

OTHER FISHERY NOTES

Reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Service

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug, on May 31, announced a major reorganization of the Fish and Wildlife Service designed to bring about a more efficient functioning of this agency and to improve its services to the public.

The Fish and Wildlife Service was created in 1940 by President Roosevelt's reorganization plan, which consolidated the former Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries. Because the functions of the new agency have grown far beyond those of the parent organizations, it has become necessary to effect a re-alignment of its subdivisions.

The functions of the reorganized agency will be concentrated in four branches, instead of being scattered among twelve. These will be concerned with administration, research, commercial fisheries, and management of fish and game resources.

One of the most far reaching effects of the reorganization will be to give increased importance to activities related to the commercial fishery industries. This branch will include the former Divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Alaska Fisheries and will rank as one of the four major subdivisions of the Service.

All scientific studies of fish, birds, and mammals will be consolidated under a single head, who will administer the formerly independent divisions relating to fishery biology and wildlife research.

Under management, will be included such diversified functions as Federal aid in wildlife restoration, control of predatory animals and rodents, administration of wildlife refuges, game management, game fish management and hatchery operation, and acquisition of lands.

The Branch of Administration will include all activities relating to budget, finance, and personnel.



DDT

A warning that care must be taken in applying DDT to field and forest areas if wildlife is not to be endangered is contained in a report published May 18 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Damage to various kinds of animal life--especially to commercially valuable resources such as fish and crabs--is likely to be widespread and severe unless the spraying of the insecticide is restricted to the lowest concentrations useful in insect control, according to the Service's report.

The publication summarizes results of preliminary field investigations carried on chiefly in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and on a smaller scale in ten other States and Canada, by scientists of the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with other State, Federal, and private agencies. The report was prepared as a guide to entomologists, control operators, and the general public now using DDT for insect control. It will be followed by a more detailed publication when additional studies, now under way, are completed.

Pronounced mortality among wildlife resulted from the use of high concentrations of DDT--more than two pounds per acre--but mortality was slight in most instances where lower concentrations were used, the experiments showed.

Fishes, crabs, and frogs, in general, appear to be more seriously affected by DDT than are birds and mammals. However, the observations now reported are based, in most instances, on a single application of the spray. The effect on wildlife of repeated applications, required for the control of mosquitoes and some field and orchard insects is not yet known.



Fish, in general, are highly susceptible to DDT, but some species appear to be harmed more easily than others. In a section of the Patuxent River in Maryland that was experimentally sprayed, dead fish drifted into a net stretched across the stream at the lower end of the sprayed section for four days after the spraying, although the heaviest mortality took place during the first 48 hours.

In a pond treated with DDT, at the rate of 1 pound per acre, 80 percent of the bluegill sunfish were killed, 90 percent of the red-bellied sunfish, and 78 percent of the yellow perch. In one pond, an application of only one-tenth pound per acre resulted in the loss of 43 percent of the fishes present.

Direct application of DDT to streams, lakes, and coastal bays should be avoided as far as possible, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Not only are fish endangered by the insecticide, but heavy losses among crabs and other aquatic animals are likely to result.

In one spraying of the shores and shallow water along the southern end of Island Beach, N. J., 150 dead or dying crabs were found in a 200-yard stretch of the sprayed area ten days after the application of DDT, although the concentration used was only one-half pound per acre.

The greatest damage to wildlife as a result of use of DDT is likely to occur in agricultural areas, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service report. "About 80 percent of our game birds, as well as a very high percentage of our non-game and insectivorous birds, and mammals are largely dependent upon an agricultural environment. In such places, application of DDT will probably be heavy and widespread. A well coordinated study of the application of DDT to agricultural crops will minimize such damage."

In order to reduce damage to wildlife to a minimum, the Fish and Wildlife Service stresses the following recommendations:

"Use DDT for the control of an insect pest only after weighing the value of such control against the harm that will be done to beneficial forms of life. Wherever more than a small area is involved, consult county agricultural agents, State or Federal entomologists, wildlife and fishery biologists, and United States Public Health Service officials.

"Use one-fifth pound or less of DDT per acre in an oil solution to avoid damage to fishes, crabs, or crayfishes; use less than 2 pounds per acre to avoid damage to birds, amphibians, and mammals in forest areas. Because of its greater effectiveness, use smaller quantities of DDT in emulsions.

"In the control of early appearing insect pests, apply DDT, if possible, just before the emergence of leaves and the main spring migration of birds; for late appearing pests, delay applications whenever practicable, past the nesting period of birds. Adjust crop applications and mosquito-control applications so far as possible to avoid the nesting period.

"Wherever DDT is used, make careful before-and-after observations of mammals, birds, fishes, and other wildlife."

A copy of the new publication, Circular No. 11, "DDT: Its Effects on Fish and Wildlife," can be obtained for 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The circular is not for sale by the Fish and Wildlife Service.



Pacific Pilchards

A hearing on a proposed allocation program for Pacific Coast pilchards during the 1946-47 season will be held on June 12 at San Francisco, California, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported on May 28.

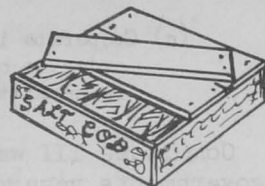
Members of the fishing industry and interested Government and State agencies were being given an opportunity at the hearing to present their views as to the necessity for allocation of the pilchard catch and as to the character of the program if adopted.

Allocation of pilchards was first undertaken by the Interior Department in 1943, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and continued in 1944 and 1945. At the close of the fishing season in March 1946, it was believed that allocation would no longer be necessary.

The Service stated that the Department of Agriculture recently re-issued War Food Order Number 44, requiring producers of principal varieties of canned fish to deliver a stated proportion of their pack to Government agencies. Under this order, 45 percent of the 1946-47 pilchard production will be purchased by the Federal Government. At the same time, the Department of Agriculture requested the Department of the Interior to take whatever action was necessary to achieve the maximum production of canned pilchards and recommended that, if this could be done in no other way, a pilchard order be issued similar to that in force last year.

Special Meeting of FAO

The Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems called by FAO met in Washington on May 20 and adjourned May 27. From an appraisal of the world food situation prepared for the meeting, it was clear that a critical food shortage would continue at least until crops were harvested in 1947, even assuming average or somewhat better than average weather for the rest of 1946 and 1947. The appraisal of the fisheries situation indicated that fish production in the European area in 1946-47 would be substantially greater than in 1945-46. It was stated 400 million pounds or more of pickled herring would be available for export from Norway, Iceland, United Kingdom, Holland, Newfoundland, and Canada. Over 300 million pounds (dry basis), or about double the 1945 production of salted cod would be available for export from the 1946 catch. Supplies of canned fish for 1946-47 would not be greatly different from 1945-46. It was not expected Japan would have any fish supplies available for export in 1946-47.



The Special Meeting appointed three committees at the first session and accepted their reports at the final session.

Committee I was asked:

- (a) To consider the implications of the appraisal of the world food picture;
- (b) To consider means whereby FAO could keep the situation under continuous review.

This Committee reported approval of the conclusions reached in the appraisal of the world food situation, and recommended that an international food, agriculture, and fisheries research and information service be immediately created by FAO and that it publish its first appraisal of the world food situation between September 1 and 15, 1946, and subsequent appraisals quarterly thereafter.

Committee II was asked to consider:

- (a) Measures that could be taken to husband food available from the 1946 and 1947 harvests and insure its use to the best advantage;
- (b) Measures to insure the maximum output from the 1947 harvest in all countries.

The Committee reported a number of recommendations with respect to various commodities. With respect to fish, it recommended that, because of available supplies of fish indicated in Europe and the wide problems of long term prospects in the industry:

- (a) The Emergency Economic Committee for Europe be asked to continue its work concerning fisheries throughout 1946-47;
- (b) That FAO be asked to undertake a study of the long term fisheries problems including impediments to international trade in fish and its products, the dangers of over-fishing, and the possibilities of over-investment in fishing fleets and fish processing facilities.

With respect to fats, it recommended that, in order to increase supplies of marine oils during the period of the emergency, the governments signatory to the International Whaling Agreement should:

- (a) Insure a rapid increase in the number of factory ships and other equipment;
- (b) Seriously consider modifying said Agreement in ways which will facilitate more abundant catches;
- (c) Cooperate in the provision of technical personnel and equipment in order to obtain the maximum increase, in all waters where whaling is permitted.

Committee III was asked to consider the desirability of making recommendations to governments regarding a four- or five-year plan designed to carry the world through the present crisis and to assist in effecting a smooth transition from emergency measures to a permanent world food policy.



Committee III considered the existing temporary machinery in the field of food and agriculture with a view to making recommendations on any extension, modification, and coordination needed. In particular, the Committee directed its attention mainly to the emergency machinery for allocation of foodstuffs in short supply, and recommended the establishment of an International Emergency Food Council to replace the Combined Food Board.

The recommended functions of the Council were as follows:

- (a) To consider, investigate, inquire into, and formulate plans with regard to any question in respect to which the member governments have, or may have, a common concern, relating to the supply and distribution, in or to any part of the world, of foods, agricultural materials from which foods are derived, and equipment and nonfood materials ancillary to the production of such foods and agricultural materials, and to make recommendations to the member governments in respect of any such question. In particular, as regards recommendations for the international distribution of food, feeding stuffs and fertilizers in short supply, it shall be the object of the Council to put forward recommendations with respect to which international differences have been reconciled to the maximum degree possible.
- (b) To work in collaboration with others of the United Nations (and with other international bodies) toward the best utilization of their food resources, and, in collaboration with the interested nation or nations, to formulate plans and recommendations for the most effective use of their food resources during the present emergency.

The Committee also recommended that the Council continue for the duration of the shortage of basic foodstuffs, and in the first instance to December 31, 1947, subject to certain considerations. It recommended further that the Council should establish Commodity Committees with responsibility for preparing recommendations regarding procurement, international distribution, and short term adjustments in production. It recommended also that the Council should maintain the closest cooperation with FAO and be closely associated with UNRRA.

The Committee agreed that the future of UNRRA was a matter for the Council of that body to decide, but recognized the importance to FAO of certain aspects of UNRRA's work and recommended that close collaboration be maintained by those two organizations. The Committee recognized the need for providing for longer term machinery, but decided that it was beyond the competence of the Special Meeting on Urgent Food Problems to consider in detail any plan for such an organization. The Committee took note of the fact that the Director-General of FAO is examining the need for establishment of a longer term organization and requested him to present his findings both to the next Conference of FAO and to the United Nations.



Industrial Reference Reports

The Department of Commerce is issuing a series of International Reference Service reports, published in parts, each covering conditions of business in foreign countries.

Individual copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25; D. C. Annual subscriptions to the Service are also available at \$2.00 per year.

Among recent releases are the following:

- Vol. 2, No. 36 - Canada
- Vol. 2, No. 37 - Chile
- Vol. 2, No. 40 - Economic Situation in Argentina, 1944
- Vol. 2, No. 44 - Economic Conditions in Peru, 1944
- Vol. 2, No. 45 - Peru
- Vol. 2, No. 46 - Dominican Republic, 1944
- Vol. 3, No. 1 - Living and Office Operating Costs in Guatemala
- Vol. 3, No. 4 - Chile-Economic Conditions in 1944
- Vol. 3, No. 9 - Establishing a Business in Venezuela
- Vol. 3, No. 11 - Bolivia
- Vol. 3, No. 13 - Haiti



Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

Purchases of fishery products by the U. S. Department of Agriculture during March amounted to \$245,042, a decline of \$64,344 as compared with February. Purchases for the period January 1 to March 31 amounted to \$3,792,781.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	March 1946		January-March 1946	
		Quantity	F.O.B. Cost	Quantity	F.O.B. Cost
FISH AND SHELLFISH					
			<u>Dollars</u>		<u>Dollars</u>
Mackerel, canned	Cases	-	-	4,662	22,728
Pilchards,	" "	25,489	97,647	165,709	614,702
Salmon,	" "	7,376	67,985	277,034	3,029,414
Sardines,	" "	6,000	26,910	15,929	73,437
Fish, ground	" "	12,500	52,500	12,500	52,500
Grand Total		51,365	245,042	475,834	3,792,781



Wholesale and Retail Prices

Both wholesale and retail prices for all foods displayed a small increase from mid-January to mid-February, according to reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. The average retail prices for fresh and canned fish dropped 0.2 percent and those for fresh and frozen fish dropped 0.3 percent during the period, but both showed fair increases over prices at mid-February 1945. Pink salmon prices rose 0.4 percent above January 15 prices, while red salmon prices decreased 0.7 percent during the period.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from		
		Feb. 16, 1946	Jan. 19, 1946	Feb. 17, 1945
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)				
All commodities	Index No.	107.2	+0.5	+2.1
Foods	do	108.0	+0.7	+3.1
Fish:				
Canned salmon, Seattle:		<u>Feb. 1946</u>	<u>Jan. 1946</u>	<u>Feb. 1945</u>
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per dozen cans	1.970	0	0
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	3.694	0	0
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 pounds	13.50	0	0
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.0	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.0	0	0
Retail: (1935-39 = 100)				
All foods	Index No.	139.6	-1.0	+2.3
Fish:				
Fresh and canned	do	226.9	-0.2	+5.4
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	38.1	-0.3	+6.1
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	24.8	+0.4	+0.7
Red	do	42.9	-0.7	+5.9

