

OTHER FISHERY NOTES

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 87 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft during March 1947, compared with 61 in the same month in 1946, according to information released by the Bureau of Customs. The South Atlantic and Gulf States lead with 29 vessels documented during the month, followed by the Pacific Coast States with 27 vessels. During the first three months of 1947, 222 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft compared with 146 vessels during the same period in 1946.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	March		Three mos. ending with March		Twelve Months
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1946
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	8	4	16	13	86
Middle Atlantic	9	8	18	15	74
Chesapeake Bay	8	6	18	10	71
South Atlantic and Gulf ...	29	18	82	48	351
Pacific Coast	27	17	61	40	375
Great Lakes	4	7	17	15	76
Alaska	1	1	3	2	19
Hawaii	1	-	5	-	17
Unknown	-	-	2	3	16
Total	87	61	222	146	1,085

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



Army Fish Purchases

Purchases of fish, by the Army Quartermaster Market Centers, during the first third of the year, amounted to 4,944,626 pounds. Purchases by months are as follows:

January - 1,127,192 February - 1,046,459 March - 1,802,210 April - 968,765

During the same period in 1946, purchases amounted to 9,343,943 pounds. The reason for the sharp decline in purchases of fish is attributed to the slow but steady demobilization of the Army.



Evaluation of Fisheries in Determining Benefits and Losses From Engineering Projects

The national benefits from the commercial fisheries consist of:

1. Earnings of the fisheries (before income taxes).
2. Taxes paid to State, county, and local communities.
3. Earnings by other industries from goods or services furnished to the fisheries.

These three classes of benefits must be computed for each level of the industry; i.e., producer, processor and/or wholesaler, and retailer.

The national benefits from sport fishing may be summarized as follows:

1. Recreational profit. (Value of the recreation obtained minus cost.)
2. Value of the catch as a foodstuff.
3. Earnings of industry on money spent by the sportsman.
4. Tax revenues (fishing licenses, excise tax on tackle, etc.).

"Evaluation of Fisheries in Determining Benefits and Losses from Engineering Projects," a recent Service report by Richard A. Kahn and George A. Rounsefell, provides examples of how to determine the value of the fisheries. The 10-page publication may be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill., by requesting Special Scientific Report No. 40.



Fish Budget

The average Tokyo (Japan) family spends 11.9 percent of its food budget for fish, according to Japanese Economic Statistics (January 1947).

By comparison, the United States urban family, in 1942, spent only 1.9 percent of its food budget for fish.



Arkansas Mussel Shell Industry

A study of the mussel shell industry, entitled "Fresh-Water Mussel Shells, the Basis for an Arkansas Industry" (Research Series No. 9) has recently been published by the Bureau of Research, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas. It gives a history of the industry and makes suggestions on the future possibilities for industrial utilization of mussel shells in this State. Excerpts from this report are available as Fishery Leaflet 246, entitled "Fresh-Water Mussel Shells." Copies of this leaflet may be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill.



Connecticut's Fishing Industry

The importance of Connecticut's commercial fishing industry is reported in Connecticut Progress, Volume 8, No. 2, February 1947, published by the State Development Commission. The brief report is well illustrated, and describes the part Stonington plays in helping to supply the New York market with fish.



Motorboat Regulations Revised

The United States Coast Guard recently issued Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular No. 77 which revises the requirements for motorboats operated for pleasure

and commercial fishing purposes. The main changes are in the method of documentation and application for numbers for motorboats.

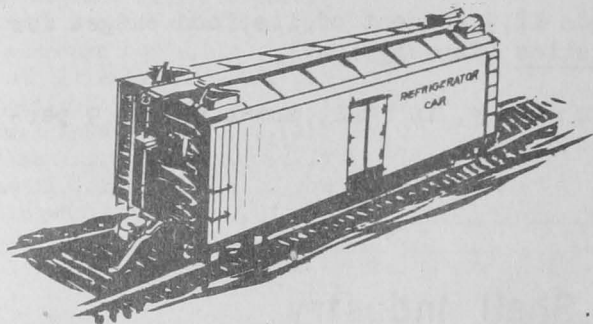
Motorboat regulations, the latest issue of which was on March 15, 1946, are being revised to include the changes listed in Circular No. 77.

Further information may be obtained from the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, Washington 25, D. C., or from any Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, U. S. Coast Guard.



Iceless Refrigerator Car Tested by USDA

Tests conducted by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with various industry groups, indicate that an iceless refrigerator car can maintain temperatures of approximately 0° F. under conditions of summer heat. This temperature, which cannot be reached by the ordinary refrigerator car, will maintain the prime quality of frozen foods.



The car in which the tests were conducted has 3-inch insulation and is equipped with a split-absorption system of refrigeration, an adaptation of a well-known method of refrigeration. Tanks attached to the underframe of the car

hold the refrigerant, anhydrous ammonia, under pressure. Cooling is achieved as the ammonia moves from the tanks through a single regulating valve and expands in the cooling coils located in the ceiling of the car. When the ammonia has completed its refrigerating effect, it is finally taken up by water in absorber tanks also attached to the underframe of the car. There are no moving parts.

The tests, conducted in a car-testing laboratory at Potomac Yards, Alexandria, Va., were made with a car loaded with cartons of frozen tangerine segments.

During the 10-day test, the temperature of the frozen tangerines at the top of the load averaged from -4° to 1°. At the bottom of the load, temperatures ranged from -3° to 3°. Improved wall and floor racks, allowing a freer circulation of air, would undoubtedly narrow the spread between temperatures at the top of the load and those at the bottom of the load.

The load of tangerines was hard-frozen when placed in the car. The load was still hard-frozen when removed at the end of the test period.



Tariff Commission Import Studies

The United States Tariff Commission has compiled a series of tables showing United States imports for consumption of fishery products during the calendar years 1935-46.

The statistics shown in the tables for the earlier years were compiled for use during the war when imports from important European and Asiatic sources were practically eliminated. Imports from Canada and Newfoundland are shown separately because these two countries are producers of large exportable surpluses of fishery products and were the principal sources of imports during and since the war.

In terms of value the imports from Canada and Newfoundland accounted for 37 percent of the total in 1935, 75 percent in 1942, and 60 percent in 1946. Other important sources in 1946 were Norway, Portugal, Peru, Mexico, and Iceland. Japan and Italy were important sources of imports during the prewar period, but are at present relatively insignificant. On the other hand, the development of fisheries in some countries during the war, notably Peru, Chile, and Venezuela, has led to increasing imports from those countries.

Copies of the tables will be supplied without charge upon request from the Tariff Commission, Washington 25, D. C.



Food and Agriculture Organization

REGIONAL COUNCILS FOR THE STUDY OF THE SEA: On May 7, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sent a memorandum to member governments entitled: "Proposal for the Establishment by Convention of Regional Councils for the Study of the Sea."

The memorandum follows:

1. This memorandum is circulated, in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of Procedure, to give notice of the Director-General's intention to invite member governments to establish by convention, under the auspices of FAO, regional councils for the study of the sea.

2. The Constitution provides that "The Organization shall promote and, where appropriate, shall recommend national and international action with respect to ... the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production" (Article I, paragraph 2.), and that "the term 'agriculture' and its derivatives include fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products."

3. The Conference of FAO recommended at its first session that FAO should "encourage international forms of cooperation and management with a view to greater future utilization of fishery resources" and expressed the view that it was "preferable for any international action for conservation and management to be established on a regional basis." The Conference further recommended that FAO should "invite member nations to consider the desirability of arranging periodic conferences between regional authorities, including established national and international councils for the study of the sea; and lend all possible support to the development of international programs of cooperative research, and, wherever neces-



sary, of joint regulatory action on a regional basis to conserve and bring about the proper management of fishery resources." (Report of the First Session of the Conference, page 35.)

4. The Standing Advisory Committee on Fisheries, at its meeting at Bergen in August 1946, recommended "the establishment at as early a date as possible of regional bodies for starting and developing intensive programs of cooperative research and conservation of fisheries by the member nations concerned."

5. The regional method of approach has certain obvious advantages over the all-inclusive method. Although the seas are confluent, ecological zones within them differ and the problems of conservation and development differ correspondingly. The acquisition of knowledge of resources anywhere in the high seas may be of interest to all countries, but the scientific work of each country is mainly directed towards the study of neighboring waters and that country's interest in what happens elsewhere derives from any effect it may have on local fisheries.

6. Furthermore, relatively small groupings of countries based on a close community of interest are likely to be more successful in this field than larger groupings. Effective cooperation depends on ease of communication and on good representation in any consultive body. Both are more readily secured under a regional organization with a conveniently accessible center. If on the other hand it becomes desirable that any particular problem should be considered on a world scale, representatives of regional bodies can be called together for joint consultation as recommended by the Quebec Conference.

7. The functions of the proposed regional councils for the study of the sea would be:

- (a) To formulate the oceanographic and biological aspects of the problems of conservation and development of the resources of the high seas, including consideration of questions relating to the natural history, distribution, migration and environmental relationships of fishery species; the size, extent and seasonal variations (in abundance) of fish populations; the effect of fishing operations; the most efficient method of obtaining maximum production without endangering future supply; effective methods of propagation; stocking; disease; and pollution control.
- (b) To assemble available knowledge on these subjects.
- (c) To suggest to governments how national programs of research may best contribute to filling gaps in such knowledge.
- (d) When it is appropriate, to undertake cooperative research directed to this end.
- (e) To make available, through publication, authoritative data derived from correlation of work conducted in the region.
- (f) To consider and report upon such questions concerning the scientific aspect of the resources of the sea in each region as may be referred to them by other international authorities.

8. It will be clear that the proposed councils would be deliberative bodies whose duties would be limited to finding and reporting facts. It is not intended that they should be responsible for formulating regulations governing fishing in their respective regions. If the facts reported by a council indicated that such

measures were desirable, it would be for FAO itself to invite the nations concerned to consider in the light of the facts the desirability of concluding a separate convention under which appropriate action could be taken to govern the conduct of fishing operations.

9. With reference to item (d) in paragraph 7 above, it is unlikely that regional councils would be called upon to engage in forms of cooperative research requiring facilities or equipment beyond what can be provided by individual member countries, but if it proved desirable in the future for any council to procure on its own account facilities or equipment not otherwise available, this could be done by vesting the right of ownership or possession in FAO in accordance with its constitutional powers.

10. The establishment of a series of regional councils for parts of the high seas not now actively served by existing bodies is an aim that must be attained by stages. In an initial approach to the problem, however, it has been found necessary to consider it from the global point of view in order to achieve a provisional delimitation of regions. The regions suggested for consideration are set out below, with the idea that a start may be made in only two or three of these regions in the first place.

11. Proposed Regions:

- (a) North Western Atlantic - The waters bounded by the parallel of latitude 30° north and the pole, and the meridian of longitude 30° west and the coasts of Canada and the United States.

Members concerned with territories in the Region:

Canada, Denmark, France, Newfoundland, (U.K.)
United States.

- (b) South Western Pacific and Indian Ocean (South East Asia) - The waters bounded by the parallels of latitude 30° north and 60° south, and by meridians of longitude 180° east and 65° east.

Members concerned with territories in the Region:

Australia, China, France, India, Netherlands,
New Zealand, Philippines, United Kingdom,
United States.

- (c) Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Waters -

Members concerned with territories in the Region:

Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon,
Portugal, Syria, Yugoslavia.

- (d) North Eastern Pacific - The waters bounded by the pole and parallel of latitude of the Equator, and the meridians of longitude 120° east and 180° east.

Members concerned with territories in the Region:

Canada, United Kingdom, United States.

- (e) South Eastern Pacific - The waters bounded by the parallels of latitude 34° north and 60° south, and the Western coasts of North America, Central America, and South America and the meridian of longitude 120° east.

Members concerned with territories in the Region:

Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, United States.

- (f) Western South Atlantic - The waters bounded by the parallels of latitude 30° north and 60° south, and the meridian of longitude 30° west and the Eastern coasts of North America, Central America, and South America.

Members concerned with territories in the Region:

Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

- (g) Eastern South Atlantic and Indian Ocean (African Area) - The waters bounded by the parallels of latitude 30° north and 60° south, and the meridians of longitude 65° east and 30° west.

Members concerned with territories in the Region:

Belgium, Egypt, France, Iraq, Italy, Liberia, Portugal, United Kingdom, Union of South Africa.

12. It is suggested that immediate consideration be given to the establishment of councils for the first three regions named in the above list: North Western Atlantic, South Eastern Asia, and Mediterranean. Draft conventions for those regions, together with the relative reports as required by paragraph 2 of Rule XXII, will be circulated as soon as possible. Meanwhile member governments are invited to study the general proposal, to supply any relevant information and, if they so desire, to make representations relating to the proposal.

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ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS ON SALT FISH: The Advisory Group on Salt Fish which opened its meeting in Washington on April 21, concluded its discussions on April 25. Technical experts from 10 of the most important producing and importing countries attended the meeting, which was a preliminary one called to assist the Fisheries Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in preparing for the comprehensive study on salt fish recommended last January by the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals.



PACKING COD FISH

The group felt that the first step should be to obtain fuller and better coordinated statistical information on the salt fish industry, and made preliminary arrangements for gathering the required information that interested governments will submit to FAO. The information will be concerned with both production and consumption and will embrace questions on fishing, processing, and the distribution and consumption of salt fish with special reference to cod and related species.

From these data, FAO will prepare a report in June, which will be submitted to a Study Group next fall. It is hoped that meeting will be able to provide

sufficient information to member governments to assist them in deciding whether a commodity agreement on salt fish is desirable. If this proves to be the case, FAO in cooperation with the proposed International Trade Organization might call a world conference on salt fish.

The Committee reviewed the recent history of the salt fish industry, and in particular the chronic depression of the prewar years. In the two decades preceding World War II, prices of salt fish, which had sharply declined in 1920, remained at such a low level that producer subsidies were necessary. During the war years, prices rose to such an extent that certain consuming countries found it necessary to subsidize consumption.

Dr. D. B. Finn, of the FAO Fisheries Division, acted as chairman of the meeting, with Mr. B. S. Dinesen as vice-chairman. The other members attending were:

Mr. I. S. McArthur, Chief,
Economics Division, Dept. of Fisheries,
Ottawa, Canada

The Honorable Thor Thors,
Minister of Iceland,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. M. B. Bursey,
Trade Commissioner,
New York, N. Y.

Mr. E. G. Reid,
Newfoundland Fisheries Board,
St. John's, Newfoundland

Mr. Nils Jangaard,
Fisheries Attache,
Norwegian Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Per Sandven,
Norwegian Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. A. W. Anderson, Chief,
Division of Commercial Fisheries,
Fish and Wildlife Service,
U. S. Dept. of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. J. M. D. Scorrer,
Hawes & Company (London) Limited,
Imperial House, London, England.

Dr. Paulo Froes Da Cruz,
Agricultural Attache,
Brazilian Embassy,
Washington, D. C.

Colonel R. H. Fiedler,
Special Asst. to the Director of the
Fish and Wildlife Service,
U. S. Dept. of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. J. H. de Morias,
Consul-General for Portugal in Nfld.,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

Engineer Higino De Matos Queiroz,
President, Regulating Committee on Cod
Fish Commerce,
Lisbon, Portugal.

Mr. J. M. Le Touze,
Paris, France.

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MINIMUM STANDARDS OF QUALITY: On May 6, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations forwarded a memorandum to member governments entitled "Minimum Standards of Quality for Fishery Products."

The memorandum follows:

Member governments will recall that at the first session of the Conference of FAO the Fisheries and Marketing Committees discussed the desirability of establishing certain minimum standards of quality for fishery products entering into international trade. After consultation with the Standing Advisory Committee on Fisheries, it has been decided to place this matter on the agenda of the third session of the Conference, which is to open in Geneva on August 25, 1947.

Lack of uniformity of quality has undoubtedly been a serious impediment to the flow of international trade in fishery products and, while it is realized that the establishment of an international code for certain fishery commodities presents difficult problems requiring careful study and could not in any case be undertaken immediately, it is thought desirable to initiate the necessary preliminary discussions without further delay.

It is also realized that, even though a limited code were evolved and adopted, there would be no compulsion on exporting countries to follow it, but it is believed that the mere existence of international agreement on minimum requirements would have a useful moral effect.

The Director-General would accordingly be grateful if the appropriate departments of your Government could be informed of his intention to bring this matter before the Conference at its forthcoming session.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

Prices for all foods, at the wholesale level, increased 2.0 percent from January 18, 1947 to February 15. During the same period, retail prices declined 0.8 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

The average retail price of fresh and canned fish declined 4.6 percent, while fresh and frozen fish declined 8.0 percent.

The retail prices between February 15, 1947 and February 13, 1946, increased 30 percent for all foods with canned pink salmon showing the maximum increase of 47 percent.

Wholesale and Retail Prices				
Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)		Feb. 15, 1947	Jan. 18, 1947	Feb. 16, 1946
All commodities	Index No.	143.1	+1.6	+33.5
Foods	do	160.9	+2.0	+49.0
Fish:		Feb. 1947	Jan. 1947	Feb. 1946
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	3.097	-3	+52
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	5.363	0	+45
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 pounds	15.00	0	+11
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.00	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.00	0	0
Retail: (1935 = 100)		Feb. 15, 1947	Jan. 18, 1947	Feb. 13, 1946
All foods	Index No.	182.3	-0.8	+30.6
Fish:				
Fresh and canned	do	258.7	-4.6	+14.0
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	39.8	-8.0	+5
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	36.6	+4.0	+47
Red	do	58.8	-0.1	+37

