

FEDERAL LEGISLATION, DECISIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

Department of Agriculture

CANNED SALMON AND PILCHARD: WFO-44 has been used by the Government as a means of obtaining canned fish for delivery to various claimants in fulfillment of allocations and other commitments, the U. S. Department of Agriculture stated on October 30. Procurement of the set-aside quotas has been made by contracts with the Commodity Credit Corporation, an agency of the USDA, with a few exceptions where credit was granted for sales direct to claimants. Contracts have been executed this year by most canners and will remain in force unless cancelled as provided in the contracts.

The USDA has preferred that the various claimants purchase their allocated shares directly from packers or through regular commercial channels. As long as there were maximum sales prices established by the Office of Price Administration, the Department agreed to continue to handle the procurement when so requested by the claimants. Arrangements were made for this service by the British and Belgian Governments and by the U. S. Treasury Procurement Division for several U. S. governmental agencies. Arrangements also were made for credit to be applied for sales and deliveries to certain other agencies and commercial shipments of canned pilchards to the Philippines.

Since the Office of Price Administration has decontrolled canned fish, including canned salmon and canned pilchards, the only two items remaining under the quota provisions of WFO-44, it has been decided that procurement now shall be made direct by each claimant. Deliveries may continue to be made within the provisions of existing contracts between canners and CCC, but negotiations will not be made for new pricing or new contracts, except in emergencies.

In order to fulfill the original purpose of WFO-44 in assuring to each claimant its allocated share of the U. S. production, WFO-44 will remain in full effect. Canners are asked to lend every reasonable assistance to the claimants in obtaining their requirements.

In order that a canner may receive credit against his quota under WFO-44 for deliveries to the claimants listed below, it will be necessary for him to obtain written authorization from Robert W. Tyson, Administrator, WFO-44, Special Commodities Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. A written application for this authorization should set forth pertinent details, such as the name of claimant buyer (or country to which shipment will be made); quantity, and identification, such as contract number or export permit number or copy of sales document.

Canned Salmon

United Kingdom (British Government, not including Dominions,
Colonies and Protectorates)
Belgian Government (not including Colonies, etc.)
Panama Railroad
U. S. Army
U. S. Veterans' Administration
U. S. Maritime Commission

Canned Pilchards

United Kingdom (British Government, not including Dominions,
Colonies and Protectorates)

Panama Railroad

U. S. Veterans' Administration

Philippines

Credit will be granted whether sales and deliveries are to Government agencies or through commercial channels to a claimant on the above list.

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FATS AND OILS: The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced on October 21 that its order WFO-42, restricting the use of fats and oils, was terminated as of that date.

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FISH IMPORT LICENSES: The Department of Agriculture reported on September 27 that it is now prepared to issue licenses under WFO-63, for the importation of Norwegian sardines and Norwegian kippered herring to importers having an historical record of imports and to new importers, including veterans, who do not have historical records of imports.

At present, there is an approved international allocation recommendation under which the United States is to receive 17,370,000 pounds of the 1946-47 Norwegian pack. The allocation consists of approximately 3,200,000 pounds of brisling sardines, 8,610,000 pounds of sild sardines, and 5,560,000 pounds of kippered herring (including kippered snacks). The total allocation is about 55 percent of the average of such United States imports from Norway for the 5 years preceding the war. Under the new regulations, import licenses will be available to both war veterans and non-war veterans, as well as qualified prewar importers.

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FOOD ORDERS REVOKED BY USDA: The U. S. Department of Agriculture announced on October 25 the revocation of 16 War Food orders put into effect during the war to help meet special emergency food problems and requirements.

The action taken by the Department is in line with President Truman's announced policy of accelerated decontrol of prices, and accompanying general relaxation of wartime government regulations and restrictions. The 16 orders covered a broad range of commodities and functions.

The following fishery orders are revoked, effective October 25, 1946:

- WFO-52 - Delegation of authority to the Secretary of Interior with respect to fish production and processing.
- WFO-58 - Delegation of authority to OPA with respect to rationing of processed foods (not including sugar).
- WFO-59 - Delegation of authority to OPA with respect to rationing of fats, oils, and cheese.
- WFO-72 - Distribution in the United States of imported fish.
- WFO-84 - Policies and regulations governing requisitioning and disposal of food.
- WFO-111 - Limitations on refrigerated food storage facilities.

Civilian Production Administration

MANILA ROPE: Manufacturers may now make manila rope for any use in diameters as small as five-eighths of an inch (2 inches in circumference), the Civilian Production Administration said on October 3. Hitherto the size limit permitted by M-84, the cordage order, has been $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, except for a few specified types of manila rope used in fishing, shipping, and oil-well drilling.

This amendment to M-84 is made to permit increased production of manila rope during the fourth quarter, CPA said.

During the last 3 months of the year, it is expected that receipts of manila fiber will be about 27 million pounds, while receipts of sisal will amount to only about 5 million pounds. The supply of sisal will thus be unusually short.

Since much of the sisal supply will be needed for binder and baler twine, CPA is decreasing the sisal allocation for rope to permit production of only 9 million pounds of sisal rope as compared to 18 million in the third quarter. Conversely, the manila quota for rope is being increased to allow production of 24 million pounds of rope as compared to 15 million pounds in the last quarter.

This shift will not affect the total amount of rope which can be made, however, for the fourth quarter quota of 33 million pounds of sisal and manila rope is the same as for the preceding 3 months.

All manila and agave fiber (the over-all term which includes sisal, henequen, cantala, and maguey fibers) imported into the United States is now purchased abroad by the Federal Government and allocated to manufacturers for making cordage products most needed by the national economy. Under Order M-84, processors may use these fibers only in the production of rope, binder and baler twine, and five other kinds of essential twines.

The hard cordage fiber outlook for the rest of the year continues to be very bad. In the case of manila, estimated supplies of 14 million pounds on hand on October 1 are lower than was expected because of shipping difficulties. Reports from the Philippines indicate that a backlog of shipping has accumulated, however, so that an estimated 27 million pounds of manila are expected from the Islands during the quarter. An additional 3.5 million pounds are expected from Central America.

From this supply of 44.5 million pounds will be taken 22,440,000 pounds for the rope quota, 700,000 pounds for the Navy, 2.6 million pounds for export under license from the Office of International Trade, and a small reserve for hardship. An additional 2.5 million pounds will be traded to Canada for 3,750,000 pounds of sisal. Thus at the end of the year, estimated inventory will be only about 16 million pounds.

Provision is made for manila exports through OIT because the United States Government has contracted for the entire exportable supply of manila fiber in the Philippines. The Government recognizes the responsibility for allocating at least a part of this fiber to other countries which normally import it.

The supplies of manila are about half enough to meet the full requirements of the United States economy. Among all the textile products, only cotton broad woven goods are as critically short as the hard cordage fibers.

Office of Price Administration

CANNED HERRING: Retail ceiling price increases of 4 cents a can of Atlantic sea herring and alewives to become effective in the near future, were announced on October 7 by the Office of Price Administration when issuing Amdt. 3 to MPR-396, effective October 12.

New retail ceilings will reflect increases to canners of \$1.20 a case of 48 15-ounce cans of Atlantic sea herring and alewives. Wholesalers and retailers will not pass on new ceilings to purchasers until the first shipment carrying new rates is received from their sellers.

This action is being taken, OPA said, as part of the previous action taken on Maine sardines and will restore the price relationship existing between these species and canned Maine sardines. Canners of Maine sardines were granted an increase of \$1.20 a case of 100 quarter-pound cans, or 48 three-quarter-pound cans, on August 28.

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CANNED SALMON: Waiver of the usual requirement that processors of canned salmon notify wholesalers and retailers of changes in ceiling prices was announced on October 16 by the Office of Price Administration when issuing Amdt. 37 to MPR-421; Amdt. 80 to MPR-422; Amdt. 76 to MPR-423.

When announcement was made of the August 30, 1946, increases of 12½ percent in processors' ceilings, most of the pack was already put up in wooden containers ready for shipment. Thus, processors would not be able to insert notifications of change in ceilings in the packing cases without undue hardship and delay in getting shipments to distributors. The action, effective October 16, 1946, permits wholesalers and retailers to refigure their ceilings to reflect both the June 28, 1946, and the August 30, 1946, increases in processors' ceilings when they receive first shipments at the new prices after October 16, 1946.

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CANNED SARDINES, OIL, MEAL, AND SCRAP: Increases in retail and canner ceiling prices for canned California sardines and in processor ceilings for Pacific Coast sardine oil, and meal and scrap from all species of fish were announced on October 9 by the Office of Price Administration. The action was taken in Amdt. 1 to MPR-209, effective October 9, and Amdt. 74 to MPR-53 and Amdt. 11 to RPS-73, effective October 7.

Retail ceilings for a 15-ounce can of California sardines are being raised by about 1½ cents.

New processor increases on sardine oil, and fish meal and scrap of all species amount to 1½ cents a pound for the oil and \$7 a ton for the meal and scrap, effective as of October 7, 1946.

Wholesale ceilings for canners of Pacific Coast pilchards (which are known as California sardines in the canned state) are being raised by 14 percent, also effective October 9, 1946. Retailers and other distributors will take the new ceilings upon receipt of first shipment at the new rates.

The action is being taken because an OPA cost survey showed that sardine canners and oil reduction plant operators--who also manufacture fish meal and scrap--have been absorbing a 36 percent increase in raw fish costs, in addition to recent labor and material increases.

OPA said increases were granted after consultation with the Department of Agriculture.

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DECONTROLS: The Office of Price Administration, on September 30, announced a detailed list of the food, feed, and other agricultural products which will continue under price ceilings as of October 1, in accordance with the Secretary of Agriculture's monthly certification of agricultural commodities in short supply.

Price controls automatically lapse on any agricultural commodity which is not certified to be in short supply.

Chief changes in the OPA list result from Agriculture's deletion of the following commodities from its short supply certification:

- Fresh and frozen salmon
- Oat cereals
- Canned corn
- All domestic canned fruits and juices
- Wet and pressed sugar beet pulp
- Rum, cordials, liquers and alcoholic specialties

These items were removed from price controls with Agriculture's certification that they were no longer in short supply.

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DECONTROLS: Removal from price control of all foods and beverages except sugar and sugar solutions (including syrup and molasses), corn sugar and corn syrup and rough and milled rice was announced on October 23 by the Office of Price Administration.

At the same time, price controls were lifted from all sales of food and beverages by restaurants and other sellers.

This action, effective October 24, completes the removal of price control on all raw and processed foods, both domestic and imported.

Principal food products affected by the decontrol action are:

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|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Flour | Canned fish | Canned tomatoes | Breakfast cereals |
| Bread | Candy | Tomato products | Macaroni |
| Bakery products | Bananas | Canned pineapple | Spaghetti |
| | Oranges | Pineapple juice | |

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FATS AND OILS: All fats and oils, both edible and inedible, were no longer under price control on October 29, 1946, when the Office of Price Administration decontrolled the inedible oils that had been retained under ceiling until then.

The fats and oils decontrolled on October 29 in Amdt. 72 to SO-132, included linseed oil, coconut oil, fish oils, inedible tallow and grease, and a number of lesser known items.

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FISH MEAL AND SCRAP: Removal from price control of all byproduct-feeds and mixed feeds, edible oils and edible oil products, soybeans and flaxseed, effective October 17, 1946, was announced on October 16 by the Office of Price Administration when issuing Amdt. 66 to SO-132.

All byproduct-feeds and mixed feeds for animals, including all fish meal and scrap, have been removed from control because of the end of livestock controls. OPA explained that otherwise sharp livestock price increases, which have followed the lifting of livestock controls, would have caused protein feeds to be fed inefficiently and wastefully because of the favorable feeding ratio that would have existed. Removal of controls on these byproduct-feeds and mixed feeds will permit the proper price relationship and proper feeding to be maintained.

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ICE: Natural and manufactured ice have been removed from price control effective October 29, the Office of Price Administration announced when issuing Amdt. 112 to RSR No. 1, GMPR-154. The decontrol action applies also to icing services, including car icing.

OPA explained that, because of the wide variance in demand for ice, the supply-demand situation had to be considered on a seasonal basis as well as from the standpoint of annual production. The normal surplus of production capacity, which totals about 95 million tons annually, over sales demand on an annual basis is about 60 percent. Moreover, considered on a monthly basis, the supply of ice now exceeds demand, and the excess will continue at least through June 1947.

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SALT FISH: Increases ranging from 2 to 4 cents a pound in retail ceiling prices for salt codfish and salt haddock, hake, cusk, and pollock were announced on October 7 by the Office of Price Administration, when issuing Amdt. 1 to RMPR-384, effective October 12, 1946.

Retail ceilings on salted haddock, hake, cusk, and pollock will go up an average of 2 cents a pound, and retail ceilings on choice and fancy codfish strips will be 3 and 4 cents a pound more. New retail ceilings for a 1-pound wood box of fancy codfish will be about 4 cents higher, when cost of the container is included.

These commodities are processed from fish imported from Canada and Newfoundland.

The announced retail ceilings will reflect increases in processor ceiling prices, to return at least total cost on these items to the industry. The increase in processor ceilings is necessary on account of higher costs resulting mainly from revision of the Canadian exchange rate.

Recent revision of the exchange rate has placed the Canadian dollar on a par with the American dollar. Dollar-and-cent maximum prices set on these salt fish

in May 1943 were revised in September of that year to reflect changes in prices set in Canadian funds by the Combined Food Board for export of these commodities from Canada and Newfoundland. At that time, the difference in exchange rates between Canada and the United States was taken into account.

Retailers and wholesalers will add increases upon receipt of the first shipment from their sellers bearing the increased ceiling prices granted to processors.

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SPERM OIL: Removal from price control of sperm oil was announced on October 24 by the Office of Price Administration, as it issued Amdt. 67 to Supplementary Order 132.

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PRICE RECORDS: All producers, processors, and other distributors of any commodity currently under price controls are required, effective 12:01 a.m., October 24, 1946, to retain for a year after date of decontrol of each commodity, all records, reports, and other documents that they were required to keep or to make, up to the time of decontrol, the Office of Price Administration announced on October 23, when issuing SO-189.

Announcement of decontrol of most foods was made. This action applies to them as well, OPA said.

This action supplements a similar announcement made by OPA on October 15, requiring processors and distributors of livestock, meat, and food and feed products made from them, to retain their records until July 1, 1947.



FISHERY MARKET DEVELOPMENT OFFICES

| <u>Location</u> | <u>In Charge</u> | <u>Telephone</u> |
|---|---|------------------|
| Boston 10, Mass. Rm. 710 Appraisers Stores Bldg., 408 Atlantic Ave. | Francis Randlett, Fishery Marketing Specialist | LIberty 0168 |
| Ketchikan, Alaska, P. O. Box 647. | N. B. Wigutoff, Fishery Economist | 540 |
| College Park, Md., P. O. Box 128. | Sarah P. Weems, Home Economist. | WARfield 5800 |