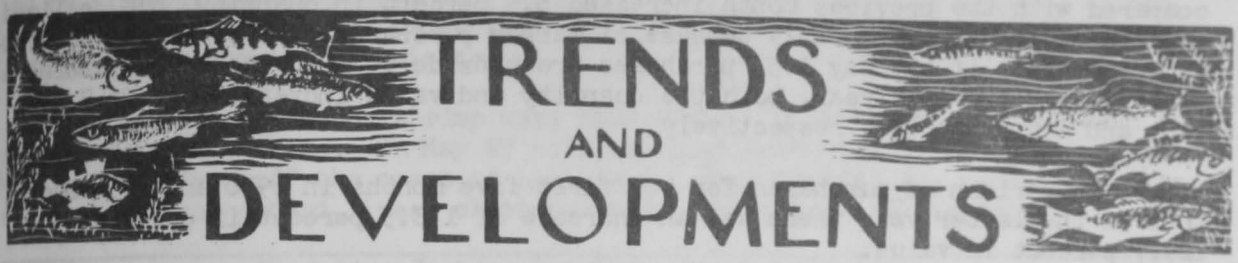


Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

First documents as fishing craft were received during April 1951 by 102 vessels of 5 net tons and over--5 less than in April 1950. Washington led with 25 vessels, followed by Alaska with 18, and California with 12 vessels.

A total of 244 vessels were documented for the first time as fishing vessels during the first four months of 1951, compared with 249 vessels for the same period during 1950.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, April 1951

Section	April		Four mos. ending with April		Total
	1951	1950	1951	1950	1950
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	3	5	8	12	36
Middle Atlantic	2	7	15	12	45
Chesapeake Bay	2	8	6	22	81
South Atlantic	9	14	31	44	153
Gulf	21	16	68	49	167
Pacific Coast	43	27	81	66	231
Great Lakes	4	1	5	4	12
Alaska	18	29	29	40	83
Hawaii	-	-	1	-	4
Total	102	107	244	249	812

NOTE: VESSELS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE VARIOUS SECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR HOME PORT.

Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, MAY 1951: The Army Quartermaster Corps made purchases of 2,880,530 pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products for the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Forces during the month of May 1951 (see table). These purchases as

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army
(May and the First Five Months, 1951 and 1950)

QUANTITY				VALUE			
May		January-May		May		January-May	
1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	$	$	$	$
2,880,530	1,270,467	11,527,766	4,832,873	1,120,427	439,998	4,737,372	2,062,398

compared with the previous month increased 5.5 percent in quantity, but declined .7 percent in value, probably because of larger purchases of less expensive fishery products. If the May 1951 purchases are considered with the corresponding month of the previous year, both the quantity and value increased by 126.7 percent and 154.6 percent, respectively.

A comparison of purchases for the first five months in 1950 and 1951 shows that in the latter year there was an increase of 138.5 percent in quantity and 129.7 percent in value.

Fishery Products Production in Consumer-Size Packages, 1950

A survey by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries shows that 101 plants packed 42,655,000 pounds of the more important fish and shellfish (fillets, shrimp, scallops, and oysters) in consumer-size containers of a fixed weight in 1950 (see table). However, in addition to this amount there were small quantities of other types of fishery products and specialty products packaged which were not included in this survey.

Frozen Fishery Products Production in Consumer-Size Packages, 1950

Item	Size of Package	Quantity
		lbs.
Fillets	1-lb.	26,740,000
	Other	190,000
	Total ...	26,930,000
Shrimp	12-oz.	7,800,000
	Other	3,260,000
	Total ...	11,060,000
Scallops	16-oz.	2,780,000
	Other	1,020,000
	Total ...	3,800,000
Oysters	12-oz.	655,000
	Other	210,000
	Total ...	865,000
Grand Total		42,655,000

During the past several years, production and sales of and interest in frozen fishery products in consumer-size packages of a fixed weight have increased considerably. Most of these products are being marketed in frozen food cabinets by chain and independent grocery and food stores.

For the purpose of this survey, only frozen fish fillets, shrimp, scallops, and oysters packed in fixed-weight packages of two pounds or less were included. Breaded, cooked and other prepared fishery products meeting these criteria were also included.

Market trends indicate that the production of frozen fishery products in consumer-size packages will increase considerably, and the Branch of Commercial Fisheries estimates that in 1951 production of the following products in fixed-weight consumer-size containers will amount to: fillets, 32,250,000 pounds; shrimp, 15,000,000 pounds; scallops, 4,400,000 pounds; and oysters, 1,050,000 pounds. This 1951 estimate includes some potential new packs

Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

RED SNAPPER FISHING GEAR TESTED BY "OREGON" (Cruise No. 9): Testing red snapper fishing gear, particularly traps, was the main purpose of the Oregon's Cruise No. 9. This vessel of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, which is carry-

ing on fishery explorations in the Gulf of Mexico, left Pascagoula on May 23 and returned on June 8. A few exploratory shrimp trawl drags were made at the beginning and at the end of this cruise.

Exploratory drags for shrimp were made on May 23 southeast of Pensacola in depths up to 64 fathoms. On May 27 work was continued west of the mouth of the Mississippi River off the coast of Louisiana. Here fishing was carried on for red snappers using hand lines, electric reels, and traps (see table).

Hand-Line Fishing Locations for Red Snapper

Station or Reference No.	Date 1951	Latitude North	Longitude West	Depth in Fathoms	Remarks
359	5/26	29°12'	88°35.5'	32	Average weight 2.1 lbs. Fishing light.
361	5/27	29°21.5'	88°04.5'	48	Average weight 8.4 lbs. Fishing poor.
362	5/27	28°38'	89°33.5'	33	Average weight 2.6 lbs. Fishing fair.
364	5/28	28°39.7'	89°49.5'	48	Average weight 4.3 lbs. Fishing fair.
366	5/29	27°56'	91°29'	45	Average weight 8 lbs. Fishing light.
368	5/30	27°59'	91°39'	34	Average weight 5.1 lbs. Fishing poor.
370	5/30	28°00.5'	91°45.5'	48	Average weight 4.3 lbs. Fishing poor.
373	5/31	27°57'	92°00'	32	Average weight 4 lbs. Fishing light.
377	6/1	28°02'	92°29'	49	Average weight 3 lbs. Fishing light.

The small population of very large brown-grooved shrimp (Peneus aztecus) reported in early May (report of cruise 8), southeast of Pensacola in 52 to 68 fathoms, was located again during the last week of May but in much reduced numbers. This time also no brown shrimp at all were found in 30 to 50 fathoms east of Pensacola. However, during the last week of May a scattering of very large brown shrimp, some individual shrimp weighing as much as 5½ ounces, were included in the landings at Biloxi. These were said to have been taken in about 30 fathoms. Since brown shrimp so large as these have not previously been noted in appreciable numbers in the north Gulf, comparisons with catches in previous years cannot be made. These shrimp are probably of commercial interest only as a spawning stock.

Thirty trap sets were made for red snappers west of the Mississippi. Considerable difficulty was encountered in finding good spots where current and bottom conditions permitted traps to be set at all. Only ten of the sets caught snappers and in each instance the rate of capture was very low in comparison with hand-line fishing in the same area. Haphazard sets placed only in the general vicinity of snapper bottom made no catches.

Electric reels were used with considerable success in hand-line fishing for red snapper. The heaviest fish taken on a reel was a 114-pound warsaw (jewfish).

Maryland to Study St. Mary's River Oyster Seed Area

Scientists of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and of the Chesapeake Bay Institute are planning to make an intensive joint study of the St. Mary's River during the oyster-spawning and setting season this summer, according to an oyster biologist of the Maryland Department of Research and Education at Solomons.

The river has long been noted for its ability to produce high sets of spat or young oysters. In recent years, the State has put this characteristic to practical use through the planting of clean shells on the bottom in order to provide suitable surfaces for the attachment of young oysters. The reasons for this local high rate of setting are not thoroughly understood. A more complete knowledge of the factors which bring it about would be of great value in locating or developing other good seed areas.

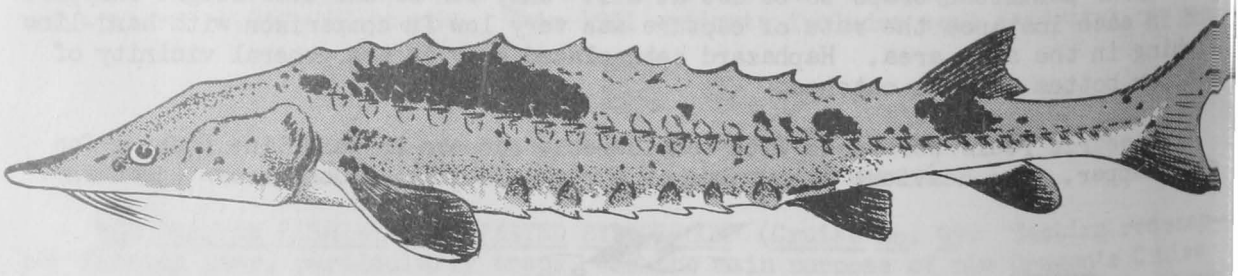
It is planned to make observations of the currents, temperatures, salinity, turbidity, chemistry, food production, and other characteristics of the water at frequent intervals at numerous locations. The time and intensity of oyster setting will be determined by exposing clean test shells in small wire bags at periodic intervals. The distribution and abundance of oyster larvae (early swimming stages) will be studied by passing measured quantities of water through fine silk nets.

Data of this nature, added to that obtained from the James River study, should help establish many of the necessary factors which are needed to produce a good set of young oysters. Biologists of the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory and of the Fish and Wildlife Service will help in planning and supplementing certain phases of the project.

Michigan Great Lakes Fishermen Permitted to Fish for Sturgeon

For the first time in nearly 22 years, Michigan Great Lakes commercial fishermen may legally take sturgeon as the result of the Governor's approval of Act 194 of the public acts of 1951, the Michigan Department of Conservation reported in a June news release. The Department points out that the law permitting the taking of 42-inch or longer sturgeon was given immediate effect.

Repeal of the closed season was recommended since it had no apparent effect on building up the low sturgeon population--and so the State law would conform with that of Ontario.



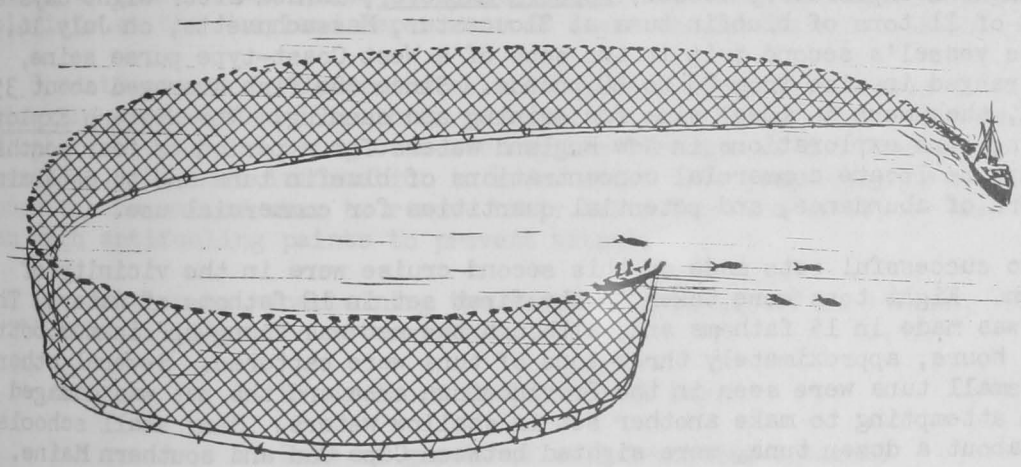
LAKE STURGEON (ACIPENSER RUBICUNDUS)

The sturgeon, a slow-growing fish, will be taken incidentally to other fishing by commercial crews. Roe or caviar, taken from females, greatly adds to the value of the fish.

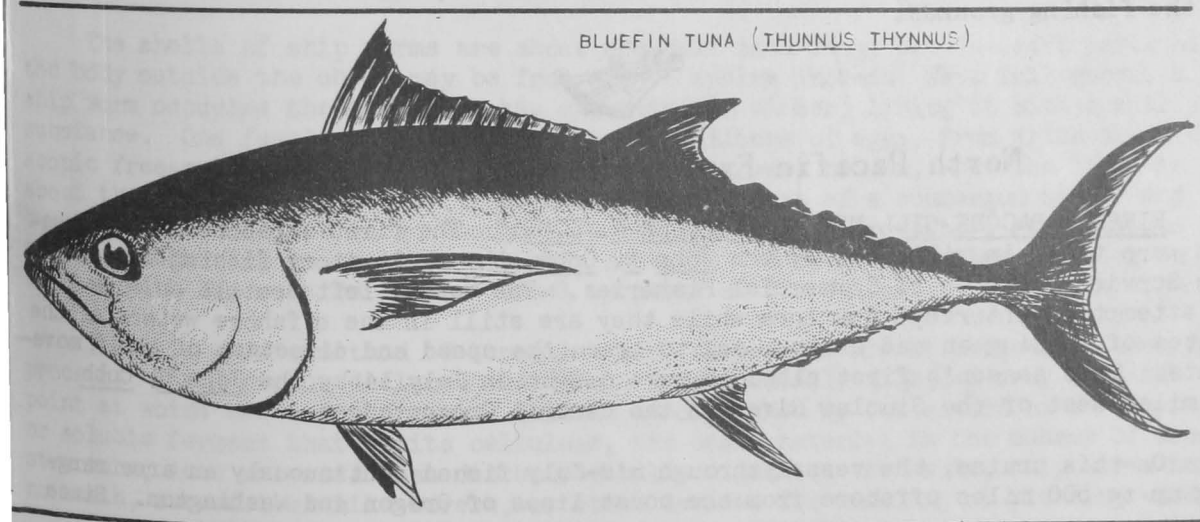
The annual catch amounted to over one million pounds before the turn of the century. In 1928, the last open season, the catch dwindled to 1,688 pounds, with Lake Michigan accounting for all except 15 pounds of the total.

New England Tuna Explorations

"WESTERN EXPLORER" SIGHTS TUNA ON FIRST CRUISE: Since reports were received from mackerel seiners that tuna had been sighted off Cape Ann, the Western Explorer searched for bluefin tuna between Cape Ann and Cape Elizabeth on its first cruise. The vessel, which is searching for untapped resources of bluefin tuna in waters off the shores of Maine and Massachusetts, left East Boston on June 23 and returned on July 2.



TYPICAL WEST COAST-TYPE TUNA PURSE-SEINE OPERATION BEING USED BY WESTERN EXPLORER IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS FEASIBLE TO CATCH BLUEFIN TUNA BY THIS METHOD IN NEW ENGLAND WATERS.



Unfavorable weather conditions were encountered by this exploratory vessel of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries during the first few days of the cruise. Poor visibility and easterly winds ranging from force 4 to 5 (moderate to brisk breeze) with accompanying surface chop made it difficult to spot surfacing fish.

On June 28, the weather improved and the vessel sighted school tuna inside Boon Island. However, the fish were in 12 fathoms of water and it was deemed inadvisable to set the vessel's seine, which measures 34 fathoms in the deepest section. The following morning a large school of tuna were sighted southeast of Boon Island in about 18 fathoms of water, but this was still too shallow for a set.

A school of small tuna were sighted southeast of Boon Island Buoy in 34 fathoms of water late in the afternoon of June 30. Although a set was made, the school escaped from the seine before it could be pursed. The fish passed between the end of the seine and the boat. About 10 bushels of squid, on which the tuna had evidently been feeding, remained in the seine after pursing.

* * * * *

"WESTERN EXPLORER" LANDS FIRST CATCH OF BLUEFIN TUNA AT GLOUCESTER: The Service's New England exploratory vessel, Western Explorer, landed after eight days at sea a catch of 11 tons of bluefin tuna at Gloucester, Massachusetts, on July 14. Taken on the vessel's second trip in two sets of a West Coast-type purse seine, these tuna ranged in size from 25 to 50 pounds. Since the fish averaged about 35 pounds each, they were an ideal size for seining and canning. The Western Explorer is conducting tuna explorations in New England waters for a period of four months in an attempt to locate commercial concentrations of bluefin tuna and to determine their pattern of abundance, and potential quantities for commercial use.

The two successful sets made on this second cruise were in the vicinity of Provincetown. Eight tons were taken in the first set in 18 fathoms of water. The second set was made in 15 fathoms and, although the net was "hung-up" in mud bottom for several hours, approximately three tons of tuna were captured. Several other schools of small tuna were seen in the Provincetown area and the net was damaged slightly in attempting to make another set in shallow waters. Many small schools, containing about a dozen tuna, were sighted between Cape Cod and southern Maine.

Because the majority of tuna seen were in relatively shallow water, the seine, which is now 34 fathoms deep, is being cut down in depth before the vessel returns to the fishing grounds.

North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

FIRST ALBACORE GILL-NETTED BY "JOHN N. COBB:" The first albacore of this season were taken in gill nets by the John N. Cobb, the exploratory fishing vessel of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries. The vessel left Seattle on June 11 to attempt to intercept the tuna while they are still in the offshore waters of the states of Washington and Oregon, and to trace the speed and direction of their movements. This season's first albacore were caught on July 14 by the John N. Cobb 95 miles west of the Siuslaw River on the central Oregon coast.

On this cruise, the vessel through mid-July fished continuously an area ranging up to 500 miles offshore from the coast lines of Oregon and Washington. Since

beginning this year's exploration, the operations of the vessel have been seriously hampered by strong northerly winds from 30 to 50 miles per hour which prevailed off the Northwest coast. Conventional trolling gear failed to take any albacore by July 14 when the gill-net catch was made.

For the first two weeks in July, the vessel fished off Oregon in waters with surface temperatures between 58° and 60° F., but because of the strong winds, fishing efforts were mostly restricted to unsuccessful surface trolling with jigs. Gill nets and long lines will be tested extensively as soon as the weather permits.

The John N. Cobb was engaged on a similar exploration in the 1950 season, and last year caught the first tuna on June 18, approximately 480 miles west of Cape Blanco, Oregon.

Ship Worms Being Studied by Maryland Biologists

Ship worms, long bivalve mollusks that cause great destruction by boring into timbers of wharves and hulls of wooden ships, are being scrutinized carefully by biologists at the Maryland Department of Research and Education at Solomons.

Investigations to determine at which times larval ship worms, which are free-living and not settled like their parents, attach themselves to bottoms of ships and other objects are being conducted by the Director of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. If more information is known about this phase of ship-worm life, boat owners can be warned when to remove their boats from the water, or when to paint them with antifouling paints to prevent attack.

In addition to ascertaining the seasonal activity of ship worms, Dr. R. V. Truitt, the Director, is determining:

1. Kinds found in Chesapeake Bay;

2. Rate of growth of each important species;

3. Where they strike in regard to the salinity and depth of the water.

The shells of ship worms are about one-half inch long, but the soft parts of the body outside the shell may be from six to twelve inches. When full grown, a ship worm occupies the tunnel it has excavated in timber, lining it with a shelly substance. One female ship worm can produce millions of eggs, from which the microscopic free-swimming larvae are hatched. After a week or two, when the larva is about the size of a pinhead, it settles on the surface of a submerged timber and bores a tiny hole just large enough to admit its body. Thereafter, it continues to bore, enlarging the hole as its body grows in length and diameter, keeping in contact with the outside of its tunnel by means of its delicate, threadlike siphon.

The ship worm's method of tunneling into timbers is almost entirely a chemical process. The Director declared that "Wood is practically digested away from the point at which the worm burrows. This is accomplished by the action of an enzyme or soluble ferment that splits cellulose, the basic material in the makeup of wood structure, into material that can be partially digested. Actually, ship worms have no teeth, screwdriver-like borers, or other devices for drilling or piercing wood."

Twelve stations have been established in various ranges of salinities throughout Chesapeake Bay. A monthly collecting panel is made up of 12 boards and a control supported on a metal bar and suspended vertically in the water. They are tagged with metal numbered tags as they are removed from the water each month. Each month one board and the control board is removed, and during each following month consecutive boards are removed and replaced. In this way the rate of growth of borers over a given period can be obtained from boards removed each month. By removing the control board each month, information on the breeding season can be obtained.

Dr. Truit recently pointed out that despite its abundance and extreme destructive nature, "ship worms and their activities are little known. Our work may provide a key to the ultimate control of this pest."

U. S. Pack of Canned Clams and Clam Products, 1950

Canned clams and clam products packed in the United States during 1950 amounted to 1,518,719 standard cases, valued at $10,839,889 to the canners (table 1). This was an increase of 332,659 standard cases and $2,060,871 as compared with the previous year's production.

Table 1 - Pack of Canned Clams and Clam Products by Type of Product and Area, 1950 (Quantity in Standard Cases[1] and Value to Canners)

Species and State	No. of Plants	Whole and Minced			Chowder, Juice, Broth, & Nectar			Total	
		Quantity Std. Cases[1]	Total Value $	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[1] $	Quantity Std. Cases[1]	Total Value $	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[1] $	Quantity Std. Cases[1]	Total Value $
Soft Clams:									
Maine	9	200,889	1,618,535	8.06	202,464	1,128,296	5.57	403,353	2,746,831
Razor Clams:									
Washington, Oregon	3, 2	1,199	35,402	29.53	-	-	-	1,199	35,402
Alaska	16	45,955	828,675	18.03	-	-	-	45,955	828,675
Total razor clams	21	47,154	864,077	18.32	-	-	-	47,154	864,077
Hard Clams:[2]									
Rhode Island, New York	1, 3	75,573	719,521	9.52	79,083	374,531	4.39	154,656	1,094,052
New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland	4, 1, 2	67,099	765,874	11.41	786,735	4,944,045	6.28	853,834	5,709,919
Washington, California	6, 2	55,161	407,126	7.38	3,943	11,079	2.81	59,104	418,205
Alaska	2	618	6,805	11.01	-	-	-	618	6,805
Total hard clams	21	198,451	1,899,326	9.57	869,761	5,329,655	6.13	1,068,212	7,228,981
Grand total	48[3]	446,494	4,381,938	9.81	1,072,225	6,457,951	6.02	1,518,719	10,839,889

1/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 NO. 1 CANS, EACH CAN OF WHOLE AND MINCED CLAMS CONTAINING 5 OUNCES OF MEAT, DRAINED WEIGHT; AND EACH CAN OF CHOWDER, JUICE, BROTH, AND NECTAR, 10 OUNCES GROSS CONTENT.
2/INCLUDES THE PACK OF SURF CLAMS IN NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY; PISMO CLAMS IN CALIFORNIA; COCKLES IN ALASKA.
3/EXCLUSIVE OF DUPLICATION.

Compared with 1949, the 1950 pack of whole and minced clams was 50 percent greater; and the chowder, juice, broth and nectar production increased by 21 percent.

The canned whole and minced clam over-all standard case average price dropped from $10.75 per case in 1949 to $9.81 in 1950. Individual price advances were noted for razor clams in the states of Washington and Oregon, but the price of canned soft and hard clams in the important producing regions of Maine and other New England and Middle Atlantic States in 1950 dropped.

Average standard case prices for canned clam chowder, juice, broth, and nectar during 1950 were slightly lower than in 1949.

The general decline in the prices of these canned products is attributed to the considerable increase in pack that took place in 1950.

Table 2 - Pack of Canned Clams and Clam Products, 1941-50
(Quantity in Standard Cases[1] and Value to Canners)

Year	Whole and Minced			Chowder, Juice, Broth, and Nectar	Total	
	Soft Clams[2]	Hard Clams	Razor Clams		Quantity	Value
	Std. Cases[1]	Std. Cases[1]	Std. Cases[1]	Std. Cases[1]	Std. Cases[1]	$
1950	200,889	198,451	47,154	1,072,225	1,518,719	10,839,889
1949	155,129	101,191	41,657	888,083	1,186,060	8,779,018
1948	107,177	29,085	36,932	1,006,580	1,179,774	8,329,639
1947	33,968	24,852	47,406	1,151,424	1,257,650	8,642,235
1946	167,987	108,638	79,394	1,171,770	1,527,789	11,145,047
1945	64,425	238,475	63,703	533,429	900,032	7,391,098
1944	72,434	71,771	40,450	363,041	547,696	3,820,612
1943	47,746	28,344	40,340	348,364	464,794	2,802,420
1942	72,499	30,515	40,104	639,484	782,602	3,791,058
1941	97,460	32,303	40,192	757,388	927,343	3,711,029

1/ CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 NO. 1 CANS, EACH CAN OF WHOLE OR MINCED CLAMS CONTAINING 5 OUNCES OF MEAT, DRAINED WEIGHT; AND EACH CAN OF CHOWDER, JUICE, BROTH, AND NECTAR, 10 OUNCES GROSS CONTENT.
2/ PRODUCTION OF CANNED SURF CLAMS IN MAINE HAS BEEN INCLUDED WITH THE PACK OF SOFT CLAMS.

U. S. Pack of Canned Groundfish Flakes, 1950

Pack of Canned Groundfish Flakes, 1940-50
(Quantity in Std. Cases[1] & Value to the Canners)

Year	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[1]
	Std. Cases[1]	$	$
1950	18,490	289,630	15.66
1949	32,365	506,224	15.64
1948	35,014	548,113	15.65
1947	18,560	303,831	16.37
1946	151,886	2,107,446	13.88
1945	157,135	2,332,176	14.84
1944	92,950	1,318,167	14.18
1943	33,318	497,815	14.94
1942	83,729	1,011,382	12.08
1941	34,661	371,699	10.72
1940	32,477	345,938	10.65

1/ CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 CANS TO THE CASE, EACH CAN CONTAINING 14 OUNCES OF FISH.

The 1950 pack of canned groundfish flakes amounted to 18,490 standard cases, valued at $289,630 to the packers. This was a decrease of 42.9 percent in volume and 42.8 percent in value, compared with 1949. Groundfish flakes were canned in 5 plants in Maine and 1 in Massachusetts. The canner's average price per standard case was $15.66, an increase of only 2 cents as compared with the previous year, and the highest price on record was paid in 1947--$16.37 per standard case.

Production of canned groundfish flakes in 1950 was the lowest during the past eleven years. The next lowest production during this period was in 1949 when 18,560 standard cases were packed (see table).

U. S. Pack of Canned Mackerel, 1950

Canned mackerel (including jack mackerel) packed in the United States during 1950 amounted to 1,457,048 standard cases, valued at $7,491,816 to the canners (table 1). Compared with the previous year, this was an increase of 39 percent in quantity and 9 percent in value. California packed 52 percent more than in 1949 but the Atlantic Coast States canned 52 percent less.

Table 1 - Pack of Canned Mackerel[1] by States in Standard Cases[2] and by Size of Can and Case in Actual Cases, 1950 (Quantity and Value to Canners)

State	Quantity Std. Cases[2]	Total Value $	Avg. Price Per Std. Case $
Massachusetts	36,873	319,617	8.67
Maine and Maryland	26,683	212,583	7.97
Total	63,556	532,200	8.37
California	1,393,492	6,959,616	4.99
Grand total ...	1,457,048	7,491,816	5.14

Can and Case Size	Quantity Actual Cases	Total Value $	Avg. Price Per Case $
15 oz. net, tall (48 cans)	1,406,267	7,062,777	5.02
15 oz. net, oval (48 cans)	27,267	220,762	8.10
14 oz. net (24 cans)	39,633	141,428	3.57
Other sizes (converted to standard cases)	5,018	66,849	13.32
Total	1,478,185	7,491,816	-

1/ INCLUDES PACK OF JACK MACKEREL IN CALIFORNIA.
2/ "STANDARD CASES" REPRESENT CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 1-POUND CANS TO THE CASE, EACH CAN CONTAINING 15 OUNCES OF FISH.

Mackerel were canned in 42 plants in California, 4 in Massachusetts, 10 in Maine, and 1 in Maryland.

The over-all price per standard case to the canner dropped from $6.52 in 1949 to $5.14 in 1950, mainly due to the larger pack and lower price for the California pack.

The average price of $4.99 per standard case in 1950 for the California pack was considerably below the 1949 average price of $6.29. The 1950 average for the California pack was the lowest since 1942 when the average price reported was $4.87 (table 2). On the other hand, because of a drop in production the Atlantic Coast States pack in 1950 averaged $8.37 per standard case, compared to $8.13 in 1949.

Table 2 - Pack of Canned Mackerel, 1940-50 (Quantity in Standard Cases[1] and Value to the Canners)

Year	California Quantity Std. Cases[1]	California Total Value $	California Avg. Price Per Std. Case $	Atlantic Coast Quantity Std. Cases[1]	Atlantic Coast Total Value $	Atlantic Coast Avg. Price Per Std. Case $	Total Quantity Std. Cases[1]	Total Total Value $	Total Avg. Price Per Std. Case $
1950	1,393,492	6,959,616	4.99	63,556	532,200	8.37	1,457,048	7,491,816	5.14
1949	916,810	5,766,415	6.29	133,117	1,082,515	8.13	1,049,927	6,848,930	6.52
1948	1,018,973	7,541,931	7.40	262,219	2,308,903	8.81	1,281,192	9,850,834	7.69
1947	1,477,198	12,571,059	8.51	277,752	2,447,574	8.81	1,754,950	15,018,633	8.56
1946	723,688	5,599,894	7.74	238,462	1,975,397	8.28	962,150	7,575,291	7.87
1945	638,191	3,590,614	5.63	54,557	456,077	8.36	692,748	4,046,691	5.84
1944	992,280	5,096,749	5.14	232,780	1,937,248	8.32	1,225,060	7,033,997	5.74
1943	831,660	4,379,996	5.27	105,591	891,207	8.44	937,251	5,271,203	5.62
1942	616,436	3,000,604	4.87	104,753	692,478	6.61	721,189	3,693,082	5.12
1941	843,719	2,947,233	3.49	91,282	556,485	6.10	935,001	3,503,718	3.75
1940	1,400,016	3,986,695	2.85	21,878	114,674	5.24	1,421,894	4,101,369	2.88

1/ "STANDARD CASES" REPRESENT CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 1-POUND CANS TO THE CASE, EACH CAN CONTAINING 15 OUNCES OF FISH.

U. S. Pack of Canned Shad, 1950

Canned shad packed in 1950 in the United States amounted to 14,049 standard cases, valued at $89,851 to the canners(table 1). This was an increase of 2 percent in volume, but a decrease of 15 percent in value as compared with the previous year. The entire pack was canned on the Pacific coast, principally in the Columbia River district of Oregon. The Pacific coast pack was slightly larger than in the previous year. Shad were canned in 4 plants in Oregon and 2 plants in California. Atlantic coast canners failed to pack shad for the first time since 1940.

Table 1 - Pack of Canned Shad[1] in Standard Cases[2] and by Size of Can and Case in Actual Cases, 1950 (Quantity and Value to the Canners)

State	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case	Can and Case Size	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Case
	Std. Cases	$	$		Actual Cases	$	$
Oregon and California	14,049	89,851	6.40	15 oz. net (48 cans)	11,646	65,821	5.65
				8 oz. net (48 cans)	4,806	24,030	5.00
				Total	16,452	89,851	-

1/DOES NOT INCLUDE SMOKED SHAD.
2/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE UNIFORM BASIS OF 48 NO. 1 TALL CANS TO THE CASE, EACH CAN CONTAINING 15 OUNCES OF FISH.

For the Pacific Coast pack, the canners' average price per standard case in 1950 was $6.40, compared with $7.41 in 1949 and $9.25 in 1948 (table 2).

Table 2 - Pack of Canned Shad[1], 1940-50 (Quantity in Standard Cases[2] and Value to Canners)

Year	Pacific Coast			Atlantic Coast			T o t a l		
	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[3]	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[3]	Quantity	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case[3]
	Std. Cases	$	$	Std. Cases	$	$	Std. Cases	$	$
1950	14,049	89,851	6.40	-	-	-	14,049	89,851	6.40
1949	12,984	96,194	7.41	851	10,000	11.75	13,835	106,194	7.68
1948	11,908	110,196	9.25	2,865	26,655	9.30	14,773	136,851	9.26
1947	18,808	169,777	9.03	3,910	29,496	7.54	22,718	199,273	8.77
1946	3/	3/	-	3/ 24,403	3/ 224,387	9.20	24,403	224,387	9.20
1945	4,983	110,210	22.11	17,345	182,554	10.52	22,328	292,764	13.11
1944	17,820	103,003	5.78	23,548	243,239	10.33	41,368	346,242	8.37
1943	14,171	78,762	5.56	3,860	48,618	12.60	18,031	127,380	7.06
1942	28,693	156,077	5.44	7,764	80,123	10.32	36,457	236,200	6.48
1941	3,637	16,221	4.46	926	14,226	15.36	4,563	30,447	6.67
1940	18,421	54,108	2.94	234	2,999	12.82	18,655	57,107	3.06

1/DOES NOT INCLUDE SMOKED SHAD.
2/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE UNIFORM BASIS OF 48 NO. 1 TALL CANS TO THE CASE, EACH CAN CONTAINING 15 OUNCES OF FISH.
3/A SMALL PACK OF SHAD ON THE PACIFIC COAST HAS BEEN INCLUDED WITH THE ATLANTIC COAST PRODUCTION.

U. S. and Alaska Pack of Canned Salmon, 1950

Canned salmon packed in the Pacific Coast States and Alaska in 1950 amounted to 4,274,462 standard cases, valued at $108,590,571 to the canners. Compared with 1949, this was a decrease of 23 percent in quality, but an increase of 5 percent in value. The Alaskan production accounted for 77 percent of the total 1950 pack. Canned pink salmon was only 34 percent of the 1949 production due to a combination of poor runs in Southwestern Alaska and the fact that practically no pink salmon are caught in Puget Sound during the even-numbered years.

Table 1 - U. S. and Alaska Pack of Canned Salmon by Species and Area (Quantity in Standard Cases[1] and Value to Canners), 1950

Species	Alaska			Pacific Coast States			Total		
	Std. Cases[1]	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case	Std. Cases[1]	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case	Std. Cases[1]	Total Value	Avg. Price Per Std. Case
Chinook or king ...	54,053	$ 1,542,709	$28.54	151,928	$ 5,382,820	$35.43	205,981	$ 6,925,529	$33.62
Chum or keta	777,779	15,212,302	19.56	539,982	11,260,800	20.85	1,317,761	26,473,102	20.09
Pink	1,095,534	25,663,330	23.43	2,277	61,855	27.17	1,097,811	25,725,185	23.43
Red or sockeye	1,153,508	33,845,862	29.34	136,741	5,308,048	38.82	1,290,249	39,153,910	30.35
Silver or coho	191,501	5,131,834	26.80	160,625	4,812,707	29.96	352,126	9,944,541	28.24
Steelhead	268	7,474	27.89	10,266	360,830	35.15	10,534	368,304	34.96
Total	3,272,643	81,403,511	24.87	1,001,819	27,187,060	27.14	4,274,462	108,590,571	25.40

1/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 ONE-POUND CANS, EACH CONTAINING 16 OUNCES.

Salmon were canned at 31 plants in Washington, 13 in Oregon, 1 in California, and about 115 (operated by 91 firms) in Alaska.

Table 2 - U.S. and Alaska Pack of Canned Salmon, 1941-50
(Quantity in Standard Cases[1] and Value to Canners)

Year	Alaska		Pacific Coast States		Total	
	Std. Cases[1]	Total Value	Std. Cases[1]	Total Value	Std. Cases[1]	Total Value
1950	3,272,643	$81,403,511	1,001,819	$27,187,060	4,274,462	$108,590,571
1949	4,391,591	81,263,168	1,133,325	22,167,812	5,524,916	103,430,980
1948	4,014,891	96,528,730	810,075	24,008,466	4,824,966	120,537,196
1947	4,312,172	88,666,301	1,329,226	31,969,134	5,641,398	120,635,435
1946	3,949,878	53,157,194	560,289	17,003,459	4,510,167	70,160,653
1945	4,350,471	44,644,303	557,769	7,942,102	4,908,240	52,586,405
1944	4,893,059	51,196,140	245,588	5,187,136	5,138,647	56,383,276
1943	5,428,318	57,824,267	275,889	5,110,847	5,704,207	62,935,114
1942	5,075,974	48,300,209	759,032	13,673,968	5,835,006	61,974,177
1941	6,932,040	56,217,601	899,589	11,199,317	7,831,629	67,416,918

1/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 ONE-POUND CANS, EACH CONTAINING 16 OUNCES.

Canned salmon prices during 1950 were higher than prevailing prices for 1949 (see table 3). Without exception, there was an increase in the average price per standard case for each species with the highest increases for pink and silver or coho salmon. The 1950 average price for all salmon species canned in the U. S. and Alaska was $25.40, some $6.78 above the 1949 average price per standard case.

Table 3 - U.S. & Alaska Average Canned Salmon Prices by Species and by Areas, 1949-50

Item	Chinook or King	Chum or Keta	Pink	Red or Sockeye	Silver or Coho	Steelhead	All Species
	(Price per Standard Case[1])						
Alaska:							
1950	28.54	19.56	23.43	29.34	26.80	27.89	24.87
1949	25.17	15.17	16.00	26.36	20.82	14.00	18.50
Pacific Coast States:							
1950	35.43	20.85	27.17	38.82	29.96	35.15	27.14
1949	28.75	14.53	15.94	31.72	22.83	27.43	19.56
Total U.S. & Alaska:							
1950	33.62	20.09	23.43	30.35	28.24	34.96	25.40
1949	27.88	14.97	15.99	26.90	21.44	27.35	18.72

1/CASES OF VARIOUS SIZES CONVERTED TO THE EQUIVALENT OF 48 ONE-POUND CANS, EACH CONTAINING 16 OUNCES.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, AUGUST 1950, PP. 24-5.

Trade Agreements

BENELUX, CANADA, FRANCE, AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SIGN TORQUAY PROTOCOL: As a result of Benelux, Canada, France, and the Dominican Republic signing the Torquay Protocol, the President signed on June 2, 1951, a proclamation to give effect to the United States concessions negotiated at Torquay with those countries and also sent a letter to the Secretary of Treasury identifying concessions in Schedule XX (U.S.) to the Torquay Protocol to be put into effect on June 6. The following changes in tariff rates on fishery and certain chemical items of the United States tariff thereby result:

Sodium Alginate, reduced from 20% to 12½%.

Drugs of animal origin: Fish oils, n.e.s. (include principally fish viscera oils) a reduction in the Internal Revenue Tax from 1 4/5 cents to 1½ cents per pound. The duty will remain at 5%.

Halibut-liver oil, reduced from 10% to 5%.

Drugs of animal origin, n.e.s. (include principally concentrated shark-liver, whale-liver, and hake-liver oils) bound at 5%.

Logwood extract, reduced from 10% to 7½%.

Seal oil, Internal Revenue Tax reduced from 2.7 cents to 1½ cents per pound. The duty will remain at 3 cents per gallon.

Marine animal and fish oils, n.s.p.f. (covers miscellaneous marine-animal and fish body and liver oils, not specifically provided for, such as salmon, mackerel, tuna, swordfish, redfish, and hake oils), reduced from 20 percent plus 3 cents per pound Internal Revenue Tax to 10 percent plus 1½ cents per pound.

Fresh mackerel, reduced from 3/4 cent to ½ cent per pound.

Canned salmon, reduced from 25% to 15%.

Pickled or salted herring (including sprats, pilchards, anchovies):

Those in containers, not airtight, weighing with contents, not more than 15 pounds each, reduced from 15% to 12½%.

Those in containers, weighing with contents, more than 15 pounds each and containing each not more than 10 pounds of herring, reduced from ½ cent per pound to 3/8 cents per pound net weight.

Canned razor clams, reduced from 10% to 7½%.

Clam chowder, clam juice, and clam juice in combination with other substances, reduced from 35% to 17½%.

Caviar and other fish roe (except sturgeon), not boiled or net packed in airtight containers, reduced from 10 cents to 5 cents per pound.

Fatty acids, derived from animal or fish oils or animal fats and greases, n.e.s., reduced from 15% to 10%.

Fish oils, n.e.s. (no imports under this item in 1950) Bound free and Internal Revenue Tax reduced from 1 4/5 cents to 1½ cents per pound.

Concurrent with the United States giving effect to concessions in its tariffs on June 6, the protocol provides that Benelux, Canada, France, and the Dominican Republic will give effect to any of their concessions to the United States and to the other countries with which they negotiated who have signed the protocol.

CANADA: United States negotiations with Canada resulted in the following concessions in Canadian import duties on fishery products effective June 6:

Fresh herring, bound free.

Canned salmon, reduced from 27½% to 15%. The British Preferential rate was also eliminated.

Fresh and frozen shrimp, reduced from 20% to 12½%. The British Preferential rate was also eliminated.

Menhaden oil, reduced from 20% to 17½%.

All other articles, the produce of the fisheries, not enumerated in the tariff reduced from 20% to 17½%.

Canada, in its negotiations with other countries, agreed to reductions or bindings in other fishery items of their tariff. These may be brought into effect thirty days following signature by the contracting party or parties concerned. Effective dates will vary according to the time of signature by the other contracting party in each case:

Crabs, in sealed containers, reduced from 40% to 30%.

Fish, preserved in oil, n.o.p., reduced from 25% to 20%.

Bonito, preserved in oil, reduced from 25% to 17½%.

Salt for use of the sea or gulf fisheries, bound free.

Fish hooks, for deep-sea or lake fishing, not smaller in size than number 2.0, not to include fish hooks used for sportsmen's purposes, bound free.

BENELUX: In negotiations with the United States, the Netherlands bound the 20% duty on yarns for fish nets imported into Surinam.

Negotiations with countries other than the United States resulted in a binding free of mother-of-pearl and other shells, raw, and if simply cut up, split, or stretched but not worked.

FRANCE: France, in negotiations with countries other than the United States, made several modifications in its tariff on fishery items. Of these, the following are considered significant to United States fishery interests.

Canned salmon, reduced from 25% to 20%, in agreement with Canada, therefore, scheduled effective date was June 6.

Seal skins and skins of other sea mammals, further processed than tanned, 8%.

Salted, dried or smoked herring, set rate of 20% for Guadeloupe, Martinique, Reunion, French Guiana.

Codfish, including klipfish and halibut, in fillets, set rate of 10% for Martinique.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: The Dominican Republic agreed to the following concessions in its tariffs as a result of negotiations with other countries. These are scheduled to become effective thirty days following signature of the country with which the item was negotiated. All except the last item were negotiated with Canada, and all scheduled to be effective as of June 6.

Smoked herring and alewives were reduced from .0225 pesos to .02 pesos per net kilogram.

Salted or dry codfish, pollock, hake, cusk and haddock reduced from .0025 pesos to .02 pesos per net kilogram.

Herring, mackerel, and alewives in brine, reduced from .015 pesos to .01 pesos per gross kilogram.

Canned sardines, whether or not in oil, were reduced from 1.15 pesos to .12 pesos per net kilogram.

Other preserved fish, not otherwise listed in tariff, .20 pesos per net kilogram.

* * * * *

EFFECT ON FISHERY PRODUCTS OF SIGNATURE OF TORQUAY AGREEMENT BY SWEDEN AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Concessions in tariff rates on certain fishery products imported into Sweden and Czechoslovakia are provided for in the terms of the Torquay Protocol to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade signed by Sweden on June 7 and by Czechoslovakia on June 8, 1951.

The Protocol provides that these countries shall put into effect the thirtieth day following signature by the contracting parties concerned, tariff concessions negotiated at Torquay.

No changes in the United States tariff for fishery items will result from this action. Concessions granted by Sweden and Czechoslovakia to other countries will modify certain of their import duties on fishery products and, under provisions of the most-favored-nation clause of the Agreement, be applicable to those products imported from the United States.

Sweden reduced its rate of duty on canned salmon from 75 krona to 50 krona (from US$14.50 to US$9.66) per 100 kilograms in negotiations with Canada. Since both Canada and the United States have signed the Protocol, this rate is scheduled to become effective July 7, and will apply equally to canned salmon from either of these countries. Sweden also bound free its rate on salted, sweetened, or smoked cod roe in barrels.

Czechoslovakia granted a reduced rate of 400 kcs. per 100 kilograms on herring, mackerel, sprats, and tunny fish, in tomato sauce, preserved in tins, bottles, and similar containers, hermetically sealed. This will have little effect on the domestic industry since there is a minimum of trade in fishery products with Czechoslavakia.

* * * * *

RENEGOTIATION OF VENEZUELAN TRADE AGREEMENT: The United States and Venezuelan Governments have announced their intentions to renegotiate the Trade Agreement of November 6, 1939, now existing between the two countries.[1/] (Views of the fishing and allied industries may be presented concerning concessions in the Venezuelan tariff that should be sought or Venezuelan trade restrictions which might be considered for negotiation as well as on any United States concession which may be listed for consideration).

Under the present trade agreement, preferential rates are given to Venezuelan imports of certain fishery products from the United States. Frozen and canned salmon are dutiable at the rate of .90 bolivar per gross kilogram (about 12 US cents per pound); canned sardines packed in sauce, their own juice or oil (but not olive oil) is specified at .28 bolivar per gross kilogram; (about 3.8 US cents per pound); and canned shellfish at 1.50 bolivares per gross kilogram (about 20 US cents per pound).

United States statistics show exports to Venezuela in 1950 of 98,000 pounds of canned salmon, valued at US$58,000; 4,000 pounds of frozen salmon, valued at US$2,500; 2,141,287 pounds of canned sardines, valued at US$332,245; and 167,000 pounds of canned shellfish, valued at US$141,941, which consisted principally of 146,395 pounds of canned shrimp, valued at US$129,265.

Venezuelan import duties on fish products were substantially increased effective March 1, 1951. This action was taken, according to a dispatch from the U.S. Embassy at Caracas, in order to provide additional protection to the Venezuelan fish-canning industry. The new rates of duties were set at 2 bolivares per gross kilogram (about 27 US cents per pound) except for those items (listed in paragraph two above) contained in the present trade agreement and imported from the United States and from other countries with which Venezuela has commercial treaties or modus vivendi containing most-favored-nation clauses.

The rates on items not covered by the present agreement, including canned tuna as well as many other items not listed above were raised on March 1, 1951, from 1.20 to 2 bolivares per gross kilogram (from 16 to 27 US cents per pound). United States export statistics show the following fishery items in these categories going to Venezuela in 1950:

1/ SEE P. 82 OF THIS ISSUE.

	Pounds	Value		Pounds	Value
Canned tuna	140,000	$91,000	Frozen codfish	22,232	$ 8,778
Cured herring	43,217	14,853	Other frozen fish ...	53,705	24,296
Cured codfish	32,112	12,494	Frozen shrimp	32,625	24,910
Unspecified cured .	9,200	3,800	Other shellfish	48,529	20,668
Canned codfish	800	305	Other canned	26,629	22,006

The Department of the Interior has representation on the Trade Agreements Committee and the Venezuelan country-subcommittee now conducting preliminary investigations of the items for possible negotiation. Formal public hearings will be held soon by the Committee for Reciprocity Information at which time the fishery industries will have an opportunity to present their views with respect to proposals to modify United States or Venezuelan tariffs or related considerations.

* * * * *

U.S. TARIFF CONCESSIONS NEGOTIATED WITH NORWAY EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2: Norway signed the Torquay Protocol on July 3. This Protocol was developed at the Torquay Conference (Third Set of Tariff Negotiations by Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). According to the terms of the Protocol signed by the United States and Norway, the following tariff concessions on fishery products granted by the United States to Norway will become effective on August 2:

Tariff Par.No.	Stat. Class. (1949)	Commodity Description (abbreviated)	U. S. Import Duty Before Torquay	U. S. Import Duty After Torquay
66	8420.290	Chemical pigments, n.s.p.f. (includes pearl essence).	25%	12½%
718(a)		Fish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in oil or in oil and other substances:		
	0063.350 (Part)	Sardines neither skinned nor boned, but smoked before canning, valued over 18 but not 23¢ per lb.1/	20%	15%
718(b)		Fish not in oil or in oil and other substances, in airtight containers weighing, with contents, not over 15 lbs. each:		
	0067.700 (Part)	Sardines in immed. containers weighing, with contents, less than 8 oz. each.	12½%	10%
	0067.700 (Part)	"Other" sardines and "other" herring (include snacks, tidbits, rollmops, sprats).	12½%	6¼%
	0067.300	Fish cakes, balls, and pudding.	12½%	6¼%
720(a) (2)	0075.200	Herring, smoked or kippered (except hard dry-smoked), whole or beheaded, not packed in oil or in oil and other substances and not packed in airtight containers, each weighing with contents, 15 lbs. or less.	1¢ lb.	5/8¢ lb.
720(a) (6)	0075.900	"Other" fish, smoked or kippered, not in oil or in oil and other substances and not packed in airtight containers weighing with contents not more than 15 lbs. each.	10%	6¼%
721(d)		Caviar and other fish roe (except sturgeon):		
	0079.590	Boiled and packed in airtight containers.	15%	7½%
1535	9420.550	Fish hooks, n.s.p.f.	35%	30%

1/ INCLUDING WEIGHT OF IMMEDIATE CONTAINER.

Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, MAY 1951: A drop in production during May in the major fisheries throughout the country (except Pacific Coast halibut) was reflected in an overall increase in the prices of the major categories of fishery products. The wholesale index for edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) for May was 108.9 percent of the 1947 average (see table 1)—1.0 percent above the previous month and 15.2 percent higher than May 1950, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports. Except for halibut, demand was generally better than in April.

The drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup index during May was 2.2 percent above April and 2.5 percent above May 1950. During May, the substantial increase in fresh large-drawn haddock prices and the slight rise in fresh or frozen dressed salmon were offset by a considerable drop in the prices of fresh-water fish (high prices in April were due to Hebraic holidays) and fresh or frozen halibut. Fresh haddock prices this May were 9.8 percent above a year earlier and 22.4 percent above April. Salmon prices were 1.9 percent higher than the previous year and 0.4 percent over the previous month. On the other hand, the fall in fresh or frozen halibut prices which started in March this year continued in May due to heavy cold storage stocks and the opening of the Pacific Coast halibut season on May 1. This species was quoted during May at 10.0 percent below a year earlier and 4.5 percent lower than this April.

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Indexes of Fish and Shellfish, May 1951 - with Comparative Data

GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION	POINT OF PRICING	UNIT	AVERAGE PRICES ($)			INDEXES (1947 = 100)		
			May 1951	Apr. 1951	May 1950	May 1951	Apr. 1951	May 1950
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)						108.9	107.8	94.5
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:						102.5	100.9	99.1
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:						107.4	105.1	104.8
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.10	.08	.09	106.7	87.2	97.2
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.30	.31	.33	87.5	91.6	97.2
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	"	.53	.52	.52	128.7	128.2	126.3
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.43	.59	.41	124.6	170.2	119.1
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.59	.83	.50	133.6	188.1	113.9
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.42	.59	.46	91.7	130.2	101.5
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	New York City	"	.40	.42	.29	93.4	98.3	67.7
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):						95.8	94.7	89.4
Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.30	.29	.29	106.4	103.5	104.7
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.59	.57	.62	85.3	82.5	88.9
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	4.50	4.59	3.50	110.8	113.1	86.2
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):						102.2	101.9	103.4
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. bxs.	Boston	lb.	.41	.38	.35	132.3	122.7	113.0
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.24	.24	.26	110.0	108.8	118.8
Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.24	.26	.20	117.8	127.5	98.2
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. bxs.	Chicago	"	.60	.57	.68	85.2	82.5	98.4
Canned Fishery Products:						118.5	118.1	87.6
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	24.62	24.62	14.58	160.5	160.5	95.0
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. ½ tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	15.00	15.00	14.25	97.6	97.6	92.7
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	" "	"	6.75	6.75	5.50	75.5	75.5	61.5
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. ¼ drawn (3¼ oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	6.75	6.53	7.00	66.2	64.0	68.6

Fresh processed fishery products prices in May declined 1.2 percent as compared to April and were 7.2 percent higher than in May 1950. Prices for fresh haddock fillets during the month rose 2.8 percent above April and were 1.6 percent higher than in May a year earlier. Although fresh headless shrimp prices have been rising steadily since December 1950 and in May this year increased even more (3.4 percent above April), they were still 4.0 percent below May 1950.

In spite of ample cold storage stocks, processed frozen fish and shellfish prices in May rose 0.3 percent above April, but were 1.2 percent lower than in May 1950. From April to May the substantial increases in frozen flounder fillet prices (7.8 percent), frozen headless shrimp (3.3 percent), and frozen haddock fillets (1.1 percent) were offset by a substantial drop in frozen ocean perch fillets (7.4 percent). Frozen headless shrimp prices have been steadily increasing since January this year, but in May, quotations were 13.4 percent below the corresponding month a year earlier; and frozen haddock fillet prices this May were 7.4 percent lower than in May 1950. On the other hand, this May's quotations for frozen flounder fillets and ocean perch fillets were higher than in May 1950 by 17.1 percent and 20.0 percent, respectively.

Canned fishery products prices in May were only slightly above April entirely due to an increase in Maine sardines. The month's index for this subgroup was 0.3 percent higher than in April and 35.3 percent above May 1950. Prices of all canned products under this subgroup during May continued to hold steady at February levels except for Maine canned sardines which increased 3.4 percent from April to May. Although this latter product has increased steadily since March, prices quoted this May were still 3.5 percent lower than the same month a year earlier.

RETAIL PRICES, MAY 1951: Average retail price increases for all foods were higher on May 15 than for all fishery products. Between mid-April and mid-May, moderate-income urban families paid some 0.8 percent more for all foods than they did for the previous 30-day period, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Since the percentage increase for all foods was greater than that for all fishery products, prices for all food products, other than fish, rose higher than prices for fishery products. The price index for all foods in mid-May was 227.4 percent of the 1935-39 average, some 13.8 percent higher than the corresponding period of 1950 (see table 2).

Table 2 - Adjusted Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Fishery Products, May 15, 1951, with Comparative Data

Item	Base	INDEXES		
		May 15,1951	Apr.15,1951	May 15,1950
All foods	1935-39 = 100	227.4	225.7	199.8
All fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, & canned) ..	do	353.1	351.7	293.7
Fresh and frozen fish	1938-39 = 100	287.1	286.4	264.9
Canned salmon: pink	do	511.7	508.1	346.4

Retail prices paid for all fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) averaged 353.1 percent of the 1935-39 average, a rise of 0.4 percent over the mid-April average, and 20.2 percent above the same period of the previous year.

Following the same trend as at wholesale, average fresh and frozen fish prices at retail on May 15 were 0.2 percent higher than April 15 and 8.4 percent over mid-May 1950.

Canned pink salmon prices continued their upward trend as warehouse supplies were practically exhausted. The adjusted retail price index for canned salmon on May 15 was recorded at a new high of 511.7 percent of the 1938-39 average--47.7 percent above the corresponding period of 1950, and 0.7 percent higher than on April 15, 1951.

Economic Cooperation Administration Program Notes

GREECE ASKS FOR CANNED FISH: During June, Greece asked for bids on 400 metric tons (about 19,596 cases of 48 15-oz. cans) of canned sardines or pilchards packed in tomato sauce in cans of 5, 6, 8, 14, or 15 ounces each. Bids were being received by the Greek Ministry of Commerce, Athens, and the bid deadline was June 20.

INDONESIA AUTHORIZED FUNDS TO PURCHASE FISHING VESSELS: On June 1 ECA authorized the expenditure of $270,000 by Indonesia for the purchase of three fishing vessels to be used for government demonstrations. One of the vessels was to be procured from the United States and was to be a clipper-type tuna vessel capable of carrying 75 tons of tuna. The other two vessels were to be 50-ton fish carrying vessels and were to be procured from the Netherlands.

To reach the tuna fishing grounds already known, Indonesian fishermen need larger clipper vessels such as are used in high-sea tuna fishing by American tuna fishermen, ECA states. The two carrier vessels will be used to transport fresh or salt fish from outlying areas to the larger centers of population, assuring a market for increased catches which can not now be transported from these areas. However, all three of the new vessels will be initially operated by the Indonesian Government to demonstrate to private industry and the fishery cooperatives the benefits they can obtain through the purchase of similar vessels.

In six months ECA has authorized $1,368,000 in U. S. aid funds for Indonesian fishery development. With these funds Indonesia is also buying 60 small motorized fishing boats and 100 new engines from Japan for $600,000; 15 larger-type boats from Japan for $255,000; and a fisheries research vessel from the Netherlands for $225,000, and scientific equipment for it costing $18,000. In addition, ECA in May sent a U. S. fisheries expert to Djakarta to help the Indonesian Government carry out its broad plan for increasing fish production.

PHILIPPINE ECA PROCUREMENTS THROUGH PRIVATE CHANNELS: It has always been the policy of ECA that, insofar as possible, all purchases financed with ECA dollars should be made through established private trade channels. However, due to the urgency of getting shipments started to the Philippines at the earlier possible time, the established buying facilities of the Emergency Procurement Service were being temporarily used to meet this emergency. However, ECA hopes that for purchases during the Fiscal Year 1952, normal private trade channels between the Philippines and the United States will be used for all ECA financed purchases, according to a June 22 news release from that agency. Among the items that may be requested by the Philippines for ECA financing are machinery and equipment for fish ponds; fish nets; and fish hooks.

PORTUGAL AND MOROCCO REQUEST ECA FUNDS FOR TIN-PLATE IMPORTS: Portugal during June requested ECA-funds for the purchase of $600,000 of tin-plate for the canned fish industry. In the same month Morocco also requested $200,000 of ECA funds for tin plate (some of which probably also is intended for the canned fish industry of that country). Both of these countries have requested ECA to grant procurement authorizations covering these commodities.

ICELANDIC UNION LEADERS TO STUDY U. S. LABOR CONDITIONS (INCLUDING FISHERIES)

The Federation of Icelandic Labor Unions which in 1948 threw off Communist domination which had existed for six years, has sent five of its leaders to the United States to study American labor organizations and working conditions, accompanied by a member of Iceland's Parliament who is a former labor official. The four-week study visist, sponsored under the technical assistance program of the Economic Cooperation Administration, a June 28 news release from that agency states, provides an opportunity for establishing relations between American and Icelandic labor, which have not previously existed.

Because of the importance of the fishing industry in Iceland's economy, the group will view fishing operations and processing in Boston and the fish markets of New York and Chicago.

The group has been in Chicago since arriving there on June 14 from Iceland. Members of the group are particularly interested in American labor's support of productivity methods as a means of increasing real wages. High costs of production during the postwar years have retarded Iceland's postwar adjustment. Other general aspects being studied by the group include the organizations, activities, and leaders of the American labor movement; conditions of employment, wages, and welfare; education, training, and social activities of workers.

WHAT'S NEW IN PROCESSED FISHERY PRODUCTS

Following the trend in modern food marketing, several new fishery products have been introduced to the public within recent months. Many of these new products are creating markets for previously unused or less acceptable species of fish and shellfish.

Frozen abalone patties utilize that part of the abalone which cannot be marketed in steak form. The meat from thin steaks and trimmings are ground and compressed into 24" x 3" metal cylinders and frozen. The frozen abalone meat is then removed from the cylinders and is cut in ¼" slices, breaded, and packaged--four slices per package. The sliced abalone can then be fried like hamburger patties.

Meat removed from freshly-caught chicken lobsters serves as the basic ingredient in a filling used for the new frozen stuffed lobsters or frozen lobster thermidor. The lobster filling is replaced in the lobster shell for freezing, packaging, and subsequent distribution. A quick oven heating prepares this product for the dinner table.

A firm in Canada is now producing salmon and rice croquettes. Chum salmon, not generally popular among consumers when other types of salmon are available, is prepared for croquettes by first mechanically removing the bone and skin. The meat is then mixed with cooked rice, spices, and corn to obtain the proper consistency. This mixture is shaped mechanically into uniform croquettes, fried, and packed six to each 10-oz. tall can. Only three minutes of heating are required prior to service.