



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Interdepartmental Committee on Trade Agreements

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICE ON TRADE-AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS:^{1/} The United States intends to undertake trade-agreement negotiations, beginning September 28, 1950, at Torquay, England, with six countries, in addition to the 17 countries which were named in the notice published by the Interdepartmental Committee on Trade Agreements on April 14, according to a supplementary notice issued by the Committee on May 15. These additional countries are: Denmark, the Dominican Republic, India, Indonesia, Italy, and Sweden.

Annexed to the supplementary notice issued was a list, supplementary to the list annexed to the notice published on April 14, of articles imported into the United States on which United States tariff concessions may be considered during the forthcoming negotiations. In this supplementary list, the following fishery products are included (reference is made in the list to the paragraph numbers of the Tariff Act of 1930):

SCHEDULE 7. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND PROVISIONS

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| Para. 717 | (a) Fish, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), whole, or beheaded or eviscerated or both, but not further advanced (except that the fins may be removed): Turbot. |
| | (b) Fish, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), filleted, skinned, boned, sliced, or divided into portions, not specially provided for: Turbot. |
| 718 | (a) Fish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in oil or in oil and other substances: Anchovies, valued at not over 9 cents per pound, including the weight of the immediate container. |
| (1559) | Antipasto, valued at not over 9 cents per pound, including the weight of the immediate container. |
| | (b) Fish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in air-tight containers weighing with their contents not more than fifteen pounds each (except fish packed in oil or in oil and other substances): Eels, smelts, and fish livers. |

Recommendations to the President as to products on which concessions may be offered in the negotiations will not be made until views and information of interested persons, received at the public hearings, have been reviewed and analyzed

^{1/} See Commercial Fisheries Review, April 1950, pp. 83-6.

by the interdepartmental trade-agreements organization. Actual granting of concessions will depend, of course, upon the results of the negotiations themselves.

Negotiations may involve the elimination, reduction, or continuation of preferential tariff treatment for products of Cuba, with regard to any item on either of the published lists which is not the subject of such preferential treatment.



Eighty-first Congress (Second Session)

MAY 1950

Listed below are public bills, resolutions, etc., introduced and referred to committees, or passed by the Eighty-First Congress (Second Session) and signed by the President during May 1950, which affect in any way the fisheries and fishing and allied industries. Public bills, resolutions, etc., are mentioned under this section only when introduced and, if passed, when they are signed by the President.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

Senate:

S. 3680 (Magnuson) - A bill to provide for the conservation of natural fish resources and for an adequate and balanced flow of fish and fish products in interstate and foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. (This bill has three parts: Price Support, Fisheries Stabilization Corporation Creation, and Marketing Agreements and Orders.)

House of Representatives:

H. R. 8310 (Miller) - A bill to abolish free transmission of official Government mail matter under the penalty privilege; to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

H. R. 8312 (Nicholson) - A bill to provide for an adjustment of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act according to the needs of the fishing industry; to the Committee on Ways and Means. (This bill adjusts the Federal Unemployment Tax Act of 1939 and provides that fishing vessel payments for a berth shall be considered as payments to an individual, and that taxes paid for a berth shall be apportioned among all employers of the berth's occupants during a calendar year. Also provides for a refund to employers for taxes paid on berth payments, including wages, exceeding \$3,000 a year, and retroactive to 1939.)

H. R. 8320 (Cooley) - A bill to encourage the improvement and development of marketing facilities for handling perishable agricultural commodities; to the Committee on Agriculture. (This bill also applies to sea food terminal markets, both combined with other perishable agricultural commodities or

solely established for the distribution of sea food. Provides insurance of loans made to private persons, groups, or municipalities for the purpose of establishing terminal marketing facilities of perishable agricultural commodities, and direct loans in cases where these cannot be obtained from a source other than the Federal Government. Sea food in this bill is listed as one of the perishable agricultural commodities.)

H. R. 8349 (Mitchell) - A bill to authorize deductions from the wages of seamen for payment into employee welfare funds; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

H. Res. 576 (Shelley) - Resolution requesting the Secretary of State to investigate the seizure of five fishing vessels of the United States by the Republic of Mexico; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.



EXPLORATORY FISHING EXPEDITION TO THE NORTHERN BERING SEA IN JUNE AND JULY, 1949

Commercial fishing for cod has been carried on in southeastern Bering Sea for a number of years, and recently several vessels have been engaged in fishing for king crabs in the waters just north of the Alaska Peninsula, where large populations of crabs were found by the Alaskan King Crab Investigation in 1940 and 1941.

A Fish and Wildlife Service exploratory fishing expedition to the northern Bering Sea in June-July 1949 found that king crabs were widely scattered and of a much smaller size than those found to the south. Both the Alaskan and purple species were taken, and although no great quantities were found, it is possible that a more thorough survey might reveal areas of concentration.

Five species of shrimp were caught, mainly in the waters around St. Lawrence Island and the approaches to Norton Sound. Considering the large mesh of the trawl net used, the numbers of gray shrimp taken may be considered sufficient to justify further investigation with gear more suitable for shrimp fishing. Numerous immature flounders were taken in Norton Sound and in the approaches to the Sound, which was considered evidence of the existence of a population of adult fish in the general area.

The waters to the west and south of Nunivak Island produced the best cod and flatfish catches, many drags containing several thousand pounds of marketable fish, including prime lemon, yellowfin, rock and flathead "soles."

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