

OTHER FISHERY NOTES

Ward T. Bower Retires From Federal Service

After 47 years of continuous service in fisheries work for the United States Government, Ward T. Bower has retired as Chief of the Division of Alaska Fisheries of the Fish and Wildlife Service, it was announced on April 3 by Albert M. Day, Director of the Service. Mr. Bower has been located in Chicago since 1942 when the headquarters of the Service was moved from Washington to that city.

"Ward Bower leaves a magnificent record of achievement in the field of conservation, and his retirement will be distinctly felt," said Mr. Day. "His is the longest record of continuous service in Federal fisheries work. In his years of duty, he has become a specialist on Alaska, and an authority on the aquatic resources of that great Territory. Under his administration, the North Pacific fur seal herd has increased from 125,000 animals in 1911 to more than 3,300,000 today, and through wise management during this period of growth, about 1,300,000 sealskins have been taken from surplus male animals to enrich the Treasury of the United States by more than 10 million dollars.

"This outstanding accomplishment in the field of wildlife restoration is only one of the monuments to Mr. Bower's tireless devotion to the cause of conservation," continued Mr. Day. "In addition, he has had a guiding hand in the development and management of the valuable salmon and other commercial fisheries of Alaska, directing and encouraging the research on which has been based legislation and regulations designed to maintain them forever at a high productive level. This is an enviable record for which Mr. Bower is deserving of the highest praise."

Ward T. Bower came by his interest in fishery conservation naturally. Born at Northville, Michigan, on November 17, 1881, his father, Seymour Bower, was for 20 years the active head of the Michigan Fish Commission, the forerunner of the present Department of Conservation of Michigan. Educated in Detroit, Mr. Bower joined the staff of the U. S. Fish Commission as an apprentice fish culturist on July 1, 1900, at the fish cultural station at Northville, Michigan. This organization in 1903 was designated as the Bureau of Fisheries and in 1940 it was merged with the Biological Survey to form the present Fish and Wildlife Service.

For the first ten years of his service, Mr. Bower was identified with fish cultural activities, holding positions of responsibility at stations in Michigan, Minnesota, and California, and finally going to the Washington office as Superintendent of Fish Distribution.

In 1911, Mr. Bower entered full time work in the Division of Alaska Fisheries with which he has been associated continuously ever since, holding variously the positions of Inspector, Assistant Agent, Agent, Administrative Officer, and Chief. During the years since 1911 he has spent many months in Alaska, and in 1922 he accompanied the Assistant Secretary of Commerce on a world cruise to investigate the maritime industries and economic conditions in Russia, Japan, China, India, Egypt, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the British Isles, and elsewhere.

Mr. Bower has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1900, an officer of the Society for five terms, and editor of its publications two different years. He is also a member of the Biological Society of Washington; the

Cosmos Club, Washington; the Federal Club, Washington; the Arctic Club, Seattle; the Shrine (Moslem Temple), Detroit, and other Masonic bodies in Michigan.

Mr. Bower is the author of more than 40 publications on a variety of subjects in the fields of fish culture, aquarium management, fishery conservation, marine mammals, and Alaska.

Mr. Bower's permanent address is 6011 Nevada Avenue, N. W., Washington 15, D. C.



Maine Sardine Canning Season Changed

The Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries recently announced that an emergency legislative bill extending the sardine canning season in Maine from the previous dates of April 15 - December 1 to March 1 - December 15 was passed late in February 1947. With the new regulations in effect, the majority of Maine canneries began operations on March 1. The 1946 pack of Maine sardines exceeded 3 million cases.



Surplus Marine Materials and Vessels

The War Assets Administration has taken over, for disposal, all marine surplus materials, other than self-propelled boats, which have heretofore been handled by the U. S. Maritime Commission. It issues monthly a catalogue entitled Marine Surplus Seller listing items and their prices. The property is announced concurrently to all priority claimants and commercial users and is available for immediate sale. All inquiries and offers to purchase should be made to the nearest WAA Regional Office or "Customer Service Center."

All vessels having inboard propulsion, except lifeboats, are handled by the United States Maritime Commission. Vessels classified as small vessels--under 1,500 gross tons--that were originally requisitioned or purchased from private owners, or built and owned by the Government and no longer required, are sold by the Maritime Commission's Small Vessel Sales Division, Washington, D. C. Government-owned ships, classified as large vessels--over 1,500 gross tons--are sold by the Maritime Commission's Large Vessel Sales Division, Washington, D. C. Inquiries concerning the availability of these large or small vessels should be directed to the U. S. Maritime Commission, Washington 25, D. C.



Marketing Fish in India

The report entitled "Marketing of Fish in India," on which an article in the March 1947 issue of Commercial Fisheries Review was based, is now available to the public.

Among others, the report includes chapters on types of fishes, fishing gear and fishing methods, supply, preparation for the market, demand and utilization,

wholesale prices, and assembling, storage, transportation and distribution. The report contains numerous photographs, charts, and tables which assist the reader in obtaining an understanding of the difficulties inherent in any attempt to expand the fishing industry of India.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Manager, Government of India Press, Calcutta, India. The price is 2 shillings or, roughly, 50 cents in U. S. currency.



Maryland's Fisheries

The Maryland Board of Natural Resources recently issued a report entitled, Six-Year Conservation Program, which includes sections on the programs of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries and the Department of Game and Inland Fish. The subjects discussed include: "State Controls Over Fish Populations and Production," "Plans for Oyster Restoration," "Management of the Crab Fishery," "The Inland Fish Program," "Fishery Statistics," "Extent and Condition of Oyster Bars," "Supervision of Commercial Fish Hatcheries," and other topics of interest to the commercial fishing interests, not only in Maryland, but elsewhere.

Copies of this report may be obtained from the Board of Natural Resources, State Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland.



Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

Purchases of fishery products by the U. S. Department of Agriculture amounted to \$7,875,244 during January. Compared with December, this was an increase of \$424,401. Only canned salmon and canned pilchards were purchased during the month, the larger item being canned salmon. From July 1, 1946 to January 31, 1947, purchases reached \$20,825,319.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	January 1947		July 1946 thru Jan. 1947	
		Quantity	F. O. B. Cost Dollars	Quantity	F. O. B. Cost Dollars
FISH					
Fish, ground, canned	Cases	-	-	1,359	8,308
Herring,	"	-	-	7,955	48,631
Mackerel,	"	-	-	27,688	196,634
Salmon,	"	386,864	6,194,128	1,085,739	16,034,158
Pilchards,	"	256,316	1,681,116	712,938	4,537,588
Total	"	643,180	7,875,244	1,835,679	20,825,319

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Purchases of fishery products by the U. S. Department of Agriculture totaled \$2,067,538 during February. Compared with January, this was a decline of \$5,807,706. Only canned salmon and canned pilchards were purchased during the month. From July 1, 1946 to February 28, 1947, purchases reached \$22,564,637.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	February 1947		July 1946 thru Feb. 1947	
		Quantity	F.O.B. Cost Dollars	Quantity	F.O.B. Cost Dollars
FISH					
Fish, ground, canned	Cases	-	-	1,359	8,308
Herring,	"	-	-	7,955	48,631
Mackerel,	"	-	-	27,688	196,634
Salmon,	"	108,498	1,438,822	1,193,957	17,469,760
Pilchards,	"	90,046	628,716	752,984	4,841,304
Total	"	198,544	2,067,538	1,983,943	22,564,637



Wholesale and Retail Prices

Wholesale prices for all foods showed a decline of 1.1 percent from December 21, 1946 to January 18, 1947. Retail prices for all foods decreased 1.1 percent for the same period, according to reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. The average retail price of fresh and canned fish increased 1.4 percent, while that for fresh and frozen fish remained unchanged. Sufficient information was unavailable to show a comparison between prices of canned pink and red salmon for December 15, 1946 to January 15, 1947.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from-		
		Jan. 18, 1947	Dec. 21, 1946	Jan. 19, 1946
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)				
All commodities	Index No.	140.8	+0.7	+32.0
Foods	do	157.8	-1.1	+47.1
Fish:				
Canned salmon, Seattle:		<u>Jan. 1947</u>	<u>Dec. 1946</u>	<u>Jan. 1946</u>
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	3.189	0	+62
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	5.363	0	+45
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 pounds	15.00	+0.01	+11
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.0	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.0	0	0
Retail: (1935 = 100)				
All foods	Index No.	<u>Jan. 15, 1947</u>	<u>Dec. 15, 1946</u>	<u>Jan. 15, 1946</u>
Fish:		183.8	-1.1	+30.4
Fresh and canned	do	271.3	+1.4	+19.4
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	43.2	0	+18.7
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	35.1	*	+50.0
Red	do	59.0	*	+44.6

*Inadequate information.

