

## OTHER FISHERY NOTES

### Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 151 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft during May 1947, compared with 110 in the same month the previous year. The State of Washington led with 42 vessels documented during the month followed by California with 18 vessels and Louisiana with 14 vessels, according to information received from the Bureau of Customs, Treasury Department.

During the first five months of 1947, 509 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft, compared with 351 vessels during the same period in 1946.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	May		Five mos. ending with May		Twelve Months
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1946
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England .....	8	8	31	25	86
Middle Atlantic .....	10	6	34	22	74
Chesapeake Bay .....	7	5	30	25	71
South Atlantic and Gulf ....	40	21	162	100	351
Pacific Coast .....	69	52	197	131	375
Great Lakes .....	9	11	31	29	76
Alaska .....	4	6	10	8	19
Hawaii .....	2	1	9	2	17
Unknown .....	2	-	5	9	16
Total .....	151	110	509	351	1,085

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



### The Agar Industry of North Carolina

Carteret County, North Carolina, the producer of more fishery and marine products and byproducts than any county on the South Atlantic Coast, added another

industry to its assorted collection, during the war years-- the agar industry-- according to the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist in the area. The lowly seaweed has been utilized as a commercial product, and Carteret County fishermen have found another source of income, in addition to their already varied operations; one that can be carried out separately or as a supplement to other fishing activities.



Collecting Methods: Using skiffs in conjunction with larger power boats which act as cargo carriers, the gatherers pick seaweed from the bottom of the shallow water with pitchforks, rakes, and, occasionally, with trawls and nets. No skiff is needed when trawls are used and the weed is hoisted directly aboard the power

boat from which the trawl is pulled. When the weed is in the harvesting condition, it is usually unattached, drifting freely with the prevailing current but near the bottom.

Primary Processing: After harvesting, the plant must be culled from all materials unusable in the extraction of agar. By failing to clean the weed; i.e., to clean sand, straw, dead and useless weeds, etc., from the catch, the gatherer forfeits a portion of the full price for the catch. The price varies in proportion to the amount of foreign matter present when the manufacturer buys the catch.

After culling, the weed must be dried. This is done by spreading it over wire drying platforms usually two or three feet off the ground. Except during wet weather, the weed will dry sufficiently for manufacture within three days, and sometimes sooner. The price is dependent upon the degree of dryness.

Price and Income Data: The price paid to gatherers during the past year has averaged 10 cents per pound for dry, pure weed. However, prices much less than this have been paid when the gatherer failed to cull it properly, or did not dry it thoroughly as required by the manufacturer.

During 1946, the most constant gatherer on the payroll of the manufacturer grossed \$1,800 over a period of 5½ months, and this was earned in addition to income from his normal fishing activities. The average annual earnings are much less, but this higher figure is an indication of the potential extra income available to the regular fishermen who gathers the seaweed that is so abundant in the shallow waters of Carteret County.

Seasonal Aspects: No definite seasonal pattern is evident in the production of the weed in this county; the only county where it seems to be available in quantity. It is available at all seasons, but if there is any "best" season, it appears to be from July through December. However, it has been taken at other times often enough to indicate that something other than seasonal changes determines its appearance.

Abundance: The weed is present in commercial abundance to the extent that the local manufacturer could operate from four to five months annually, using only locally-produced weed. However, it is the practice of the manufacturer to augment his local supply with seaweed from Florida in order to continue operations on a yearly basis.

Only one concern is currently engaged in the manufacture of agar in Carteret County, and the present supply is not believed large enough to attract other manufacturers. However, other concerns have shown interest to the extent that they agreed to teach some of the fishermen how to process the weed and financed the erection of drying facilities to be paid from the earnings of the fishermen. It is estimated that in 1946, three fishermen gave approximately one-third of their time to gathering seaweed and more than 50 others contributed to the total catch.



## Fishery Resources of the United States

Edited by Lionel A. Walford

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PRESS, 2153 FLORIDA AVENUE, N. W., WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

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Fishery Resources of the United States has already achieved considerable well deserved popularity as "the Bailey-Bland report" and "Senate Document No. 51." It received the former designation in honor of the Senator and Congressman who sponsored Public Law 302, 78th Congress, requiring the report, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 14, 79th Congress, providing for its earlier publication.

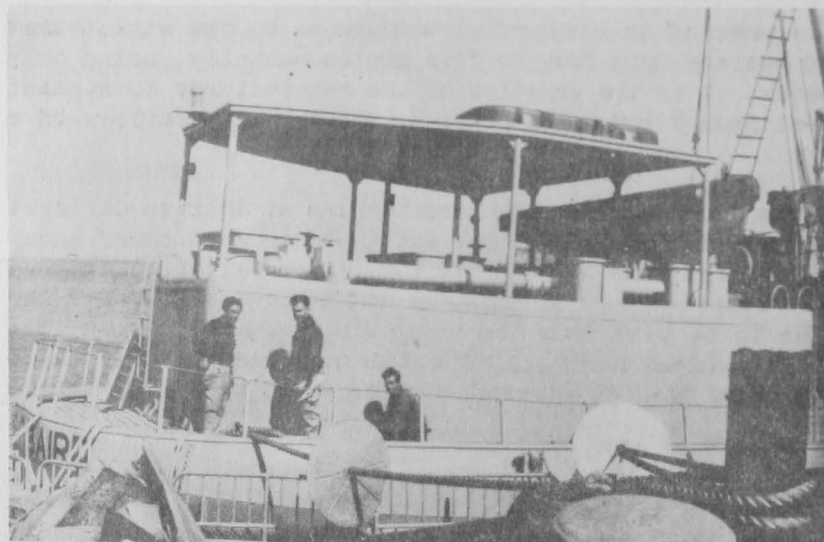
The 134 pages, with illustrations on practically every page, condense much of the knowledge of the Fish and Wildlife Service's far-flung staff into brief paragraphs, pertinent charts, and lifelike sketches. Under the able editorship of Dr. Walford, now Chief, Section of Marine Fisheries in the Service's Division of Fishery Biology, the facts about our nation's fishery resources in both domestic and international waters are presented in an interesting but concise manner. The addition of better paper and cloth covers with a fishery motif, and the use of shades of green in the illustrations instead of black are contributions of the publisher, which, together with a colorful dust jacket, add much to the appeal of the work. It is a nice edition to have on your shelf of fishery volumes.

--A. W. Anderson



### FWS Vessels Depart for Philippines

Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced on June 29 that two fishery research and experimental fishing vessels, designed and equipped



SPENCER F. BAIRD - VIEW OF STERN OF VESSEL SHOWING BAIT TANKS AND FISHING RACKS.

for the Philippine Fishery Rehabilitation Program, departed from San Francisco for Manila on June 26. From San Francisco, the vessels are to proceed to Los Angeles for a test run and, upon refueling, are to leave for Honolulu about June 28. Stops for fuel and supplies will be made en route at Honolulu, Wake, and Guam. It is expected that the vessels will arrive in Manila about July 25.

The Spencer F. Baird, under the command of John P. Lowman, is the former

U. S. Army LT-581 which has been converted into a combination oceanographic vessel and tuna clipper. It is 143 feet long, with a 43-foot beam and a draft of 16 feet.

Propulsion power consists of twin Diesel electric installations geared into a single shaft and propeller which provides very flexible speeds of operation, ranging from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 14 knots. The vessel is equipped with all of the latest electronic and special devices for navigation and oceanographic research. A complete biological and chemical laboratory is installed on the main deck, as well as special winches for handling hydrographic gear, and experimental trawls and other types of nets. A sharp-freeze compartment for experimentation with freezing fish at sea is located in the after hold. On the after deck, bait tanks have been installed which are equipped with refrigeration and aeration which will make possible experimentation in the handling of bait under all types of conditions. Fishing racks have been installed aft, around the stern of the boat which will be used for tuna fishing by means of poles, as carried on in the Southern California tuna fishery.

The Theodore N. Gill, under the command of Fred C. Zeisenhenne, is the former U. S. Navy mine sweeper, AMc90, and is an experimental purse seiner and west coast type trawler. It is 90 feet long, has a 23-foot beam and a draft of 11 feet. Power is supplied by a six cylinder Diesel engine with reduction and reversing gear which provides for a cruising speed of about 10 knots. Like the Baird, but on a somewhat reduced scale, it is equipped for oceanographic work and has a small biological and oceanographic laboratory. A turntable on the stern is provided for the operation of purse seines as large as any now in commercial use in either the sardine or tuna industries. Trawling gear is of the west coast type. A winch boom, and other necessary installations for this type of gear have been provided. Beneath the after deck is a refrigerated cold-storage hold that will accommodate catches of between 15 and 20 tons of fish. There is also a sharp-freeze compartment for experimental use.

"In out-fitting these vessels," Mr. Day said, "the Service has attempted to incorporate all of the most advanced ideas and equipment for research at sea and experimental fishing. The scientific and experimental fishing data will not only aid the residents of the Republic of the Philippines in modernizing their fisheries and in extending operations to new grounds, but will also provide technical data on new types of operations which will be useful to the fishing industries of the United States."

The bulk of the scientific staff which has begun research on the pond-fish industries is already in Manila and is making ready the shore laboratory which will be used for analysis of the oceanographic materials and experimental work in fish processing and the preparation of fishery byproducts.

Mr. Hugh W. Terhune, the Administrator of the Philippine Fishery Program, who has been maintaining temporary headquarters in San Francisco, will leave for Manila, by air, about July 1. By August, it is anticipated that the Philippine Fishery Rehabilitation Program, involving the employment of over 80 scientific, administrative, and fishery employees, will be in full operation.



## Canned Fish

In Purchase Announcement FO-32, the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, stated on July 18 that it would receive offers for the sale of canned fish of the following species: Mackerel, sea herring, river

herring (alewives), and other species of standard packs in a comparable price range. Purchases were limited to fish packs only; that is, packs which contained potatoes, cereal, or any other similar ingredient would not be considered.

Purchases were to be made under contracts executed in the name of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Offers, on Offer of Sale Form FOO-32, were to be received on or before July 29, 1947, or on either August 5, 1947, or August 12, 1947. Offers were to be submitted to Fish and Fish Products Division, Fats and Oils Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Notice of acceptance was to be given by telegram filed in Washington, D. C., on or before the Monday following each Tuesday closing dates stated above. The Commodity Credit Corporation reserved the right to reject any or all offers.

Offerings were to indicate quantities for delivery within the following thirty days. A separate offer form was to be used for each species of fish. Offers of fish that did not come within the specifications of paragraph 4(a) of the Offer of Sale Form were to be accompanied by six sample cans of each type of fish offered. Samples had to be clearly marked or labeled for identification.

It was preferred that fish be packed in No. 300 cans or cans of approximately that size containing 14, 15, or 16 ounces per can, but consideration was to be given to offers of fish packed in No. 2 cans. All cans were to be labeled with vendor's commercial label. Cans might be packaged 24 per case but cases containing 48 cans were preferred.

Commodity Credit Corporation preferred the cases to be suitable for export. Vendor could use any export type case available to him but 90-point or 100-point solid fibre or 23-9-16 or 23-9-23 corrugated cases were acceptable. Cases did not need to be weatherproofed. Strapping was required and offerors had to indicate in the space provided on the Offer Form, the additional cost, if any, for strapping material and labor.

Excerpts from Offer of Sale Form FOO-32 follow:

4. a. Specifications Applicable to Mackerel, Sea Herring and River Herring (Alewives): Fish shall be reasonably firm for the species of good appearance and well cleaned. Fish shall be practically unbroken and cans shall be packed as full as practicable. Fish shall be packed natural or with added oils, tomato sauce or other sauces as may be specified by CCC. Each No. 300 can of Sea Herring shall contain not more than nine (9) fish and each No. 300 can of River Herring shall contain not more than seven (7) fish. The number of pieces of the tail cut of the fish in any lot shall be approximately equal to the number of fish in that lot. The cans shall have not less than four (4) inches of vacuum.

b. Definitions:

1. The term "natural" means without the addition of any condiment except salt, or brine which may contain up to 2% vinegar, but may have added oil of the same species of fish.
2. The term "well cleaned" means that the fish shall have the head and tail removed, shall be practically free from scales (i.e., scales shall not cover more than five (5) percent of the surface area), shall be reasonably free from entrails, feed and objec-

tionable material. In mackerel the blood sac along the backbone shall have been punctured to allow drainage of blood.

3. The term "net weight per can" means the total weight of the fish and liquid in the can.
- c. A lot shall be considered as meeting specifications if not more than one-sixth of the containers in a lot fail in some respect to meet the requirements of the specifications; provided that none of the containers which may fail to meet the specifications shall fail to meet the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and amendments and regulations thereunder.
- d. Specifications Applicable to Other Species: (a) The canned fish shall be equal to or better than the samples submitted with this offer, and shall be prepared and canned under strictly sanitary conditions in accordance with the best commercial practice. Vendor shall attach a brief description of the product. (b) All canned fish delivered hereunder shall conform in every applicable respect to the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act as amended and of regulations pursuant thereto.
5. Inspection: Inspection of the fish must be made by CCC or its designee, prior to shipment. The cost of inspection, including furnishing samples and issuing certificates of inspection, will be borne by the vendor.
6. Packaging and Markings:
  - (a) Cans: Cans shall be of the usual commercial type and at the time of delivery shall be sound and clean, free from rust and serious dents.
  - (b) Labels: Cans shall be labeled or lithographed with vendor's commercial labels or markings.
  - (c) Cases: Cases shall be new and in good condition and of the type specified in Section 1 above.
  - (d) Strapping: Each case shall be strapped with two (2) metal straps.
  - (e) Markings: Each case shall be marked to show the name of the vendor, commodity, contract number, commodity code, net weight of cans and number of cans per case, and a legend which may be prescribed by CCC.



## Wholesale and Retail Prices

Lower prices for agricultural commodities and hides and leather products caused a decrease of 1.2 percent in average primary market prices between March and April, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. On those fish items for which data are collected, rather wide variations were disclosed. Percentage changes, from March 15 to April 15, varied all the way from a decline of 4 percent in the wholesale price of cured cod to an increase of 4.1 percent in the retail price of 1-pound cans of pink salmon.

## Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		Apr. 12, 1947	Mar. 15, 1947	Apr. 13, 1946
<u>Wholesale:</u> (1926 = 100)				
All commodities	Index No.	148.1	-0.1	+35.5
Foods	do	163.0	-2.1	+48.3
Fish:				
Apr. 1947                      Mar. 1947                      Apr. 1946				
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	3.066	0	+56.0
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	5.462	+1.8	+48.0
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 pounds	14.40	-4.0	+ 7.0
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.00	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.00	0	0
<u>Retail:</u> (1935-39 = 100)				
All foods	Index No.	188.0	-0.8	+32.7
Fish:				
Fresh and canned	do	261.0	-1.9	+17.9
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	39.1	-4.3	+ 5.9
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	39.4	+4.1	+59.0
Red	do	60.5	+2.2	+37.8



## SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA HERRING FISHERY

The conclusion obtained from the estimates of the most probable contribution of the year classes within the fishery is that the abundance will be high in the season of 1947.



The most likely source of deviation from the predicted contributions will be in the year classes of 1944 and 1945. The estimation of the strength of the 1944 year class has been obtained from its single contribution as 3-year fish in the season of 1946. As evaluated from its yield in that season this class appears to be of outstanding strength and its presence as 4-year fish should substantially raise the level of abundance over that of 1946. The 1945 year class will enter the fishery for the first time in 1947 and its

estimated contribution is based only on the average contribution of entering year classes in former years which has approximated 9 percent. It can be stated with assurance that the fishing in 1947 will be exceptionally good.

--Fishery Leaflet 252.