

OTHER FISHERY NOTES

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 136 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft during April 1947, compared with 95 in the same month the previous year, according to the Bureau of Customs, U. S. Treasury Department. The State of Washington led with 42 vessels documented during the month followed by California with 19 vessels, while Louisiana, North Carolina, and Florida tied for third place with 9 vessels each.

During the first four months of 1947, 358 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft, compared with 241 vessels during the same period in 1946.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	April		Four mos. ending with April		Twelve Months
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1946
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	7	4	23	17	86
Middle Atlantic	6	1	24	16	74
Chesapeake Bay	5	10	23	20	71
South Atlantic and Gulf..	40	31	122	79	351
Pacific Coast	67	39	128	79	375
Great Lakes	5	3	22	18	76
Alaska	3	-	6	2	19
Hawaii	2	1	7	1	17
Unknown	1	6	3	9	16
Total	136	95	358	241	1,085

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



Army Canned Fish Requirements

Tentative requirements for salmon and tuna fish from the 1947 pack for the Army and other Governmental agencies for which the Quartermaster Corps procures have been announced as follows:

Salmon - 10,376,000 pounds

Tuna fish - 3,012,000 pounds

No estimates on the requirements for sardines, pilchard, or mackerel have been released at this time as these items are not procured seasonally, and will be purchased throughout the year as requirements demand.



"Black Douglas" Begins Fur-Seal Studies in North Pacific

Equipped as a floating laboratory, the motorship Black Douglas has left Seattle, Wash., for North Pacific waters to study the migration routes and food habits of the Alaska fur-seal herd that has its breeding grounds on the Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea, according to an announcement made on May 28 by Albert M. Day, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

The expedition, with Dr. Victor B. Scheffer, Service biologist, in charge, will spend the next 11 months seeking new data on where the seals go when they

leave the Pribilof Islands, what food they eat, and whether the young seals are preyed upon by other marine mammals.

On recommendation of the Department of State, the Fish and Wildlife Service began an investigation in 1941 to obtain scientific data regarding the migration routes and food habits of the seals. The necessity for inaugurating this investigation was due to the formal notice served by the Japanese Government that on October 23, 1941, it would abrogate the Fur-Seal Treaty of 1911 which prohibited pelagic sealing--the killing, capturing, or pursuing of the animals at sea. The United States, Great Britain, and Russia, as well as Japan, were signatories to this treaty.



FUR SEALS, ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA

As the reason for cancelling the treaty, Japan claimed that the fur-seal herd, at least in part, migrated down the Asiatic shore and was damaging Japan's fishing industry. The findings of early investigators on the North American side, however, did not agree with this contention. The State Department then recommended that the Fish and Wildlife Service bring up to date its scientific data on seals to determine the validity of Japan's claims.

The Black Douglas, a former schooner yacht, was purchased by the Service in 1941 by a special Congressional appropriation and all required repairs and alterations were made at Savannah, Ga. Before the vessel reached Seattle, war was declared and the seal investigation was discontinued. The Black Douglas was requisitioned by the Navy and served during the war as a Navy patrol vessel.

From Seattle, the Black Douglas will follow the fur-seal herd on the spring migration to its breeding grounds, conduct sealing and tagging operations on and around the Islands, and later in the fall, will follow the herd south to continue the study of migration routes to winter waters. Extensive studies of the stomach contents of the seals will be carried on to determine if they are feeding upon valuable commercial food fishes.

The Black Douglas and its crew will be used also to gather information on other marine life such as killer whales, hair seals, sea lions, and sea otters to ascertain if any of these mammals prey upon the young seals after they leave the Islands on their winter migration.

Since the Government assumed direct control of the fur-seal herd in 1910, the number of animals has increased from 132,279 to 3,386,000 in 1946. The herd now has a capital value in excess of \$100,000,000.



Closing of Halibut Areas

Under authority of the Pacific Halibut Fishery Convention between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada, and as provided by regulations effective March 17, 1947, the International Fisheries Commission on May 27 determined

upon the date of June 8th, midnight, as that upon which Areas 1B and 2 as defined in the said regulations shall be closed to all halibutfishing, except that provided for in Article I of the Convention.

Area 1B is defined to include all convention waters between a line running northeast and southwest through Cape Blanco Light and a line running northeast and southwest through Willapa Bay Light on Cape Shoalwater.

Area 2 is defined to include all convention waters off the coasts of the United States of America and of Alaska and of the Dominion of Canada between Area 1B and a line running through the most westerly point of Glacier Bay, Alaska, to Cape Spencer Light, thence south one-quarter east.

Reference should be had to a copy of the regulations for further details regarding these boundaries.

The records of the International Fisheries Commission show that for the period from May 1 to May 31, 1947, inclusive, the following amounts of halibut have been landed in the various ports on the Pacific Coast from Areas 2 and 3:

	1947		1946	
	Area 2	Area 3	Area 2	Area 3
U. S. Fleet	5,520,000	1,200,000	8,394,000	5,392,000
Canadian Fleet	11,348,000	98,000	9,524,000	101,000
	17,868,000	1,298,000	17,918,000	5,493,000

During May 1947, most of the Seattle fleet was tied up due to a dispute between the owners and fishermen.



FAO Program for 1948



The 1948 budget for the third financial year of the Food and Agriculture Organization as recommended for submission to the Conference in Geneva late in August totals \$5,000,000. The Fisheries Division estimate amounts to \$196,365 for 1948 as compared with an estimate of \$184,350 for 1947, and actual expenditures of \$13,612 in 1946. The major items in the 1948 budget are:

Personal Services - 33 positions - \$139,590
 Meetings - \$17,600 Travel - \$16,390 Printing - \$22,875

The budget estimates outline the program for 1948 as follows:

PROGRAM

Under the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization, its Fisheries Division is responsible for:

1. Securing and disseminating adequate information about fisheries for the purpose of bettering the nutritional levels, expanding consumption and securing optimum utilization.

2. Making recommendations to the Director-General as to the need for action by Member Governments, when such is revealed on analysis of the data and information collected.
3. Otherwise carrying out the recommendations of the Conference as it concerns fish and fisheries.

The functions of the Division are carried out through three Branches; namely, Biology; Economics and Statistics; and Technology.

BIOLOGICAL BRANCH: The work of the Biological Branch in 1948 will include:

1. Establishing Regional Councils of Marine Scientists. As recommended by the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC), regional councils of marine scientists will be established to bring together existing data and to recommend such studies by governments as are necessary for the full development and conservation of marine resources. The information thus secured will be reported for the guidance of nations with respect to fishing on the high seas. A functioning organization exists in Europe (The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea). The SAC designated three areas for the establishment of such bodies:
 - (a) Northwestern Atlantic,
 - (b) Southeastern Asia, and
 - (c) Mediterranean
2. Preparing a classified world roster of fisheries biologists.
3. Preparing a classified list of marine biological schools and institutions of the world.
4. Recommending nomenclature and synonyms of commercial fish.
5. Compiling a catalogue of potential fisheries resources.

TECHNOLOGICAL BRANCH: The work of the Technological Branch in 1948 will include:

1. Establishing a clearing house for periodic reports on research concerning the scientific handling of fisheries products.
2. Establishing a classified roster of fisheries technologists.
3. Compiling a catalogue of fisheries technological institutions and training centers and an assessment of world needs for such.
4. In cooperation with the Biological Branch, making a survey of the methods of fishing with special emphasis upon recent innovations, with the object of furnishing information as to the suitability for use in various regions.

ECONOMICS BRANCH: The Economics Branch is concerned with economic statistics in the field of fisheries activities. Close cooperation will be maintained with the other branches of the Division and, particularly on statistical work, with the Economics and Statistics Division. The work of the Economics Branch in 1948 will include:

1. Collecting existing statistics of fisheries production, processing and trade for publication in monthly, quarterly, and yearly reports.

2. Preparing a yearbook of Fisheries Statistics.
3. Developing an agreement between countries on the development of common conversion factors and uniform methods of reporting.
4. Furnishing on request, technical advice with respect to the establishment of statistical services in those countries where such services are inadequate or do not exist.
5. As recommended by the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals, making a comprehensive study and analysis of the international trade in salted fish products for the purpose of supplying data necessary to governments when considering commodity arrangements.
6. Preparing for a World Census of Fisheries in 1950.

MEETINGS: During 1948, meetings are planned for the Standing Advisory Committee in Washington and at the Conference. There are also proposed conferences on Quality Standards of Fish^{1/} at Washington, on Fisheries Statistics at The Hague, and for Regional Groups of Marine Scientists at Ottawa, Singapore, Rome, and Cape-town.

PRINTING: The printing estimates propose the issuance of the following publications during 1948:

Quarterly Journal. Printed, four issues of 48 pages each in English, French, and Spanish. This publication will carry articles by individuals outstanding in the fields of ichthyology, fisheries technology, and fisheries economics. It will also carry reviews and digests of particularly significant articles appearing in various fisheries journals. The Quarterly Journal will contain a certain amount of statistical information on trade and revised figures on landings and utilization.

Fisheries Bulletin. Multilithed, 12 issues of 24 pages each in English, French, and Spanish. The primary purpose of this bulletin will be to disseminate current fishery statistics on landings and utilization as reported to FAO. It will also carry monthly figures on international trade in fishery products as published in monthly reports of statistical agencies of member governments. The Bulletin will serve as a medium for keeping member countries currently informed of new developments in fishing gear, boats, methods of fishing, processing, utilization of by-products, etc.

Fisheries Statistical Yearbook. Printed, one issue, 96 pages in English and French (combined). An annual collection of basic statistics in the field of fisheries. There is a great need for an authoritative source of world-wide data, and it is clearly FAO's place to supply one.

Roster of Fisheries Institutions, Scientists, etc. Multilithed, one issue, 200 pages in English.

1/Quality Standards of Fish. The question of quality standards was discussed at the Quebec Conference and the suggestion was made that studies be undertaken "to ensure the production of wholesome products, standardized where possible, with respect to quality, packaging, weight, and designation." Some of the member Governments have recently emphasized the desirability of the Fisheries Division directing its attention to these matters at an early date. It is proposed that preliminary discussions be held at the third session of the Conference, the subject being carried on the draft agenda of Commission II. After sufficient background data has been collected, it is intended that a meeting on the technical level be convened in Washington early in 1948.

Farm Fish Ponds

The Department of Agriculture has issued a new bulletin entitled Farm Fish Ponds for Food and Good Land Use as part of the Soil Conservation Service's program to help farmers get the best and safest returns from every class of farm land. The bulletin has four main sections: "Management of Fish Ponds," "How to Build a Good Pond," "Protecting the Pond from Erosion," and "Old Ponds and Small Lakes."



This publication, Farmer's Bulletin No. 1983, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The price is 10 cents per copy.



Fishery Technology Abstract Card System

The Seattle Fishery Technological Laboratory has developed and maintained during the past four and one-half years, a comprehensive card file of abstracts of articles pertaining to fishery technology appearing in the current literature.

A description of the system and the subjects covered by it are contained in "Fishery Technology Abstract Card System," Fishery Leaflet 232.

Copies of this publication may be obtained free of charge by writing to the Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill.



Import Quota Set

The Bureau of Customs announced on June 12 that the tariff-rate quota of 15,000,000 pounds of fish, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, or divided into portions, not specially provided for: cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish, entitled to entry for consumption at 1-7/8 cents per pound during the calendar year 1947 has been increased to 23,906,423 pounds. The quota in 1946 was 20,380,724 pounds.

The Canadian Trade Agreement of November 25, 1938, prescribed that if the average apparent annual consumption of such fish in the United States during the three calendar years preceding the year in which such fish were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, exceeds 100,000,000 pounds, an additional quantity of such fish equal to the amount by which 15 per centum of such average apparent annual consumption exceeds the 15,000,000 pounds may be entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption in that year at the 1-7/8 cents per pound rate. It has been determined that the average annual consumption of such fish for the calendar years 1944, 1945, and 1946 was 159,376,156 pounds.

Studies on Oyster Feeding

An article entitled "Feeding of Oysters in Relation to Density of Microorganisms," by V. L. Loosanoff and J. B. Engle, Chemists at the Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Laboratory, Milford, Conn., appeared in the March 7, 1947, issue of *Science*. Biologists, according to this article, do not agree on the effect of different quantities of material suspended in water upon the efficiency of the feeding of oysters. To clarify at least certain aspects of this problem, a study was made to determine the effect of different concentrations of microorganisms upon the rate of water pumping and, therefore, feeding of oysters. This article is a resumé of the findings of this study.



Tokyo Fish Consumption

According to the latest computations, based on recently received statistical information from Japan (*Japanese Economic Statistics Bulletin No. 5, January 1947*), the average quantity of fish and other aquatic products consumed at home, per household, in Tokyo is 138.8 pounds per year. This compares with an urban United States consumption per household (1942) of 52.52 pounds per year.

The size of the average Tokyo family is 3.74 persons compared with the average American family of 3.41 persons.



Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

Purchases of fishery products by the U. S. Department of Agriculture during March amounted to \$768,927, a decline of 63 percent from the February purchases, valued at \$2,067,538. For the first time in several months, purchases of items other than salmon and pilchards were made, the additional commodities being hake and herring.

Total purchases for the first three months of 1947 amounted to \$10,711,709. For the period July 1946 through March 1947, purchases totaling \$23,333,564 were made.

Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	March 1947		July 1946 thru Mar, 1947	
		Quantity	F.O.B. Cost Dollars	Quantity	F.O.B. Cost Dollars
FISH					
Fish, ground, canned	Cases	-	-	1,359	8,308
Herring,	"	40,000	120,000	47,955	168,631
Mackerel,	"	-	-	27,688	196,634
Hake,	"	65,900	197,700	65,900	197,700
Salmon,	"	22,820	307,930	1,216,777	17,777,690
Pilchards,	"	21,338	143,297	774,322	4,984,601
Total	"	150,058	768,927	2,134,001	23,333,564



Wholesale and Retail Prices

Led by advances for farm products, average primary market prices of all commodities rose 3.6 percent between February 15, and March 15, 1947, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. The average retail price of fresh and frozen fish, although following the general trend, made gains of only 2.5 percent during the same period. Gains in the price of canned red salmon were only fractional, but the percentage gain in the retail price of canned pink salmon was but one-tenth of 1 percent less than the average gain for all commodities.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		Mar. 15, 1947	Feb. 15, 1947	Mar. 16, 1946
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)				
All commodities	Index No.	148.3	+3.6	+36.8
Foods	do	166.5	+3.5	+52.1
Fish:		<u>Mar. 1947</u>	<u>Feb. 1947</u>	<u>Mar. 1946</u>
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	3.066	-1.0	+55.0
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	5.363	0	+45.0
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)				
All foods	Index No.	189.5	+3.9	+35.3
Fish:				
Fresh and canned	do	266.0	+2.8	+16.8
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	40.8	+2.5	+ 6.8
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	37.9	+3.5	+52.3
Red	do	59.2	+0.7	+36.7



JAPANESE FISHERIES

Prior to World War II, Japan was the foremost fishing country in the world.

- (a) Annual catches in home waters were 2,500,000 to 3,500,000 metric tons; catches overseas including those of colonial waters amounted to an additional 2,000,000 to 3,500,000 tons. Total Japanese production of marine products accounted for more than one-fourth of the world's total.
- (b) Full-time and part-time fishermen in Japan numbered about 1,500,000.
- (c) Japanese fishing boats numbered about 355,000 of which 75,000 were powered.
- (d) Japanese fishing operations were world-wide.