

FEDERAL LEGISLATION DECISIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

Department of Agriculture

REMOVES IMPORT CONTROLS ON CANNED FISH: The removal of all import controls on canned fish was announced on April 1 by the Department of Agriculture. This action, taken under War Food Order 63, is effective immediately.

Department officials said that the need for import restrictions on canned fish no longer exists since the International Emergency Food Council has discontinued its recommendations as to world allocations of these food products.

Canned tuna fish, salmon, sardines, and herring are among the types of canned fish released from import controls by this action. A number of other types of pickled, salted, and canned fish had already been removed from WFO-63 by earlier action.



Civilian Production Administration

FIBERS: Use and distribution controls over sisal (agave) tow, No. 2 grade, and maguey fiber, have been dropped by amendment of Conservation Order M-84, the Civilian Production Administration announced on March 24, 1947.

This action was taken because the quality of these fibers being received in the United States was not suitable for the products permitted under the order, which included rope, binder and baler twine and some fish twine.

The amendment also provides that fishing twines hereafter may be made only from manila. Action was due to the decrease in receipts of agave fiber, use of which previously was permitted in making fishing twines.

Reporting requirements of M-84 were clarified by providing that fiber which has been invoiced to a purchaser for the end of a calendar month should be included in his report rather than the seller's report. The amendment also states that the use of 10 percent cordage lubricant is not required in lariat rope.

The inventory limit on manila (abaca) fibers of 90 days' supply was raised to 150 days. Inventory controls on rope and twine, previously imposed by CPA's Priorities Regulation 32, were incorporated in Order M-84 by the amendment.

After March 24, non-spinnable manila fiber held by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation will not be allocated by CPA. Applications for such fiber should be made direct to RFC.

* * * * *

MANILA FOR FISH NETS: The Civilian Production Administration amended M-84 (Manila, and Agave Fiber and Cordage) on March 25, 1947, and changed the authorization from sisal to manila for the making of hanging and heading twine, marline (lobster) and net twine for otter trawls.

The shortage of sisal fiber has made it necessary that the use of sisal for fishing twines be discontinued.



War Assets Administration

SURPLUS FOOD DISPOSAL: Responsibility for disposal of surplus agricultural commodities and foods will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to War Assets Administration on May 1, WAA announced on April 10.

In a recent letter to Agriculture, WAA Administrator Robert M. Littlejohn, said: "This Administration is agreeable to taking over the disposal of surplus agricultural commodities and foods as of May 1, with the understanding that the Department of Agriculture will dispose of its present inventories and items covered by declarations made by owning agencies through April 30 and, if possible, conclude all such disposal operations by June 30."



DDT TESTS

In 1946, investigations of DDT damage to fish and wildlife were continued in two areas where observations were made in 1945 and were extended to new localities in six different States. Fair to successful control of ticks, insects, and barnacles was effected.

DDT was applied in most instances by airplane, as an oil spray, at rates under 1.1 pound per acre. The maximum rate in the field was 5 pounds per acre. A single application was the rule in all but two areas. In one of these there were four at weekly intervals, in the other there were two with a four-weeks' interval. Spectrophotometric analyses in two areas indicated that only a small fraction of the DDT distributed was deposited on the ground.

Amphibians were affected by an application at the rate of 3 pounds per acre. Nearly all of a fiddler crab population was killed by 2 pounds of DDT per acre. Oysters were practically uninjured, while barnacle growth was inhibited by concentrations up to 5 pounds per acre.

In laboratory and hatchery pond experiments, varying susceptibility of different species of fishes to DDT poisoning was indicated; although under similar conditions smallmouth bass were one time less, another time more, affected than were largemouth bass.

DDT in suspension killed about as many fish as did DDT in oil, at the same concentration. For some species, under some conditions, mortality was high at concentrations of DDT as low as 0.25 pound per acre. Mortality was less in aquaria containing some mud than in those without, apparently due to inactivation of DDT by the mud. It was less in ponds where the fish were fed than in those where they were not fed: therefore, the physical condition of the fish appeared to be a factor in their survival. Young fish were more susceptible to DDT poisoning than were adults.