

FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE

Imports and Exports

GROUND FISH IMPORTS: Imports of fresh and frozen groundfish (fillets, steaks, etc., of cod, haddock, hake, cusk, pollock, and rosefish), within quota limitations under the reduced tariff provided under trade agreements, totaled 2,112,009 pounds during June, according to a preliminary report from the Bureau of Customs, Treasury Department.

An analysis of the imports for the first 6 months of 1947, totaling 11,814,937 pounds, when broken down by points of origin, reveals that Canada and Iceland exported to the United States but 45 and 34 percent, respectively, of their shipments for the first 6 months of 1946. Newfoundland, however, during the same period, shipped 94 percent of its 1946 6-month's total.

Country	1947		1946	
	June	6-month Total	June	6-month Total
Canada	1,767,889	8,878,865	3,808,047	19,634,359
Newfoundland	271,050	1,991,600	435,405	2,125,230
Iceland	73,070	944,472	100,000	2,762,844
Norway	-	-	-	1,756
Total	2,112,009	11,814,937	4,343,452	24,524,189

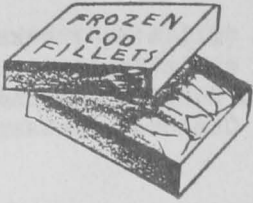


Canada

FISHING INDUSTRY MAKES ADJUSTMENTS: Fishery statistics for the first six months of 1947 indicate that the industry on the Atlantic Coast is definitely adjusting its production and processing program to meet current market requirements, according to the June 1947 issue of Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics. The industry enjoyed strong markets for all its products throughout the war years, but as the fisheries of the United Kingdom and North-Western European countries recovered, the European demand has declined, except for certain relief requirements. Markets for frozen fish products have weakened, not only because of the reduced overseas demand, but also due to competition from Newfoundland and Iceland in the United States market.

Since the demand for the canned and salted forms of fish remain relatively strong, both in the normal export markets and for relief purposes, a considerable diversion of production from frozen into cans and salt is evident in the figures for the first six months of 1947. Landings of cod, the principal Atlantic Coast species, amounted to 74,178,000 pounds as compared with 121,758,000 pounds in the same period of 1946. Landings of all species of fish on both coasts amounted to 409 million pounds with a landed value of \$17.7 million compared with 434 million pounds valued at \$22.6 million in the first six months of 1946. The major decline in landed value has occurred on the Atlantic Coast where the value of the cod and lobster catches was sharply below that of last year. Unfavorable weather conditions were mainly responsible for the reduced lobster catch. The major Pacific Coast fisheries, with the exception of halibut, have not yet come to the season of main production.

No significant changes took place in the prices of fishery products during June, although the index of wholesale prices declined a further 8 points, while the index of prices of all foods increased by 4 points.



The sharp reduction in freezings of cod fillets in 1947 has tended to keep cold-storage holdings of all fish at lower levels compared with those of 1946.

On June 24, Fisheries Minister Bridges announced that up to \$8 million would be spent on the purchase of fishery products as part of the Government's policy of providing relief to certain European countries. The Minister indicated that the fish purchases would include up to 10 million pounds of dried salted cod and related species; up to 40,000 barrels of pickled fish; up to 50,000 boxes of bloaters; up to 900,000 cases of West Coast canned herring; and up to 100,000 cases of Eastern canned fish. At the same time, it was announced that the Fisheries Prices Support Act, 1944, would be proclaimed at an early date. It is expected that the relief purchasing program and the operations of the Prices Support Act will provide an opportunity for the industry to maintain a high level of production throughout the current year and to proceed with its adjustment from wartime to peacetime conditions.

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THE SALMON PACK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: The sockeye pack in British Columbia so far this season was good, as a result of a heavy run at Rivers Inlet and Smiths Inlet, according to the July 28 report of the American Consulate General at Vancouver, B. C. However, this is an off-cycle year for sockeye and the total catch for the season will probably be below that of last year, particularly as sockeye fishing in the Fraser River has been closed by the International Sockeye Salmon Commission until early September.

Threat of a British Columbia coast salmon fleet tie-up was averted when fishermen and canners reached agreements for the 1947-48 season. The agreement calls for prices to the fishermen which are slightly higher than last year, the increase being one cent a pound for sockeye, one-half cent for pinks and chums, and one and a half to two cents for coho.

The immediate market outlook insofar as the salmon pack is concerned will depend upon the policy of the Canadian Government. While there have been indications that the Government intends to remove price controls, such orders have not actually been issued as yet. At the same time, the British Food Mission in Canada has not announced or contracted for a definite proportion of this season's salmon pack.

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TUNA FISHING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA: Heavy runs of tuna, attributed to exceptionally warm off-shore waters, have been reported off the west coast of Vancouver Island, according to the August 5 report of the American Consulate General at Vancouver. Approximately 15 large Canadian trolling vessels are currently engaged in fishing for tuna, the catch so far this season being estimated at 500,000 pounds.

Although local packers have offered as high as \$510 a ton for such fish, the entire catch so far has been sold at a price of \$420 a ton, with upward adjustments for the fishermen when complete returns are received, to the Fishermen's

Cooperative Association which is shipping them either in the fresh or frozen state to the United States where they are canned.

Albacore have not been a major source of fishing revenue in British Columbia. Last season, Canadian vessels engaged in tuna fishing operations in many instances did not make expenses and the season was considered a failure. The landed value of such fish in British Columbia in 1943 was \$5,760, which increased to \$93,373 in 1944. In past seasons, small quantities packed in oil have been canned here in half-pound tins and labeled as tuna.



Norway

HERRING REDUCTION: According to the Royal Norwegian Information Services, a herring reduction company in Bergen, Norway, has dispatched a refrigerator ship to Iceland to carry back to Norway, Icelandic herring for the company's Norwegian herring meal and oil factory. The distance involved is at least 700 miles. There are also reports of a Norwegian plan to equip a floating herring reduction factory for use in the Iceland herring fishery.



PEARL CULTURE

The great advantage to culturing pearls in the Palaus and other places in the ex-mandate was the presence there of the larger black lip pearl oyster, and availability of the gold lip. Because of their larger size, they were not only easier to use as hosts for mother-of-pearl blanks, but also the nacre was laid down at a more rapid rate, so that pearls could be produced in two years rather than in the 3 to 5 required for the native Japanese pearl oyster, Pinctada martensi.



EQUIPMENT FOR PEARL CULTURE

A popular impression exists that a very minute speck of material is used as a base for a cultured pearl. Actually, the blank is practically the size of the finished pearl. Blanks are graduated in size, and because of the thinness of the nacre overlay, a large pearl is produced as rapidly as a smaller one. Equipment, including a slug, for culturing pearls is shown. After the slug is inserted, the oysters are placed in wire baskets holding 10, and are suspended off the bottom in depths from 5 to 25 fathoms.