OTHER FISHERY NOTES

Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior, 1946

This report highlights some of the problems of natural resources management and development which face the United States. Some of these problems require immediate action; others must be met in the next few years; still others are of long-range significance both to the National economy and to the National security. All of them are responsibilities of the Department of the Interior.

This report is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for $1.00.

Annual Report of the Fish and Wildlife Service, 1946

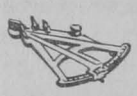
The annual report of Director Albert M. Day, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, to the Secretary of the Interior, J. A. Krug, was released on January 10. Part of the report dealt with the commercial fisheries.

Haddock and rosefish, mainstays of the New England fisheries and of the fresh fish markets throughout much of the country, are both becoming scarcer, biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service believe. Mr. Day reported that, on Georges Bank where the present haddock fishery is centered, a series of poor spawning seasons had affected the productiveness of this fishery. This failure of adequate numbers of young haddock to grow up is due, biologists believe, to lack of food. The ocean bottom in this area probably is not producing enough food for the present population of haddock.

As for rosefish, although the total catch is larger than ever, the individual boats are making smaller catches per day. Biologists cite another warning of decline; the landings are made up of much smaller fish than formerly. Rosefish grow only half an inch a year and take 10 or 12 years to reach maturity. Thus, the fishery is easily injured by too intensive fishing.

Service technologists are finding new ways of promoting more efficient handling and utilization of the products of the commercial fisheries, Mr. Day said. Among recent studies he cited tests which revealed DDT as an extremely efficient insecticide in and around fish processing plants; the testing of containers and wrappings suitable for air transportation of live lobsters, shellfish, and fresh fish; and studies on the sources of vitamin A oils.

Research chemists of the Service found that the quantity and quality of vitamin A oil contained in the livers of the dogfish shark, depend on the size and age of the fish. Processing of livers from dogfish less than 30 inches long was found to be uneconomical and wasteful. These findings have been adopted by shark fishermen, who now concentrate on the larger dogfish.



Additions to the Fleet of U.S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 64 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft during January 1947, compared with 42 in the same month of 1946, according to information released by the Bureau of Customs. The South Atlantic and Gulf States led with 25 vessels documented during the month, followed by the Pacific Coast States with 15 vessels.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	January		Twelve Months
	1947	1946	1946
	Number	Number	Number
New England	3	3	86
Middle Atlantic	5	2	74
Chesapeake Bay	6	1	71
South Atlantic and Gulf	25	17	351
Pacific Coast	15	12	375
Great Lakes	6	5	76
Alaska	-	-	19
Hawaii	3	-	17
Unknown	1	2	16
Total	64	42	1,085

Note: Vessels documented by the Bureau of the Customs are craft of 5 net tons and over.

Army Fish Purchases

Purchases by the Army's Quartermaster Corps' twelve market centers during January totaled 1,127,192 pounds. Expectations now are for purchases to continue at about 1 million pounds per month, due primarily to the fact that more soldiers are eating in garrison messes than has heretofore been the case.

Purchases during January 1946 amounted to 4,442,020 pounds. The number of men in the Army at that time was much greater than during January 1947.

Fisheries of the Philippines

"Fisheries of the Philippines," a digest of reports submitted by G. L. Kesteven, Fisheries Expert, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, has been published by the Industrial Reference Service, U. S. Department of Commerce.

A copy of the report can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., or any field office of the Department of Commerce. The price is 5 cents.

FAO Fisheries Division

The Food and Agriculture Organization forwarded to Member governments on February 5 a Progress Report and Summary of 1947 Program. That portion relating to the Fisheries Division which is directed by Dr. Finn follows:

"In accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Advisory Committee on Fisheries, which held its first meeting at Bergen in August 1946, and of the second session of the Conference, the work of the Division, which is responsible for all FAO activities relating to fish and fisheries, will be divided amongst three branches: Fishery Economics, Fishery Biology, and Fishery Technology.

"Fishery Economics Branch will be concerned with the equilibrium of production, distribution, and consumption of fish and with economic efficiency within the limits of fishery activities. The economic relationship of fish with food in general is a responsibility of the Economics Division. The work of the branch will initially be divided into three parts:

"(a) Statistics, including the development of common conversion factors and of methodology in the less advanced countries, as well as the collection and collation (in collaboration with Statistics Division) of statistical material in its present form;

"(b) Production and consumption studies, undertaken in cooperation with governments;

"(c) International trade, including studies in the significance of fishery products in international trade and the effect of limiting factors.

"The work of Fishery Biology Branch will be divided into (a) marine biology and (b) fresh water biology, and will ultimately cover fish cultural methods, hydrography, oceanography, and meteorology.

"Fishery Technology Branch will initially include the following subdivisions:

"(a) Fishing methods;

"(b) Fish processing;

"(c) Fishery by-products;

"(d) Fishery engineering, including the application of engineering science both to the catching, processing, transport, storage and distribution of fish and to river and lake management.

The branch will no doubt be called on to provide governments with technical advice, either through the services of its own staff or through arranging for the loan of experts by one government to another. This will be facilitated by compilation of a world directory of fishery experts.

"The work of the Division in assembling recorded knowledge, assisting in its dissemination, determining the gaps in existing knowledge, stimulating measures to fill the gaps and making recommendations for action will depend for its success on liaison with government departments and other national and international organizations. Full advantage will be taken of facilities provided by national FAO committees and regional offices.

"Steps have already been taken to develop cooperation. Mr. P. D. H. Dunn, Fisheries Secretary for England and Wales, who has been closely associated with the work of FAO since its inception, has been appointed as advisor to the Fisheries Subcommittee of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe. The Director of the Division was present at a meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea held at Stockholm in August 1946 and made arrangements with the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Council for coordination of its work with that of FAO. The Director also attended at Bergen in September an international meeting of the salt fish trade, which is seeking to form an international association with objects that are in accordance with the aims of FAO. He also represented FAO at the International Whaling Conference in Washington in November. Measures for continuance of the work of the Fisheries Rehabilitation Division of UNRRA are under discussion.

"Arrangements are contemplated for members of the staff of the Division to visit certain countries in order to assist in developing latent fishing resources. Plans are also under way for a world fishery census in 1950, and a start has been made by the Economics Branch in making special studies of fish products in relation to commodity arrangements."

Report of the FAO Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals

The FAO Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals, established by the FAO Conference at Copenhagen in September 1946,[1] met in Washington on October 28. It concluded its work on January 24 with a report[2] to the Director-General of FAO for circulation to governments and United Nations agencies. The report included recommendations regarding certain commodities. Those relating to fish follow:

178. The annual aggregate catch of fish has been estimated at approximately 40,000 million pounds, two-thirds of which is utilized for food. This amount yields 10,500 million pounds of food products as consumed. More than 20 percent of this world aggregate enters into international trade, including such products as salted fish, canned fish, fish meal, fish oils, and vitamin products, frozen fish assuming a lesser position but one of growing importance.

179. Fish as a nutritive protein is of great importance. It is basic in the diet of certain peoples, and constitutes an important part of the food intake of others. Ninety-eight percent of the recorded catch is yielded by the Northern Hemisphere, while much of it is consumed in the Southern Hemisphere.

180. The production of fisheries' products is important to the economy of many countries and vital to some of them. A measure of its importance can be had by examining the per caput production. For Iceland this is 6,223 pounds; for Newfoundland, 1,525 pounds; for Norway, 680 pounds; Japan, 111 pounds; and Canada, 109 pounds. This underestimates the importance of fishing to particular groups in these countries.

181. Of the products entering into international trade one of the most troublesome is salted fish, particularly salted cod and related species. Salted fish is a low-priced concentrated protein food containing sodium chloride, and is suitable and necessary to the diet of people who live in hot countries. Its consumption forms part of a

1/ Commercial Fisheries Review, November 1946 - Supplement, "The FAO Conference at Copenhagen and the Fisheries Outlook in Some European Countries," pp. 1-27.
2/ Report of the FAO Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals. FAO. Washington, February 1947.

long-established dietary pattern and it is unlikely that its place will be taken by alternative foodstuffs. Examples of such countries will be found in the Caribbean area, in South America, and in South Africa. Other types of cured fish find wide acceptance in countries of temperate climate such as France, the Iberian Peninsula, the Mediterranean, and to a lesser extent, the United States of America. There are certain other countries where considerable potential demand exists because salted fish furnishes a cheap source of high-class protein.

182. Since 1920, the price for salted fish declined steadily until the outbreak of World War II and the decline showed no recovery from the depression year of 1932. This was particularly serious for such countries as Newfoundland, Norway, Iceland, and the Faroes, since the economy of these countries was largely tied up with salted fish. The decline was not accompanied by a diminution of total production; in some areas there was a tendency towards an increase in production in order to keep up income. The low prices failed to support the primary producer and it became necessary for the governments of most of the producing countries to support their fishermen by subsidies.

183. When World War II caused a scarcity owing to the disappearance of the production of Norway and the shift in production to other countries, prices for salted fish increased to a point where production subsidies were no longer needed. This made it necessary for certain importing countries to subsidize consumption, while other countries passed along the increases to the consumer.

184. The history of salted fish marketing during the interwar period was marked by strong competition and rivalry between producing countries. There existed many barriers to the free flow of trade in the form of quota restrictions, prohibitive tariffs, and other devices. To a large extent trade depended upon bilateral agreements, many of which would be prohibited under the ITO Draft Charter, unless they were provided for under an international commodity arrangement. In the absence of such an agreement it is probable that chaotic marketing conditions would prevail.

185. Not much is known about the demand for this product though certain evidence indicates that it is relatively inelastic. The demand for salted fish seems to be related to the prices realized for tropical products such as sugar and coffee. There is need for a comprehensive study of the situation upon which a more orderly system of marketing through appropriate agreements between producers and consumers can be based.

186. The Commission recommends that the Fisheries Division of FAO should undertake comprehensive investigation and analysis of the salted fish situation. Such study should give consideration to all factors influencing production, price, consumption, and trade, including the interrelation between salted fish and fresh, frozen, and filleted fish, with a view to ascertaining whether in the near future the salted fish situation will correspond to the group of conditions set forth in Article 46 of the ITO Draft Charter.

187. The Commission recommends that an interim report on this matter be submitted to governments by 15 July 1947 and that a further report be submitted by 1 December 1947.

188. If the interim report should indicate that in the near future the salted fish situation will correspond to the set of conditions set forth in Article 46 of the ITO Draft Charter, the FAO should recommend to governments that a Study Group be established in accordance with Chapter VII of the ITO Draft Charter to convene immediately after the publication of the further report.

189. Such Study Group should consider, on the basis of the reports, whether a commodity agreement with respect to salted fish is desirable or feasible and, if so, what provisions are appropriate with a view to bringing about an expansion of production and consumption with more orderly trading at prices which are satisfactory to both producers and consumers, including the possibility of adding salted fish to any world famine reserves and of programs for disposal of surpluses for approved nutritional projects.

190. The problems connected with international trade in other types of fish and fish products are more complicated. Trade in fresh and frozen fish is to a large extent limited to trade between contiguous countries but, with the continued expansion in the use of refrigerated storage and transport, it can be expected that fresh and frozen fish will play an increasingly important part in world trade. It is, therefore, recommended that, when progress has been made towards a solution of the problems of the salted fish trade, the Fisheries Division of FAO direct its attention to the problems relating to international trade in other fish and fish products.

Imports of Trawl Netting

Before the war, the otter-trawl fleet of the United States imported the greater part of its requirement of netting. England was the principal source with Japan second, while other countries shipped in minor amounts. These nets were made of manila and entered duty free.

The larger New England vessels depended almost entirely on foreign netting, especially for the cod ends. It was claimed that domestic machine-made netting was not as suitable. The meshes of the imported cod ends were hand-made with double twine, which gave greater strength and longer life. To date, no machine has been invented to make this style of cod end.

Starting with 1942, England was the only country still exporting manila trawl netting to this country, but by the middle of 1943 these shipments ceased.

The War Production Board, because of the cutting off of shipments of manila from the Philippines, ruled that manila could be used only for certain sizes of rope. Twine to be made into trawl netting had to be made from sisal or certain other fibers.

To aid the fishing industry, a special allotment of 440,000 pounds of sisal a year, which was to be made only into fish netting, was set aside. Because the facilities in this country for the hand-making of cod ends were not adequate, permission was granted to American dealers to import from England up to 50,000 pounds of sisal cod ends, per year.

Data on the quantity of sisal trawl netting and cod ends imported during the last four years, are shown in the table below. For comparison, the quantity of manila trawl netting and cod ends imported for the years 1939 to 1946 are given. The total from the United Kingdom and from Japan are also reported.

Imports of Trawl Netting and Cod Ends in Recent Years

Year	Sisal trawl netting and cod ends from U. K.	Manila Trawl Netting and Cod Ends			
		United Kingdom	Japan	Others	Total
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1939	*	733,265	213,013	40,891	987,169
1940	-	635,170	303,736	138,816	1,077,722
1941	-	624,803	138,618	680	764,101
1942	*	188,315	-	-	188,315
1943	12,828	68,952	-	-	68,592
1944	156,600	-	-	-	-
1945	161,600	-	-	-	-
1946	215,000**	688	-	-	688

*No exact data available, but estimated to be very small.
**Estimated from import value.

Leading Fishing Ports in 1946

The leading fishing ports in the United States in 1946, in weight of fish landed, were San Pedro, Calif.; Lewes, Del.; Gloucester and Boston, Mass.; and Reedville, Va.; according to an announcement by the Fish and Wildlife Service. In terms of the value of the landings, San Pedro held first place, followed by San Diego, Boston, New Bedford, and Gloucester, in the order named.

San Pedro, which has held the title of leading United States fishing port for three consecutive years, received most of the pilchards and mackerel landed on the Pacific coast and nearly half of the tuna. Landings at San Pedro in 1946 totaled approximately 583,000,000 pounds, with a value to fishermen estimated at $17,000,000.

Lewes, Del., area rose from sixth place in 1945 to second in 1946 because of the tremendous increase in the landings of menhaden. Lewes, largely a menhaden area, handled 276,000,000 pounds last year compared with 175,000,000 in 1945, becoming not only the first ranking Atlantic coast port in volume of landings but the United States center of the menhaden fishery.

Gloucester, among the three leading ports in the United States for two years in succession, received 218,000,000 pounds of fish. About 60 percent of the Gloucester landings consisted of a single species -- rosefish. Compared with 1945, landings at Gloucester increased by about 2 percent.

Landings at Boston amounted to 158,000,000 pounds, consisting chiefly of miscellaneous groundfish like cod, haddock, pollock, and flounders. Although Boston's landings were smaller than Gloucester's, their total value was greater: $13,700,000 compared with $10,800,000. This difference is due to the fact that haddock and cod, which are the chief items in the landings at Boston, bring a higher price than the leading Gloucester species, rosefish.

The phenomenally successful year in the menhaden fishery was responsible for bringing Reedville, Va., from tenth place among U. S. fishing ports in 1945 to fifth place last year. Reedville received approximately 147,000,000 pounds of menhaden, its sole fishery product, compared with 80,000,000 pounds in 1945.

Although San Diego, with about 125,000,000 pounds, ranked below the first five ports in volume of landings, the high value of the fish brought into this port entitled it to second place in terms of value. San Diego received more than half the Pacific coast tuna in 1946, considerable quantities of mackerel, and a variety of other fish in small quantities. The value of all fish landed here in 1946 was about $15,000,000.

Fish landed at New Bedford--haddock, flounders, and other species for the fresh fish markets--were valued at $12,200,000. Compared with 1945, the volume of landings at this port declined about 10 percent: from 101,000,000 pounds in 1945 to 90,000,000 in 1946.

The failure of the 1946 pilchard fishery in northern and central California caused the ports of Monterey and San Francisco, usually among the leading five to decline to less important positions this year. Both of these ports ordinarily handle an enormous tonnage of pilchards, but last year only small and scattered schools of these fish appeared in the area. San Pedro, on the other hand, enjoyed a highly successful pilchard season.

Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

Purchases of fishery products by the U. S. Department of Agriculture amounted to $7,450,843 during December. Compared with November, this was an increase of $6,703,596. Only canned salmon and canned pilchards were purchased during the month. From January 1 to December 31, total purchases reached $19,482,367.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	December 1946		January-December 1946	
		Quantity	F.O.B. Cost	Quantity	F.O.B. Cost
FISH			Dollars		Dollars
Fish, ground, canned	Cases	-	-	229,000	794,000
Herring, "	"	-	-	12,688	77,565
Mackerel, "	"	-	-	48,117	414,760
Salmon, "	"	330,754	5,388,845	1,042,676	14,627,277
Pilchards, "	"	311,682	2,061,998	627,829	3,495,328
Sardines, "	"	-	-	15,929	73,437
Total	"	642,436	7,450,843	1,976,239	19,482,367

Rehabilitation of Philippine Fisheries

A program of rehabilitation and development of the fisheries of the Philippine Islands is being undertaken by the Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Philippine Government, according to an announcement of Secretary J. A. Krug on January 26. The fishery program is one of several Philippine rehabilitation programs authorized by the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946, passed by the 79th Congress and approved on April 30, 1946. These programs are coordinated by the Department of State and are being carried out in the Philippines under the general supervision of the American Ambassador. Dr. H. J. Deason, Chief of the Office of Foreign Activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service, will have general direction of the fishery rehabilitation work. Hugh W. Terhune has been appointed Field Administrator of the program with headquarters in Manila.

The fishing industry of the Philippines, normally one of the chief sources of protein foods in the Islands, was largely destroyed by combat action and through confiscation by the Japanese occupation troops. Practically no vessels, fishing gear, or shore facilities remained at the end of the war.

The new program will seek to aid in the early restoration and development of fisheries. Oceanographic and biological studies and experimental fishing operations will be conducted at sea to provide basic information on the fishery resources of the Islands and also to test new and improved methods of fishing which might be adopted by the Philippine fishing industry.

In addition to assisting the development of the marine fisheries, the program also will be concerned with improving the methods of the salt-water pondfish industry, which provides a substantial part of the fresh fish supply for the Philippine Islands. Research will also be conducted on the processing of fishery products and in market development and distribution.

The marine research and exploratory fishing will be conducted by two vessels which the Fish and Wildlife Service has recently acquired by charter from the United States Maritime Commission and which are now being converted and outfitted

in shipyards in the San Francisco area. One vessel, the former LT-581, which has been named the Spencer F. Baird in honor of the first United States Commissioner of Fisheries, is being converted into a combination oceanographic vessel and tuna clipper. The second vessel, the former AMC-90, which has been named the Theodore N. Gill in honor of a famous American ichthyologist, is being converted into a combination fishing vessel which will be equipped to operate purse seines and various types of trawls. These vessels will be ready to sail for the Philippines about the middle of March.

The Field Administrator, Mr. Terhune, and his assistant Dr. Herbert E. Warfel, who will be in charge of the biological and oceanographic programs, will assist the American Embassy in concluding final arrangements for the program.

U. S. Foreign Fish Trade

"United States Foreign Trade in Fish and Fish Products," a 36-page illustrated report recently issued by the Department of Commerce, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., or any of the Department of Commerce's field offices for 5 cents a copy.

It is also designated as Part 5, Foodstuffs, Fats and Oils, Number 27, December 1946, in the Industrial Reference Service.

Waste Fish

The recently issued Report of the Danish Biological Station for 1943-1945 is in English and contains a report entitled "On the Waste Fish Fishery," by Dr. H. Blegvad, Director of the Station in Copenhagen.

Waste fish are defined as fishes "unfit for human food but are used for fish fodder or fish meal."

The report discusses the yield of the fishery, the composition of the catch, the influence of the fishery in the stock of fishes, and what can be done to counteract the damaging effects of the waste fish fishery.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

The wholesale price of foods increased 7.5 percent from mid-September to mid-October, and retail prices of all foods increased 3.4 percent for the same period, according to reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. The retail prices of fresh and canned and fresh and frozen fish rose 12.8 and 16.8 percent, respectively, over prices of October 16, 1945. The retail price of pink salmon rose 0.3 percent and that for red salmon, 3.6 percent from mid-September to mid-October 1946.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit		Percentage change from--	
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)		Oct.12,1946	Sept.14,1946	Oct.13,1945
All commodities	Index No.	126.0	+3.5	+19.7
Foods	do	137.7	+7.5	+30.9
Fish:		Oct. 1946	Sept. 1946	Oct. 1945
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	$ per doz. cans	2.588	+6.2	+31.4
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	4.729	+3.5	+28.0
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	$ per 100 pounds	13.90	+2.9	+2.9
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.0	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.0	0	0
Retail: (1935 = 100)		Oct.15,1946	Sept.17,1946	Oct.16,1945
All foods	Index No.	180.0	+3.4	+29.2
Fish:				
Fresh and canned	do	249.7	+5.0	+12.8
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	43.3	+6.2	+16.8
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	24.1	+0.3	- 2.4
Red	do	43.2	+3.6	+ 7.5

* * * * *

The wholesale price of foods declined 6.5 percent between October 19 and November 16, 1946, but retail prices for all foods increased 4.3 percent for the same period. The retail index for all foods now reflects fully the current level of prices for meats as well as the entire price change that occurred since mid-August 1946, according to reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. The retail prices of fresh and canned and fresh and frozen fish rose 6.1 and 0.6 percent, respectively, from mid-October to mid-November and showed increases of 20.0 and 17.7 percent, respectively, over prices of November 15, 1945.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit		Percentage change from-	
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)		Nov.16,1946	Oct.19,1946	Nov.17,1945
All commodities	Index No.	135.8	+0.5	+27.8
Foods	do	164.1	-6.5	+53.1
Fish:		Nov. 1946	Oct. 1946	Nov. 1945
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	$ per doz. cans	3.189	+23.2	+61.9
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	5.363	+13.4	+45.2
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	$ per 100 pounds	14.50	+ 4.3	+ 7.4
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.0	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.0	0	0
Retail: (1935 = 100)		Nov.15,1946	Oct.15,1946	Nov.15,1945
All foods	Index No.	187.7	+4.3	+34.0
Fish:				
Fresh and canned	do	265.0	+6.1	+20.0
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	43.5	+0.6	+17.7
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	31.1	+29.2	+26.0
Red	do	52.1	+20.6	+29.0