

## OTHER FISHERY NOTES

### Army Food Program

In view of the excellent progress made during the war in fishery technological studies carried on cooperatively between the Quartermaster Corps of the Army and the Fish and Wildlife Service in Chicago, arrangements have been made for a continuation of this research. At the request of the Director of the Army's Food and Container Institute, the Fish and Wildlife Service has appointed a liaison officer to correlate the work of its laboratories with that of the Institute. Mr. J. F. Puncochar, as liaison officer, will serve in the over-all Army program by assisting and generally supervising the projects in which the Army is interested, and which are to be carried out in Service laboratories. The Army's courses in fish cookery will continue as in the past.



### Book Review

NORTH AMERICAN GAME FISHES. By Francesca LaMonte, Doubleday & Company, Garden City, N. Y., 1946. \$3.00.

The first thing noted about this pocket size book on game fishes by the assistant curator of fishes at the American Museum of Natural History, is the large number of fine illustrations in color. The book is also well supplied with black and white illustrations to supplement descriptive text.

Miss LaMonte has tried to keep the book as near non-technical as possible so that the average fisherman may be able to identify his catch easily, whether it be from salt, brackish, or fresh water. A few non-game fish are included. Fishes taken in both salt and fresh or brackish waters are included generally with fresh-water fishes. It was the reviewer's reaction that it would have aided the angler if these species had been grouped separately or cross referenced in the two sections.

In general, the book is attractive and should be included in the field or home library of anyone who likes to fish for fun.



### Canadian to Head Fish Division of FAO

The appointment of Dr. D. B. Finn of Canada as Director of the Fisheries Division of FAO was announced on June 18 by Sir John Boyd Orr, Director-General. Dr. Finn will resign the post of Deputy Minister of Canada's Department of Fisheries, which he has held since 1940, to accept the new position.

As head of the Fisheries Division, Dr. Finn will undertake the pioneering task of building up and operating the first intergovernmental fisheries organization with anything like as wide a scope in functions and membership. Forty-two nations are now members of FAO. The Fisheries Division will be concerned with both the consumption and production of fish on a world scale. Its aim will be to expand markets, improve the economic condition of producers, and serve the industry in a technical advisory capacity.

The first undertaking will be to survey world production and consumption as the basis for recommendations to be made at the next FAO conference, which will be held in Copenhagen on September 2.

Dr. Finn has an international reputation in his field. Before becoming Deputy Minister of Fisheries in Canada, he was chairman of Canada's Salt Fish Board, an organization directed toward the administration of government assistance to the depressed salt fish industry. Earlier, he reorganized and erected the Fisheries Experimental Station in Halifax, Nova Scotia, established the Fisheries Experimental Station in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, and carried on research in Canada and England on quick-freezing systems and the effects of low temperatures on fish muscle protein.



## Oklahoma Fisheries

Commercial fisheries bringing over one million dollars a year to the fishermen of Oklahoma are described in an article in the June 1946 issue of Oklahoma Fish and Game, published by the State's Game and Fish Commission.

According to the article, fishing centers in Grand Lake in northeastern Oklahoma, in the Washita River, and in the Red River on the south border of the State. Carp, drum, buffalofish, and catfish are the main items handled.

State regulations require:

- (1) No netting or seining in April and May;
- (2) Meshes of seines and nets must be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, or larger;
- (3) Only non-game fish may be taken in nets or seines;
- (4) A certified, salaried officer must be present when the seines or nets are run;
- (5) Commercial fishermen must pay a license fee of \$25 annually to the State Game and Fish Commission;
- (6) No fish taken in seines or nets may be transported, shipped, or sold outside of the State.

The article describes the operations of one fishing concern which catches as much as 3,000 pounds a day in 60 fyke nets.



## Plastic Twine for Lobster Pots

Aside from the fact that frequent storms may put the lobster fishermen out of business by destroying their pots, they have to contend with salt water rot which attacks the wood, twine, and rope that make up their equipment, writes a Service bacteriologist of the Fishery Technological Laboratory at Boston. Since the average lobster fisherman handles from 100 to 150 lobster pots, maintenance becomes a major problem when repairs have to be made several times during the fishing season.



The lobster pots are fitted with funnel shaped openings or "heads" to allow the lobsters to crawl into the trap. These are composed of twine netting or woven rope. The frame of the trap is covered with netting to form a compartment to hold the lobster when he has finished feeding on the bait. Previous to the introduction of plastic twine, lobster pot heads were made with twine or rope of vegetable fibers, and fungi, bacteria, and other marine life caused rapid deterioration of these materials.

In order to solve the problem of deterioration of netting and rope in lobster traps heads, experiments with plastic were undertaken by a commercial fisherman of Marblehead, Mass. Results of tests made indicate that for this use plastic twines will outlast any of the other twines being made.

It has been reported that these new plastic twines are easily woven and that elimination of replacement work during the season will result in a considerable saving in time and money. Several thousand lobster pots set out this spring have been equipped with plastic heads, and by the end of the fishing season it should be definitely known how well the new twine performs under full-scale commercial conditions.



## Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

April 1946 purchases of fishery products by the U. S. Department of Agriculture totaled \$35,854, a decrease of \$209,188 in value compared with March. Purchases for the period January 1 to April 30 amounted to \$3,828,635.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	April 1946		January-April 1946	
		Quantity	F.O.B. Cost	Quantity	F.O.B. Cost
<b>FISH AND SHELLFISH</b>			<u>Dollars</u>		<u>Dollars</u>
Mackerel, canned	Cases	2,400	11,700	7,062	34,428
Pilchards, "	"	5,498	24,154	171,207	638,856
Salmon, "	"	-	-	277,034	3,029,414
Sardines, "	"	-	-	15,929	73,437
Grand Total .....		7,898	35,854	483,732	3,828,635



## Wholesale and Retail Prices

Both wholesale and retail prices for all foods showed small increases from mid-February to mid-March, according to reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. Average retail prices for fresh and canned and fresh and frozen fish displayed a rise of 0.4 and 0.3 percent, respectively, during the period and showed fair increases over March 1945. The average retail price for red and pink salmon also rose slightly during the period.

### Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from		
		Mar. 16, 1946	Feb. 16, 1946	Mar. 17, 1945
<u>Wholesale: (1926 = 100)</u>				
All commodities	Index No.	108.4	+1.1	+3.1
Foods	do	109.5	+1.4	+4.7
<u>Fish:</u>				
<u>March 1946</u>				
Canned salmon, Seattle:			Feb. 1946	March 1945
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. 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	12.00	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.00	0	0
<u>Retail: (1935-39 = 100)</u>				
All foods	Index No.	140.1	+0.4	+3.1
<u>Fish:</u>				
Fresh and canned	do	227.7	+0.4	+6.2
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	38.2	+0.3	+6.9
<u>Canned salmon:</u>				
Pink	¢ per pound can	24.9	+0.5	+1.3
Red	do	43.3	+0.9	+7.4



SEAWEEEDS, which before World War II were very under-exploited, constitute one of our most valuable marine resources, reproducing themselves without artificial cultivation or fertilization, and supplying materials available from no other source.

--Senate Document No. 51