

OTHER FISHERY NOTES

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 140 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft during July 1947, compared with 132 in the same month the previous year, according to the U. S. Bureau of the Customs. The State of Washington led with 21 vessels documented during the month followed by California with 20 vessels, and Louisiana with 14 vessels.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	July		Seven mos. ending with July		Twelve Months
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1946
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	11	9	52	40	86
Middle Atlantic	5	5	42	31	74
Chesapeake Bay	15	5	60	36	71
South Atlantic and Gulf	43	29	250	159	351
Pacific Coast	44	68	286	250	375
Great Lakes	10	10	46	47	76
Alaska	4	5	21	16	19
Hawaii	4	1	13	4	17
Unknown	4	-	11	10	16
Total	140	132	781	593	1,085

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



U. S. Sends Fishery Advisors To FAO Conference

Andrew W. Anderson, Chief, Division of Commercial Fisheries, of the Fish and Wildlife Service, will act as fishery advisor to the United States Delegation to the third annual conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization which meets in Geneva, Switzerland, August 25, Milton C. James, Acting Director of the Service, announced on August 23.

The United States delegation to the conference is headed by Under Secretary of Agriculture Norris E. Dodd. Mr. Anderson is acting as fishery advisor to the delegation for the third time, having attended the previous conferences in Quebec and Copenhagen.

This year, for the first time, the United States will have an additional fishery advisor, representing the fishing industry, Mr. James said. Charles E. Jackson, General Manager of the National Fisheries Institute, is the advisor from the industry.

Mr. James said that the agenda for the conference includes the following items of special importance to the fisheries:

Discussion of the establishment of regional councils for the exploration of the sea and its resources.

The development of quality standards for fishery products.

The proposed world food census in 1950 which would provide the first comprehensive picture of the available food supplies of the world.

A progress report on a saltfish commodity study previously undertaken.

A report of the meeting of European fishery representatives held in Rome last June 23rd to consider means of widening the distribution of fish in Europe.

The Fisheries Division of the Food and Agriculture Association is headed by Dr. D. B. Finn, formerly Deputy Minister of Fisheries in Canada.



Shrimp Sizes

Among the laws passed by the 1947 session of the Alabama Legislature is the following:

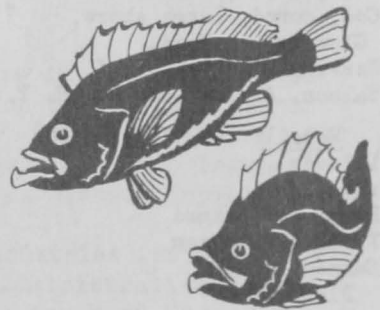
Act No. 59 (H. 102 by Stone, Sullivan and Johnston, all of Mobile), approved July 1, 1947. Amends Sec. 161, Title 8, to read "It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or association to sell, offer for sale, or have in possession for sale for commercial purposes any shrimp where it requires more than 40 with heads to weigh one pound or where it requires more than 68 headless shrimp to weigh one pound. This law shall apply to shrimp taken from the territorial waters of Alabama or brought into Alabama from waters beyond the territorial jurisdiction of Alabama. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to shrimp which are used solely as bait. Shrimp used as bait shall be controlled by regulation duly promulgated by the Director of Conservation."



United States Fish Supplies

During the remainder of 1947, domestic supplies of fresh and frozen fish are expected to be about as large as they were during the last half of 1946, according to the July-September issue of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's National Food Situation. In the next few months, retail prices of most fresh and frozen fish are expected to be about the same as they were during the three years of price control.

Production of the two major species of canned fish, salmon and tuna, is expected to be larger than in 1946, but only a relatively small part of the new pack is likely to reach retail markets before fall. Prices of canned salmon and tuna have been relatively higher so far in 1947 than in previous years. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the retail price of canned salmon in 56 cities reached a record peak in June 1947--41.1 cents for a one-pound can of pink salmon and 63.3 cents for the same size container of red salmon. Prices of canned salmon and tuna this fall are not expected to differ much from those prevailing this summer. Civilian consumption of canned, fresh, and frozen fish in 1947 is expected to be slightly higher than it was last year, although canned fish consumption per person will still be below the prewar rate.



ROSEFISH

Imports of fresh and frozen fish in 1947 may be smaller than in the previous year. During the first six months of 1947, the imports of fresh and frozen ground-fish fillets (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish) were reported to be slightly less than half of the quantity imported during the same period a year ago. Canned fish imports are expected to show a marked increase over 1946, but may not equal the 1937 record.

Exports of canned fish are expected to be lower than the 187 million pounds exported in 1946, but above the 1935-39 prewar average of 93 million pounds.

Military requirements of canned fish out of the 1947 pack amount to about 14 million pounds compared with procurement of slightly less than a million pounds from the 1946 pack when there were large military stocks to be liquidated.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

Reversing the downward movement of the previous two months, average primary market prices rose 0.6 percent from May to June, largely because of higher agricultural prices, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. The index of commodity prices in primary markets increased to 147.8 percent of the 1926 average, 1.1 percent below the postwar peak reached in March. The index advanced 30.9 percent from June 1946, before suspension of OPA controls, and 97.1 percent since August 1939.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		June 14, 1947	May 17, 1947	June 15, 1946
<u>Wholesale: (1926 = 100)</u>				
All commodities	Index No.	147.6	+0.4	+32.0
Foods	do	162.4	+0.8	+45.3
Fish:		June 1947	May 1947	June 1946
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	3.066	0	+55.6
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	5.486	0	+48.5
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 pounds	13.50	0	0
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.0	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.0	0	0
<u>Retail: (1935-39 = 100)</u>				
All foods	Index No.	190.5	+1.5	+30.8
Fish:				
Fresh and canned	do	254.7	-0.2	+15.9
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	37.0	-1.1	+0.8
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	41.1	+1.7	+16.8
Red	do	63.3	+2.4	+46.7

Retail food prices in large cities rose 1.5 percent between May 15 and June 15 to establish a new record high for the Retail Food Price Index for the third time in 8 months, reports the same source. The Retail Index advanced during the month to 190.5 percent of the 1935-39 average, 31 percent above mid-June 1946, the last month of extensive Government price controls, more than double the August 1939 index.

Fish, however, with the exception of canned salmon, did not follow the general trend. Compared with a month ago, conditions ranged from no change to a decline

of just over 1 percent. Compared with a year ago, the difference ranged from no change up to an increase of less than 1 percent. Canned salmon, on the other hand, continued to register substantial gains. These amounted to over 55 percent, in some cases, when compared with the same period last year.



FISHERY STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1943

Fishery statistics of the United States and Alaska are compiled and published annually^{1/} to make available information on both the economic and biological aspects of the domestic commercial fisheries.

Data on the economic aspects are necessary to persons engaged in the commercial fishery and to governmental agencies concerned with its regulation and protection. Those here given cover the total catch and value by species, the yield and value of manufactured products and by-products, the employment of men, craft, and gear in the capture of fishery products, employment in shore establishments, and related information.



From the biological standpoint, these data are important to sound fishery management in providing detailed information on fluctuations in the commercial catch by species, locality, and year, and on the types of gear and boats operated. They assist conservation agencies so to regulate the commercial fisheries as to produce maximum yields without depletion.

Previous statistical reports on the fishery industries issued under the Department of the Interior were as follows: Administrative Report No. 41, for 1938 (Appendix III to Report of Commissioner of Fisheries, 1940); Statistical Digest No. 4, for 1940; Statistical Digest No. 7, for 1941; and Statistical Digest No. 11, 1942. Reports for preceding years were issued in the Administrative Report series of the former Bureau of Fisheries.

^{1/}Delayed during war years.