ellen, and Lee C. Thorson, "**Fishery publications, calendar year 1966: lists and indexes,**" July 1973, iv+19 p. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washing-ton, DC 20402. Price: 35 cents.

#### ABSTRACT

The following series of fishery pub-lications of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (until October, 1970 the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) in calen-dar year 1966 are listed numerical-ly (with abstracts) and indexed by

author, subject, and geographic area: Circular, Data Report, Fish-ery Industrial Research, Fishery Leaflet, and Special Scientific Re-port—Fisheries.

NOAA Technical Report NMFS CIRC-383, Thorson, Lee C., and Mary Ellen Engett, "**Fishery publications, calendar year 1965: lists and indexes,**" July 1973, iv+12 p. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washing-ton, DC 20402. Price: 30 cents.

#### Monthly Fishery Market Review

## Groundfish Supplies Up, Blocks Down in May

### GROUND FISH FILLETS

Total supplies of major groundfish fillets (Tables 1-5) in May were well above a year ago as a result of higher May 1 inventories and heavier imports during the month. Although consump-tion during May was above the same month in 1972, it declined sharply from April. Consumption in May was off more than seasonally, given the adequacy of supplies this year and the fact that prices have declined some-what (Table 6).

There appears to be a growing ten-dency for the industry to hold greater quantities of supply in inventory this year. By the end of May, inventories of fillets were three times larger than last year. Among the major reasons for this new inventory strategy are the following:

1. Although fillet imports are more abundant this year (up 24 percent during January-May, compared with last year), the higher cost of imports stemming from dollar devaluation and strong demand may be more difficult to recoup under regulations of the Presi-dent's new economic policies. Some processors and dealers may have been holding higher-cost product awaiting relaxation of pricing guidelines.
2. In addition, a major impetus to-

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ward stockpiling of supplies could be related to *anticipated* higher costs and tightening sup-plies. There is increasing interest among major U.S. supplying na-tions in European markets as out-lets for supplies traditionally des-tined for the United States. With this attitude pervading the mar-kets, many U.S. processors may be trying to hedge against future supply difficulties and price com-petition with other foreign buyers by purchasing heavily now.

3. By the end of May, inventories of fillets in the United States were three times larger than last year, and sufficient to support at least one month's consumption without additional new supplies (i.e., imports). U.S. purchasers may be attempting to build inven-tories to a level at which they can exert more bargaining power in price negotiations with foreign suppliers. U.S. purchasers could be attempting to make themselves less subject to the dictates of a seller's market by increasing their stock-to-consumption ratios.

### BLOCKS, STICKS AND PORTIONS

The market picture for fish blocks in May was characterized by short