FOREIGN

International

WORLD FISHERIES REVIEW (1950) AND OUTLOOK (1951): Current Production Situation: Fish production in 1950 was generally successful with a world increase of about 9 percent above the previous year, according to The State of Food and Agriculture--Review and Outlook, 1951, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Catches (see Table 1) increased 5 percent in North America, 2 percent in Europe, 27 percent in Japan, 67 percent in the Union of South Africa, and 2 percent in Latin America. The modest fisheries of Israel increased production as a result of calculated efforts from 4,200 metric tons in 1949 to 7,100 tons in 1950--69 percent. The Philippine fisheries apparently maintained their trend toward recovery, with an increase over the previous year.

Fishing from Hong Kong continued to increase, which may be indicative of the prevailing natural conditions of the South China Coast fisheries; a steady increase in supplies was present in Singapore, despite the falling off in supplies from the Indonesian fisheries. No major changes appear to have occurred in the natural availability of fish in Indochina and Thailand during the year, but both countries are affected by conditions which interfer-

TYPICAL OTTER TRAWLERS FISHING OUT OF THE AMERICAN FISHING PORT OF BOSTON, MASS.

NORWEGIAN FREIGHTER LOADING SALT FISH AT WESTMAN ISLANDS, ICELAND, FOR DELIVERY TO SPAIN.

Table 1 - World Landings[1] of Fish by Regions for Selected Years

Region or Country	1950	1949	1946	1938
	..(Thousand Metric Tons)..			
Europe	5,952	5,581	4,902	5,363
North America	3,672	3,509	3,070	3,250
Latin America	515	505	300	265
Asia:				
Japan	3,794	2,980	3,265	[2]3,521
Africa:				
3 Countries[3]	503	377	219	110
Total	14,436	12,952	11,756	12,509

SOURCE: OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS, PLUS FAO ESTIMATES. FOR DETAILS BY COUNTRIES, SEE FAO FISHERIES BULLETIN, VOL. IV, NO. 4, JULY-AUGUST 1951.
1/ROUND FRESH WEIGHT: INCLUDES CRUSTACEANS AND SEAWEED IN A FEW CASES.
2/ADJUSTED TO COVER SAME TERRITORY AS POSTWAR DATA.
3/UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, MOROCCO, AND ANGOLA.

ed with the dried-fish trade. The fisheries of India, Pakistan, and Ceylon showed slight improvement over the previous year. The Indian mackerel and the oil-sardine fisheries have been on the down-swing of one of the natural fluctuations which characterize those stocks, and the 1949-50 fishing season showed only slight improvement over the previous year.

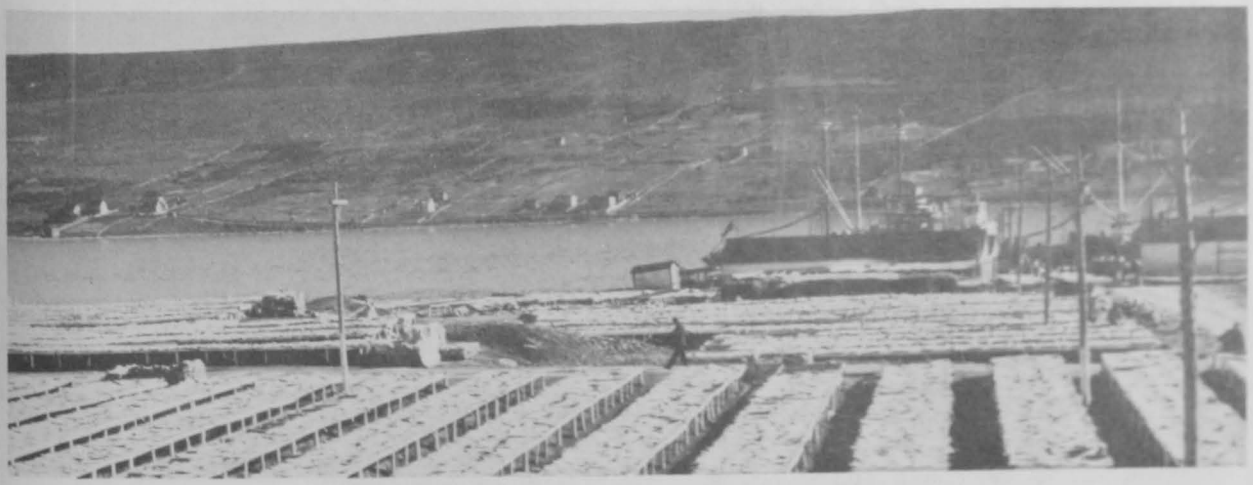
Australian production fell by 11 percent during the period, despite substantial increases in certain sections of the industry, notably in spiny lobster (crayfish).

The increases in 1950 brought production for the reporting countries up to 14 percent above the prewar (1938) catch, with Europe 11 percent above prewar, North America 13 percent, Japan 8 percent, Latin America almost double prewar, and South Africa, Morocco, and Angola 4 to 5 times prewar.

Prices: Fish prices did not rise as sharply as those for other food products, the increase during the fall of 1950 being mainly caused by a temporary shortage. Fish body oil, however, followed the sharp upward price trend of most other oils.

In Japan, prices paid to fishermen fell as a result of the improved food supply. Lack of experience among new operators in selling on a free market after a long period of controlled prices and distribution also temporarily contributed to the increase. In Hong Kong, there was an acute drop in fish prices due to the Chinese ban on imports of salted fish and to the rapid drop in the colony's Chinese population.

In Belgium, after a period of falling prices from 1947 to 1949, the trend reversed in 1950, owing to decreased landings and limited imports. Extremely high fish prices were quoted in France during some



COD BEING DRIED IN THE SUN ON "FLAKES" AT HARBOR GRACE, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA.

BRINGING IN A DRIFTER NET WITH FISH ABOARD A NETHERLANDS FISHING VESSEL.

periods of 1950, apparently due to short supplies. Prices fell during the first months of 1951, with large landings of low-price fish, such as hake and herring, but compared with many other countries, fish prices in France are still high.

After slightly lower prices in the first three months of 1950, average fish prices in Western Germany rose considerably in the second half of 1950, notably for whitefish. In general, recent fish prices in Western Germany are a little more than twice the prewar prices, which is considered reasonable compared with prices of other foodstuffs. Prices to fishermen in Norway for the 1951 season were raised by regulation to 15-20 percent above 1950 prices. In the domestic market retail prices increased some 16-17 percent.

The control of landing prices of fish in the United Kingdom was lifted in April 1950. Prices then fell sharply, but in October 1950, the trend reversed owing to shortage of supplies, caused by strikes and limitation of production by trawlers. The 1951 meat shortage gave fish prices an upward trend, despite an increase in landings.

In the U.S.A. average wholesale prices of fish increased 10 percent, from January 1950 to January 1951. Retail prices for fisheries products in the first quarter of 1951 were the highest on record for that time of the year, and 6 percent higher than a year earlier.

In Canada, the general price at landing in the Province of Newfoundland was lower in 1950 than in 1949 but showed an 8 percent increase in the rest of the country.

Costs of Operation: Rising costs are seriously affecting operations in all producing countries. Prices for fuel, net, and rope, as well as other items for maintenance and repair, are rising. Although construction of new craft is very expensive, recent experience has confirmed that, due to their higher efficiency, the new units are nevertheless more profitable than the old ones.

Some countries have their peculiar difficulties; in Western Germany for instance, the abolishment of a subsidy on fuel and oil more than doubled actual prices overnight. In Japan, the removal of government subsidies led to the doubling or trebling of the cost for fishing requisites. In the United Kingdom, the arrangements for subsidies to a certain part of the fleet had to be prolonged.

International Trade: There was a significant drop in the volume of international trade in fresh and frozen fishery products generally, while the trade volume for dried, salted, or smoked fish was only slightly lower than in 1949. (See Table 2)

This situation is mainly due to importing countries developing their own production, and to the adjustments in processing and in trade channels which the exporting countries make accordingly.

International trade in fish meal and oils has increased considerably.

Table 2 - Exports of Certain Fisheries Products from Principal Exporting Countries, 1938 and 1946-50

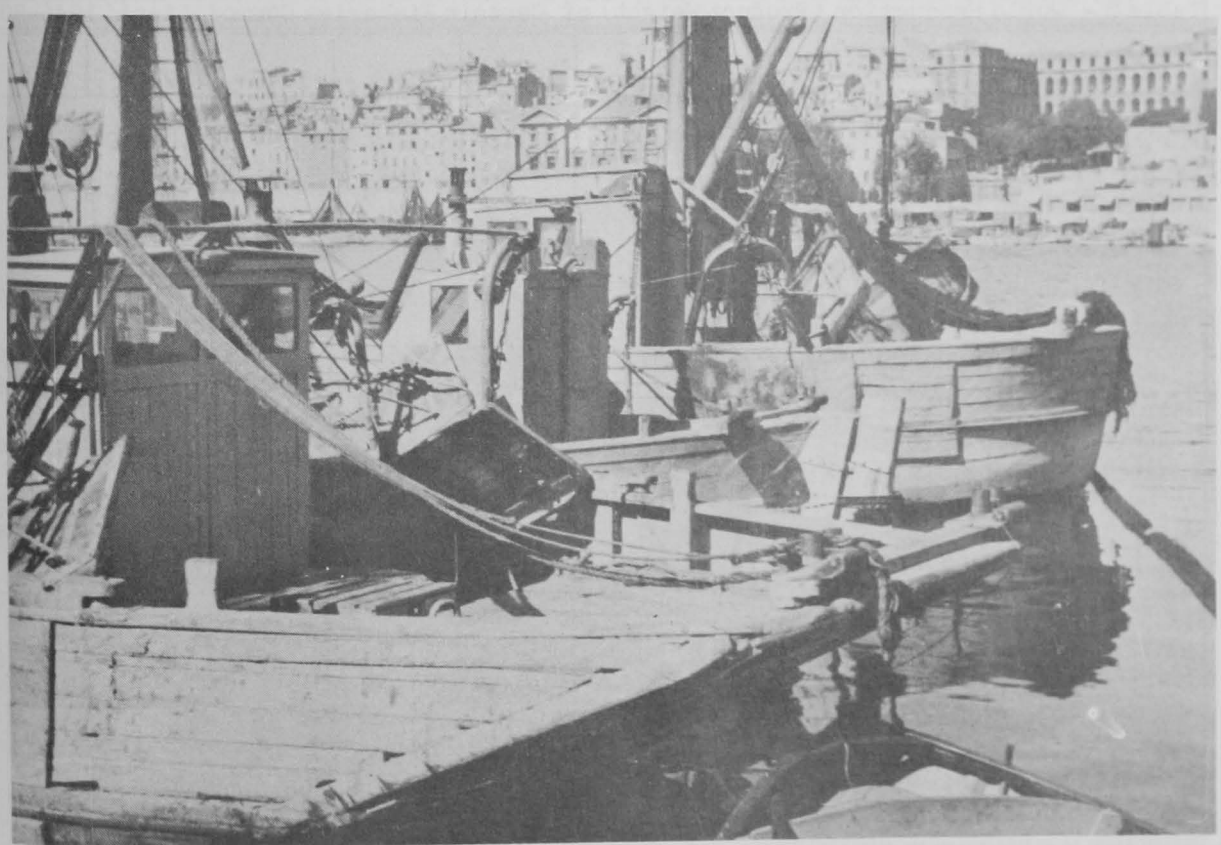
Commodity[1]	No. of Countries	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1938
		..... (Thousand Metric Tons)					
Fish, fresh or frozen	8	389.1	583.6	575.9	452.6	406.9	339.3
Fish, dried, salted or smoked	[2]/8	384.8	399.4	457.1	416.9	409.6	566.6
Fish, canned[3]	[2]/9	110.1	104.8	125.8	151.5	145.3	99.8
Crustaceans and mollusks	7	69.6	75.2	66.7	65.8	43.1	72.4
Fish oils[4]	7	90.4	68.6	85.9	70.6	58.2	145.5
Fish meal and fertilizers ...	5	116.3	47.6	83.2	28.3	27.9	124.6
Aquatic mammal oils and fats[4]	5	15.3	17.0	36.1	46.7	18.6	13.2

SOURCE: OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND SPECIAL REPORTS.
1/ INCLUDES RE-EXPORTS FOR NORWAY, 1938 AND 1946-48.
2/ INCLUDES SOME CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSKS FOR BELGIUM.
3/ INCLUDES CANNED CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSKS FOR UNITED KINGDOM AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF FRESH OR DRIED FISH FOR PORTUGAL.
4/ AQUATIC MAMMAL OILS INCLUDED WITH FISH OILS FOR NETHERLANDS AND UNITED KINGDOM.

In the Far East, apart from Japan, the present situation makes it virtually impossible to resume the prewar volume of international trade in fisheries products. The possibility of an immediate liberalization of the fish trade in Europe vanished during the early part of 1951.

Fisheries Commodities Review: Direct consumption of fish for food did not increase in proportion to the catch. In Europe and Africa the increase in catch was used for oil and meal production. In Europe also, much of the quantity used for human consumption was cured, but the use of fresh, frozen, or canned fish showed an increase in North America.

FRESH FISH: The total quantity of fish consumed fresh in 1950 did not increase materially.

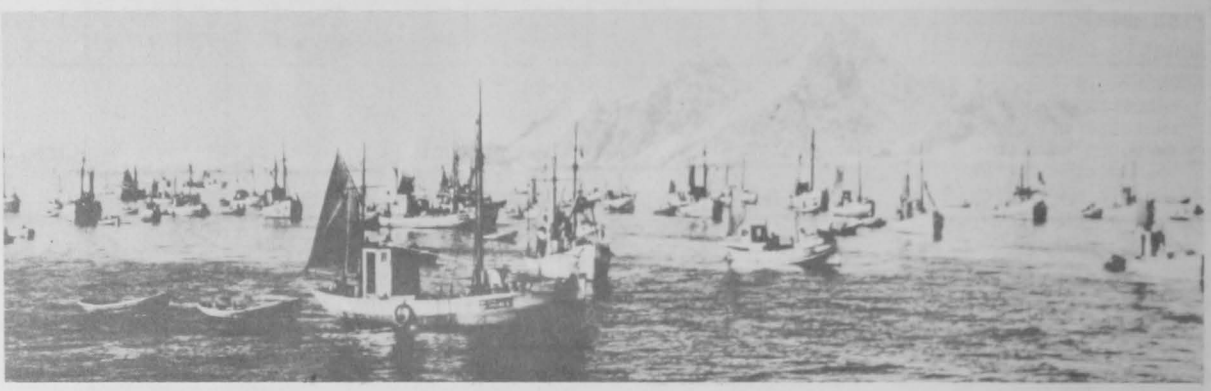


VESSELS OF THE FRENCH TRAWLER FLEET IN THE HARBOR AT MARSEILLES.

An increase of over 300,000 metric tons in Japan compensated for declines which were particularly noticeable in Norway, Iceland, and the United Kingdom. Fresh fish supplies in Europe were somewhat unevenly distributed; in the United Kingdom large quantities of unsalable fish had to be sent to the fish-meal factories, while the German market was undersupplied.

FROZEN FISH: There was a slight drop in the world output of frozen fish in 1950, principally due to sharp production declines in the United Kingdom, Iceland, and Norway. The increase in the Canadian output was not sufficient to compensate for the drop in other countries which, in many cases, was due to consumers' reluctance to buy frozen fish when fresh fish was available.

STOCKFISH: The total production of the main-producing countries increased from 11,600 tons in 1949 to 19,000 tons in 1950. The total output is still lower than it was in 1938 (25,000 tons), but due to a substantial increase in Norway's production, the prewar level is likely to be reached in 1951.



A SUNNY DAY ON THE LOFOTEN FISHING GROUNDS FREQUENTED BY NORWEGIAN FISHING VESSELS.

Table 3 - World Production (Product Weight) of Certain Fisheries Commodities 1/ 1946-50

Commodity	No. of Countries	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
		.....	(Thousand Metric Tons)			.....
Fresh fish 2/	14	3,238.9	2,965.5	2,884.0	3,622.9	-
Frozen fish 2/	14	375.5	427.6	361.3	-	-
Cod, hake and similar species, wet-salted and dried-salted 3/	13	312.0	258.7	215.5	254.7	185.4
Cod, hake, and similar species, dried (stockfish)	3	18.6	10.6	16.5	17.4	17.5
Herring and similar species, salted 4/	16	444.7	569.9	506.5	462.5	516.2
Salmon, canned	4	124.2	151.9	133.9	156.6	130.6
Herring and similar species canned	19	379.5	323.1	259.0	254.7	242.0
Tunas, true mackerels and similar species, canned	10	139.0	101.1	110.5	96.6	80.8
Cod-liver oil	8	30.6	34.0	31.7	38.1	33.3
Oil from herring and similar species	6	151.8	100.2	124.7	113.4	103.3
Meal from herring and other species	8	348.7	261.2	301.9	227.8	223.6
Other fish meal 5/	11	253.7	231.2	177.8	152.2	126.8

SOURCE: OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS.
1/ FOR SOME COMMODITIES THESE FIGURES ARE CLOSE TO WORLD TOTALS, FOR OTHERS, SUCH AS FRESH FISH, THEY DO NOT COVER ALL COMMODITIES.
2/ FROZEN FISH IS INCLUDED WITH FRESH FISH FOR NETHERLANDS, NEWFOUNDLAND, NORWAY FOR 1947.
3/ DRIED BASIS.
4/ INCLUDES SMOKED HERRING FOR SOME COUNTRIES.
5/ INCLUDES HERRING MEAL FOR DENMARK, GERMANY, AND UNITED KINGDOM.

SALTED COD, HAKE, ETC.: The world output increased from 259,000 tons in 1949 to 312,000 tons in 1950, which is well above the prewar level. Nearly all producing countries appear to have expanded their production in 1950, largely due to greater participation in the north-west Atlantic fisheries. It is doubtful, however, whether the world production in 1951 will be much above that for 1950. By and large, prices for salted cod in 1950 may have been about 10 percent below the 1949 level, but in 1951 a 10 percent net rise in prices was apparent in spite of much higher freight rates.

SALTED CLUPEIDAE (HERRING AND ALLIED SPECIES): The production of 16 countries declined from 570,000 tons in 1949 to 445,000 in 1950. Among the big producers, only the Netherlands maintained its level, deliberately limiting its production. Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom experienced a sharp decline in their salting of herring and allied species. Production was, however, sold with greater ease than anticipated and the 1951 output may be somewhat larger.

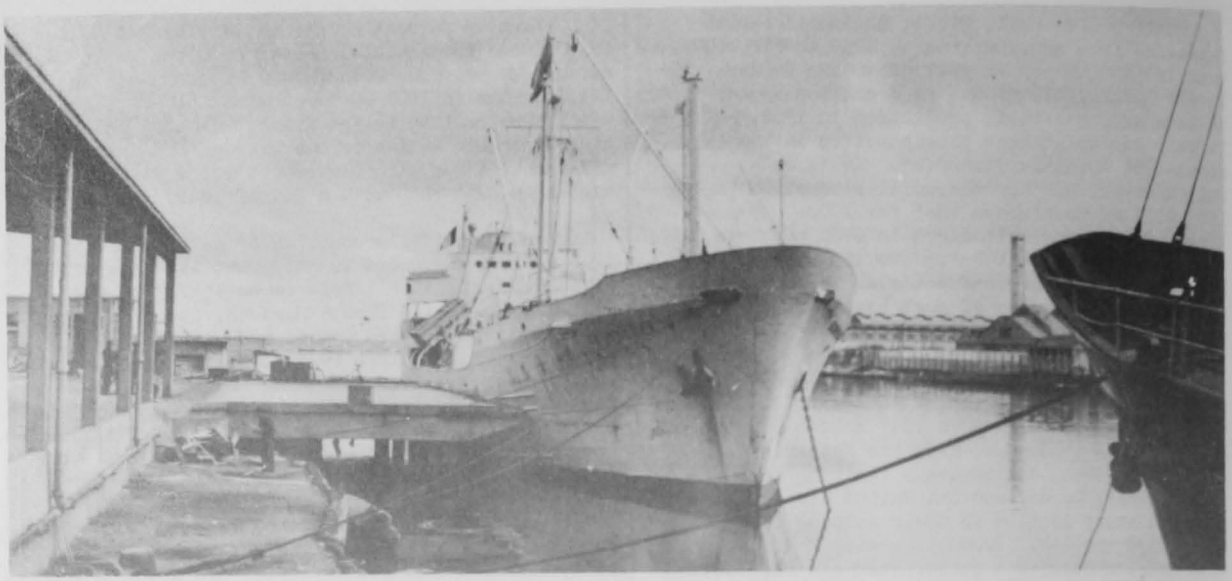
CANNED FISH: The canned tuna industry has been expanding considerably. In the U.S.A., the world's largest producer and consumer, production has increased from 30,000 tons of canned tuna and allied species in 1940 to 80,000 tons in 1950, a record figure. A tendency for prices to fall has been clearly evident as a result of increased production adding to stocks already carried over from 1950.

About 95 percent of the world's canned salmon is produced from catches landed from the North Pacific. World production (U.S.S.R. excluded) was 124,000 tons in 1950 compared with 151,900 tons in 1949. The decline in the U.S.A. resulted in a sharp rise of canned salmon prices between mid-July and mid-August 1950, with the retail price 26.8 percent higher in 1950 than at the end of 1949.

North American production of herring and similar species increased in 1950, but landings of Pacific pilchards seem likely to be lower for the 1951-52 season. In French Morocco, the production continues to rise, and canned pack in 1950 will likewise be higher than in 1949; still further increase is possible, as existing plants are not working at full capacity. The Portuguese sardine fisheries showed improved catches toward the end of 1950 and during the first few months of 1951, with a corresponding increase in the canned sardine output.

OILS AND MEAL: Traditional producers of oil and meal have expanded and improved their means of production and many new countries are entering the field. In the countries for which information is available, the quantity of round fresh fish reduced to oil and meal increased 30 percent over 1949. Evidence available so far indicate an even greater production of body oils and meal in 1951. Methods of oil and meal manufacturing have been greatly improved and the interest in the manufacture of oil from Clupeidae species, which has been apparent during the last few years, has been stimulated by the prevailing prices for fish meal and body oils. Owing to heavy competition and syn-

GERMAN TRAWLER ALONGSIDE DISCHARGING QUAY AT AUCTION HALL X, BREMERHAVEN. BASKETS AT SIDE ARE USED TO DISCHARGE FISH AND HOLD ABOUT 50 KG. OF FISH.



A TYPICAL ITALIAN TRAWLER USED FOR COD FISHING ON THE GRAND BANKS DOCKED AT LIVORNO (LEGHORN), ITALY.

thetic vitamin preparations, prices for liver oil are less favorable to the producer.

Outlook: As in many respects our knowledge of fish resources is lacking, future results of fishing operations can be estimated only with considerable uncertainty. However, under normal conditions similar to those prevailing in 1950-51, the increased catching capacity will most likely lead to a corresponding increase in world catches. The greater interest in Clupeidae, as well as in various tuna species, may promote their relative importance. Attempts to intensify fresh-water fish culture may take longer to show up significantly in world production figures. World trade in fresh fish is not likely to increase, while

UNLOADING SKIPJACK TUNA CATCH AT ABURATSU, MIYAZAKI PREFECTURE, KYUSHU, JAPAN. FISH WERE CAUGHT IN THE RYUKYU AREA BY THE POLE-AND-LINE SKIPJACK VESSEL TIED UP AT THE LANDING.

THE AMERICAN FISHING PORT OF MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA, SHOWING FISHING VESSELS ANCHORED IN THE HARBOR.

frozen products may gain in popularity. Salted fish production may increase to a certain extent. Canning operations may be hampered by a tinplate shortage.

Fish prices have reached a high level, but unless operational costs are considerably reduced through a drop in the price of oil, coal, cordage, nets, etc., only the best possible equipment is likely to result in profitable fishing operations. The demand for fish and fish products seems likely to continue over the next year or two.

Fisheries Equipment: The growing interest in fisheries developments is taking increasingly concrete form in many countries; in others, the interest is still confined to wishful thinking.

In Europe, the postwar reconstruction and reconditioning of fishing fleets is more or less completed; in many countries, present fleets now surpass prewar efficiency. Landings have not, however, increased proportionately to the means of production; factors such as the prolonged trawler strike in Iceland, the voluntary catch restrictions in the United Kingdom, the unfavorable runs of migratory fish have had an adverse effect on fish production in many countries.

In Latin America, the mechanization of the fishing fleet is under way as is also the establishment of new facilities for quick freezing, canning, or reduction.

Since May 1950, Japanese fishing vessels have been allowed to extend their operations, and Japan is now permitted to send motorships to a limited area for tuna fishing. The fishing fleet is being restored, but the number of vessels is limited by law in order to prevent depletion of stocks.

In Hong Kong, a substantial mechanization of the fishing fleet has also taken place. In 1948, only one pair of junks was mechanized; now more than 60 vessels have been converted.

In Indonesia, mechanization is expanding with ECA assistance. It has also been extended in Ceylon, Singapore, Pakistan, and in India, where Japanese and Danish technicians have contributed to the development.

In Belgium, the number of craft is slightly less than prewar (461 as against 510), but total tonnage and horsepower has increased. The older vessels have been withdrawn from operation and new craft are being constructed.

In France, where the reconstruction of the fleet is now nearly completed, the tendency is towards stabilization at the present level. The

A TYPICAL SARDINE PURSE SEINER USED ON THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES. NOTE THE PURSE-SEINE NET ON THE TURNTABLE ON THE STERN OF THE VESSEL.

fleet in general, while of a slightly lower total tonnage than prewar, is much more efficient, particularly the fleet operating at the Grand Banks, off Newfoundland.

In Denmark, the efficiency of the fishing fleet has considerably improved. In Norway, where the number of large units has increased, the total capacity of the fleet is now in excess of prewar with distant-water operations expanding particularly off Western Greenland. On the West coast of Sweden, the number of large craft (above 50 GRT) has been more than doubled. The Icelandic fleet with 52 trawlers is now approximately double its prewar number. Reconstruction of the German fleet has been carried on vigorously, and its capacity seems now to be stabilized at a level somewhat below prewar.

In Italy, government subsidies have been granted for a reconstruction program of 145 motor trawlers, and construction is under way. In Greece, larger craft enabling fishermen to operate more easily off the North coast of Africa have been launched. Portuguese trawlers supplying the fresh fish markets now number 70 percent more than prewar, and craft producing salted cod have increased by 15 percent, while the static level of the sardine fleet is possibly due to the very limited runs of fish during recent years. The expansion of the Spanish fleet, initiated in 1944, is still progressing; during recent years a great number of pair fishing units was built.

The United Kingdom's fleet with the exception of distant-water fishing vessels and some motorized herring craft, is rather obsolete and needs replacement. In Ireland, the coastal fleet is expanding, while the trawler fleet is deliberately limited to 4 units.

A three-year program has been initiated to modernize fishing methods and develop fresh-water production in Egypt. The sardine-fishing fleet is still expanding in Morocco. In the Union of South Africa and in South West Africa, larger motor boats for line and net fishing have been added to the inshore fishing fleet.

In Canada, the Atlantic coast trawler fleet is rapidly expanding as a result of the easing of trawler licence restrictions. In the U.S.A., the capacity of the fisheries continued to grow and by 1950 the number of fishermen had increased to 170,000 from 124,000 ten years earlier. For the same period, a 15 percent increase in the number of the craft is recorded.

It is expected that efforts to mechanize and modernize fleets during 1951-52 will show expanding results, especially in the more developed countries where increased efficiency can be expected within the limits of the present number and tonnage of the fleets. In the less developed countries, progress is likely to be concentrated on increasing the numbers of small mechanized craft.

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SIXTH SESSION OF GATT CLOSES: The 34 countries which are Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ended their Sixth Session on October 26 at Geneva, Switzerland, after making decisions on some of the most important questions that have arisen during the four years of operation of the agreement. The session opened on September 17, lasting approximately 6 weeks, an October 30 news release from the U. S. Department of State reports.

Among the most significant actions taken were:

(1) A move to strengthen and improve administration of the agreement by establishing an ad hoc committee to handle urgent business arising between the Sixth and Seventh Sessions;

(2) Adoption of measures designed to make the General Agreement more workable by providing flexible procedures for conducting tariff negotiations among Contracting Parties and with countries desiring to accede to the agreement, without convoking full-scale tariff conferences of the Geneva-Annecy-Torquay Type;

(3) Preparation of a draft international convention to facilitate the importation of commercial samples and advertising material, as well as draft recommendations on documentary requirements for importation of goods and on consular formalities, which recommendations, if adopted by governments, will represent important practical steps toward realizing the objectives of the agreement;

(4) Consideration of disputes arising under the operation of the agreement, including the granting of the United States request for suspension of the obligations between the United States and Czechoslovakia, hearing complaints against Belgian restrictions on imports of goods from the dollar areas, and hearing complaints against United States restrictions on imports of certain dairy products;

(5) Preparation and publication of a report on quantitative restrictions and discriminations maintained for balance-of-payments reasons.

Accessions During Sixth Session: During the course of the Sixth Session, four governments--the Federal Republic of Germany, Peru, Turkey, and Austria--which had negotiated for accession to the agreement at Torquay last winter, became Contracting Parties to the agreement, following their signature of the Torquay Protocol to the agreement.

Torquay Protocol: The Torquay Protocol to the General Agreement set October 21, 1951 as the deadline for its signature by Contracting Parties

and by governments which negotiated at Torquay for accession to the agreement. At the Sixth Session the Contracting Parties extended this deadline to December 31, 1951, for Brazil, Denmark, and the United Kingdom; to March 31, 1952, for Korea; and to May 22, 1952 for the Philippines. Uruguay, which negotiated both at Annecy and at Torquay, but which has not yet signed either the Annecy or the Torquay Protocol, was granted to April 30, 1952, to sign both.

Complaints Against U. S. Import Restrictions: The delegations of the Netherlands, Denmark, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Australia, France, Canada, and Finland entered complaints that the quantitative restrictions on importation of certain dairy products into the United States, which this Government has imposed under Section 104 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, had caused them injury and had nullified benefits granted to them under the General Agreement. They, along with other delegations, considered this a serious violation of the agreement and urged the United States to take prompt and effective action.

The United States delegation pointed out that the Executive Branch of the United States Government was vigorously urging repeal of this Section and asked the Contracting Parties to allow a reasonable time for completion of Congressional consideration of the matter before taking action. When the contracting Parties adjourned on October 26 they noted; (1) that the concessions granted by the United States to several Contracting Parties had been nullified; (2) that the circumstances are serious enough to justify a number of the Contracting Parties in withdrawing concessions which they had granted to the United States; and (3) that the Executive Branch of the United States Government intended to seek repeal of Section 104. Without prejudice to the right of any Contracting Party to seek redress, the Contracting Parties advised those countries affected to wait a reasonable time for the situation to be rectified through the repeal of Section 104 and asked the United States Government to report, not later than the opening of the Seventh Session on the action it takes.

U. S. "Escape Clause" Action: The Contracting Parties approved a report from an intersessional working party which had found no conclusive evidence that the United States had violated the General Agreement in withdrawing certain concessions on women's fur felt hats under the "escape clause" provision in Article XIX of the agreement. The report recommended that the United States Government keep the matter under review and be prepared to consider restoring the concessions, in part or in whole, if it is found no longer necessary to withhold them. The United States delegation pointed out that steps have already been taken in the United States to keep the matter under constant review as suggested in the report.

Exceptions provided for under Article XX (II) of the General Agreement permit Contracting Parties to maintain, until January 1, 1951, certain import or export control measures justified by short-supply, price-control, or surplus conditions, which controls would otherwise be contrary to the agreement. The January 1, 1951, time limit had already been extended at the Fifth Session to January 1, 1952, and was further extended, at the Sixth Session, to January 1, 1954.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

SIXTH SESSION OF CONFERENCE CONVENED IN ROME: The Sixth Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations convened in Rome, Italy, beginning November 19.

Representing fisheries interests on the United States Delegation were A. W. Anderson, Chief, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Charles E. Jackson, General Manager, National Fisheries Institute.

Fisheries matters discussed included proposal to establish a Latin American Regional Fisheries Council as agreed upon by 15 nations at a meeting in Peru in September. (Since FAO furnishes the secretariat for such Councils and also pays certain expenses for documents, its approval of the agreement for establishing them is required.) After FAO approval five nations must ratify the agreement before the Council can come into being.

The other fisheries items on the agenda were concerned with the Program of Work of the Fisheries Divison.

The Sixth Session of the Conference was the first convened at the new headquarters of the Organization in Rome, and also was the first of the biennial sessions held in accordance with a recent amendment to the FAO Constitution. Previous sessions of the Conference have been held annually.

The purposes of the FAO, which came into existence in 1945, are to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, improve the efficiency of the production and distribution of food and agricultural products, and to better the conditions of rural populations, thereby contributing toward an expanding world economy. At present 66 governments comprise the membership of the FAO.

Immediately preceding the Sixth Session of the Conference, the Council of the FAO held its Thirteenth Session at Rome. This Session began on November 12.

Argentine Republic

HEALTH CERTIFICATES REQUIRED FOR SALTED AND DRIED FISH IMPORTS: The Argentine Ministry of Agriculture has recently issued a directive covering certain imports of fishery products, the October 6 issue of the Canadian Foreign Trade states. Henceforth, all salted and dried fish imported into Argentina must be covered by a health certificate from the country of origin. The fish must be packed in boxes lined with either greased paper or tin and the weight of each box must not exceed 50 kilograms (110 pounds).

Belgium

PROHIBITS SALE OF FISH LABELED AS "SARDINES": No small fish of the type commonly packed in the United States and Canada as sardines can be sold in Belgium under that name, the October 27 issue of Canadian Foreign Trade points out. Therefore, canners and exporters should keep in mind that only fish labeled with some description such as "herrings" will be acceptable for importation into Belgium.

The use of the word "sardine" in Belgium is restricted to fish of the Clupea alosa variety. It is reported that fish of any other type sold under the name "sardine" in Belgium are subject to seizure, and retailers, wholesalers, and importers concerned are subject to a heavy fine.

Costa Rica

NEW CUSTOMS LAW CHANGES EXPORT TAXES ON FISHERY PRODUCTS: Certain export taxes on fishery products have been increased by a new Costa Rican Tariff and International Payments Law published in La Gaceta of September 30 and effective on October 1, the American Embassy at San Jose reports.

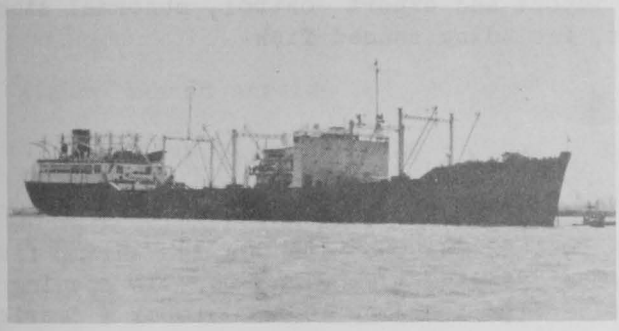
Two provisions in the law are of interest to the fishery and allied industries in the United States. The first increases the export tax on tuna or any other fish, shellfish, or parts of these products that leave the country frozen, proceeding from refrigeration plants established ashore, to US$2.00 per ton of 1,000 gross

kilograms (2,200 pounds). The former export rate was US$1.50 per ton. The second increases the tax for transfer of fish or fish livers to motherships or transport ships to US$5.50 per ton. The former export rate on this latter category was almost 50 percent lower.

Japan

REPORT OF FIFTH AND SIXTH MOTHERSHIP-TYPE TUNA EXPEDITIONS: The Japanese fifth and sixth mothership-type tuna expeditions consisted of two fleets, linked administratively, the July 14 Weekly Summary of SCAP's Natural Resources Section points out.

The first fleet, designated the fifth expedition, included the mothership Tenyo Maru No. 3 (3,689 metric tons) and 16 tuna boats. The mothership left Tokyo March 12, 1951, and returned to Japan June 28, 1951.



A SISTERSHIP OF THE TENYO MARU NO. 3. THESE ARE TYPICAL MOTHERSHIPS USED BY JAPANESE IN MID-PACIFIC TUNA EXPEDITIONS.

The second fleet, designated the sixth expedition, included the mothership Tenryo Maru (557 metric tons), with its auxiliary the Tosui Maru and eight tuna boats. The mothership left Tokyo April 10, 1951, and returned to Japan June 3, 1951.

Operations commenced in the western portion of the authorized fishing area at 138°-143° E. and 01°-07° N., and gradually shifted due eastward as far as 167° E. The first tuna boats of the fifth expedition began fishing operations March 21, 1951. By midnight, June 13, 1951, all fishing operations were discontinued. Vessels of the sixth expedition fished from April 20, 1951, to May 24, 1951.

The Tenyo Maru No. 3, mothership of the first fleet, received an estimated total of 4,295,000 pounds of fish, from which was produced: tuna frozen in round, 2,446,310 pounds; frozen fish fillets, 980,700 pounds; shark, 272,050 pounds; others, 136,570 pounds; total, 3,835,530 pounds. A few boats of this fleet, which operated after the final delivery of fish to the mothership, transported a small cargo of fish direct to Japan.

The tuna boats of the second fleet transported the major portion of their fish catch to Japan in their own holds. The mothership Tenryu Maru and the Tosui Maru brought about 479,300 pounds of fish preserved in cold storage to Japan, as follows: tunas, 361,580 pounds; marlins, 88,440 pounds; sharks, 18,830 pounds; others, 10,360 pounds; total, 479,210 pounds.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Malaya (Including Singapore)

CERTAIN FISHERY PRODUCTS FREE FROM NEW IMPORT CONTROL POLICY: The new import control policy in both the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, regarding imports from hard currency areas other than Japan, places several canned fishery products

on the free commodity list. Canned herring, pilchards, salmon, and sardines may in the future be freely imported from any source.

The importation of certain dried fishery products must be approved by the Malayan Fisheries Officer, the October 20 Canadian Foreign Trade magazine states.

Any commodity not specifically mentioned in the revised Malayan Import Guide is, henceforth, prohibited import from hard-currency sources.

After twelve months of unpreceidented commercial activity, the Malayan boom appears to have petered out. During the boom, which started in June 1950, the high earnings from exports were used to finance imports in increasing quantities and, in many cases, at prices higher than current values. In addition to the drop in export trade and the arrival of large quantities of goods, the present slackening in business activity results from the freeing from import control of several commodities, notably flour and canned fish, and also more extensive export application of export control to bring down the cost of living and to stop entrepôt trade between Singapore, Hong Kong, and the China mainland. As a result of over-importing and changes in import and export control, abnormal stocks are reported for a number of commodities, including canned fish.

Mexico

GUAYMAS SHRIMP INDUSTRY READIES FOR 1951-52 SEASON: The Guaymas shrimp fishing and freezing industries during September readied themselves for the opening of the 1951-52 shrimp fishing season on October 1, according to an October 8 American consular report from Guaymas. While all freezing plants were ready for a record season, 20 percent of the fishing fleet was unable to put to sea. This indicates that the Mexican Government loan to industry was still not a full reality.

Most of the industry seemed to believe that if they did receive the money, it would be in the form of a direct government loan and could be treated almost as if it were a grant, without worrying about security or repayment. When approved, however, it came in the form of a loan secured by the government, but actually to be made by bankers. The bankers insisted on security. The industry, already overextended, searched for unencumbered or acceptable security among its physical assets and sought permission from prior mortgage holders. This delayed the actual receipt of the money. Some US$578,000 has been available since early September, but at the end of the month only 30 percent of this amount had actually passed to the industry.

Early fishing fleet reports indicate that the initial catches will be large and that the season will get off to a good start despite the many difficulties.

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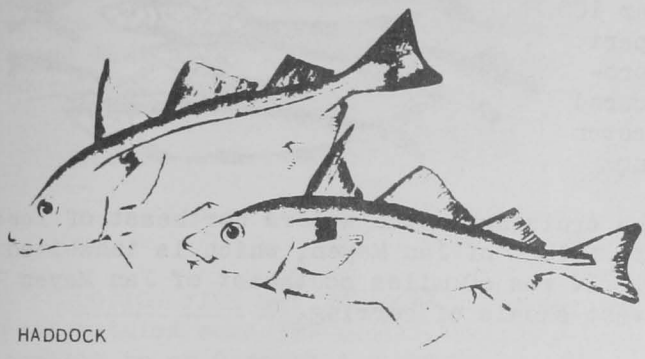
SPINY LOBSTER SEASON ADVANCED: Mexico has advanced the opening date for the taking of spiny lobsters from October 15 to October 1, according to Mexico's October 5 Diario Oficial. The closed season for spiny lobsters now extends from March 16 until September 30 each year.

The same Order also removed the fresh-water crawfish (langostina, chacal, or acamaya) from regulation, and no closed season now prevails for this species.

Norway

U. S. PURCHASES OF NORWEGIAN FROZEN FISH INCREASES: Exports of Norwegian frozen fish to the United States have increased about 130 percent during the first eight months of 1951, the Norwegian Information Service announced on October 25.

Groundfish fillet exports, chiefly haddock and cod, were boosted from 1.3 million to 2.6 million pounds during this period. Norway has also found wide acceptance for fillets of ocean catfish, a new item introduced in this country by Norwegian exporters. Opportunities for ocean catfish exports to the U. S. are limited only by the supply, the article goes on to state. A good market is also envisioned for ocean perch fillets.



HADDOCK

The U. S. demand for Norwegian sardines is rather sluggish at the present time, but it may improve in the near future. The prospect for higher canned sardine prices seems to be remote.

Another product Norwegian exporters believe could be pushed more vigorously in the U. S. market is herring tidbits, widely used for cocktail snacks. However it is realized higher exports of this product can only be achieved through a well-planned sales campaign, and by maintaining high quality.

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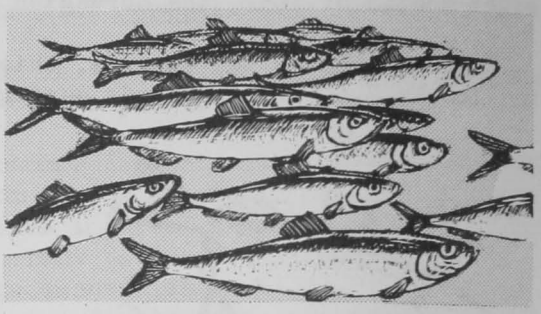
NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN GREENLAND FISHERIES, 1951: The 62 Norwegian vessels which took part in the fisheries off western Greenland for the past six months produced about 18,000 metric tons of salted cod this year, compared with last year's catch of 12,000 tons. In 1950, however, only 37 vessels participated in the Greenland fisheries, the Norwegian Information Service points out in a November 1 news release. Most of the salted cod, which has a first-hand value of 17 million kroner (US$2,380,000), will be dried in and around the main fishing ports of Aalesund and Kristiansund, while 5,000 tons will be exported as is to Italy, and another 3,500 tons to Greece. The market value of the salted cod was about US$4,195,800. In addition to the salted cod, about 300 tons of fresh halibut were shipped to Great Britain aboard the refrigerated M. S. Kolaastind.

Norwegian participation in the western Greenland fisheries is organized and financed in cooperation with an Aalesund ship-chandler firm which also takes care of supplies and marketing. By permission of Danish authorities, this firm has improved harbor facilities at the Greenland port of Faeringhavn, where the company operates a machine shop and a supply store employing 100 men in all. Also at Faeringhavn is a community center for Norwegian fishermen, which was opened last summer by the Norwegian fisheries Director.

Most of the Norwegian vessels that took part in the past season's Greenland fisheries were equipped with cod-liver oil extractors, and several had powerful two-way radio telephones which enabled the fleet to keep in constant touch with shore contacts in Faeringhavn. And, in case of shipwrecks or motor trouble, a Norwegian rescue and salvage vessel was near at hand, ready for action.

NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN ICELANDIC HERRING FISHERIES, 1951: The annual herring fisheries, off the coast of Iceland attracted 185 Norwegian fishing vessels in the 1951 season, of which 16 were geared with ultra-efficient purse seines. The

total catch reached 16,600 metric tons, with a market value of about 23 million kroner (US$3,216,000), compared with 10,900 tons in 1950, and 25,367 tons the year before. As expected, purse seining again proved its superiority over other types of gear. Most of the herring was caught 150 nautical miles north of Iceland. One vessel, M. S. Odd I, following directions of the Norwegian marine research vessel G. O. Sars, filled all of its 1,300 barrels with fat Iceland herring well over 100 nautical miles offshore. The larger part of this year's catch was used in the production of spiced, salted, and sugar-cured herring, whereas in former years the catch was converted to heavily salted herring.



The G. O. Sars spent several months cruising in the waters northeast of Iceland, going as far as the tiny volcanic island of Jan Mayen, which is inhabited only by five Norwegian meteorologists. It was 60 miles southeast of Jan Mayen that G. O. Sars a year ago discovered vast shoals of herring.

Returning from his last cruise aboard the research vessel, Norwegian fisheries consultant Finn Devold revealed that large quantities of cod had been discovered in the Arctic waters. He said the expedition confirmed the theories developed by Norwegian scientists as to the course followed by the herring on its trek from the Norwegian coast to Iceland and points northeast. If the fishermen had gone to Jan Mayen a little later in the season, Devold asserted, they would have found the waters teeming with herring.

Republic of the Philippines

FISHERIES REVIEW, 1950: The Philippine Director of Fisheries recently announced that the 1950 catch of fish and shellfish totaled 249,000 metric tons as compared with 203,000 tons for 1949, and 195,000 tons for 1948. This includes production from commercial licensed fishing vessels of at least 3 metric tons, fish ponds, and municipal and sustenance fisheries. Philippine fish requirements in 1949 were 493,000 metric tons. The shortage of 290,000 metric tons was partially filled by imports of 27,000 tons of fishery products and the balance was supplied by other protein foods, an October 25 American Embassy report points out.

The marine fishery resources of the Philippines is limited to narrow continental shelves surrounded by deep, warm seas, and these waters appear to be less productive than shallow, temperate seas.

The 1950 fish production program was aimed at the development of the inland fisheries. The present annual yield of about 177,900 acres of fish ponds is 25,000 metric tons of milkfish or bangos (Chanos chanos). It is estimated that large areas of brackish-water swampland scattered throughout the Philippines suitable for fishponds, when fully developed, are capable of producing 100,000 metric tons annually.

NOTE: SEE ALSO COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1950, PP. 53-55.

Singapore

GOVERNMENT PROVIDES LOANS TO FISHERMEN: A plan has been adopted by the Singapore Government to provide loans to fishermen who want to go into the offshore fishing grounds but lack equipment, according to the October 20 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce publication. Supplies of fresh fish reaching Singapore have been reduced by half within the last 20 years in relation to the population and the prices have advanced substantially. Japanese specialized in Singapore's offshore fishing before World War II, but today this branch of the industry is almost non-existent. With this financial assistance, it is hoped that Malay and Chinese fishermen will be encouraged to exploit the rich resources in the South China Sea and increase the local supplies of fresh fish.

Spain

COTTON FISH NET INDUSTRY: Production: Spain's production of cotton fish nets totaled some 737 metric tons in 1950 and about 800 metric tons in 1949, according to an October 8 American consular report from Barcelona. The Spanish fish-net industry's capacity is 1,500 metric tons. Most nets are made solely from Egyptian long-staple cotton.

Spain's fish-net production is centered chiefly in Barcelona. There are also manufacturers at Bermeo, La Coruna, and Cambrils. The fish-net factories are entirely Spanish owned, and have been established since before the Spanish Civil War (1936-39).

Consumption: Spain has an important fishing industry located in the provinces on the Atlantic Coast and in some of the provinces on the Mediterranean. Domestic production has been geared chiefly to satisfying the needs of this industry.

Foreign Trade: Spain does not import fish nets. As in 1950 there were no imports in 1951 and very negligible exports.

About 955 pounds of fish nets were shipped to Chile in 1950. During the period 1945-49 the average annual cotton fish-net exports amounted to 24,849 pounds (US$54,507) or less than two percent of total output. Most exports of fish nets between 1945-49 were shipped to Chile, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, and in 1949 to Norway. A small shipment was exported to the United States in 1949.

Chronic shortages of raw cotton, especially in 1949-50, have been the principal impediment to Spanish fish net exports. The fish-net manufacturers are interested in shipping to the United States to earn foreign exchange with which to increase cotton imports and thus operate at full capacity. If substantial orders were forthcoming from this dollar area, the Spanish government probably would issue import licenses covering enough cotton to permit the manufacture of some 700 metric tons of exportable fish nets. If proper trading connections can be established in the United States, the industry believes that there is a good possibility of developing an American market for Spanish fish nets, according to reports.

Fish net exports are at present subject to Spanish export license procedure.

Spain's eight fish net manufacturers belong to the Union de Fabricantes Exportadores de Redes, S. A. (Association of Fish Net Exporting Manufacturers, Inc.) Barcelona. Orders received for nets from abroad normally are channelled through the Association. The Association has no overseas sales organization or representatives.

Trinidad

DRIED FISH REMOVED FROM IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: Dried fish is one of the many items recently permitted to be imported into Trinidad without applying for an import license, according to an October 12 report from the American Consulate, Port of Spain. This relaxation in controls is to enable the Colony to purchase essential materials which are in short supply.

United Kingdom

TEN COUNTRIES ATTEND INTERNATIONAL WHITE FISH CONFERENCE: Ten countries responded to Great Britain's invitation to an International White Fish Conference held in London on September 17, according to an October 2 American Embassy report from London. The conference was held to study British suggestions for limiting the supply of white fish catches during periods of oversupply in the United Kingdom market. The British proposal was that if restrictions should be placed on British catches during periods of glut, fishermen of other countries landing fish in the United Kingdom should also be placed under restrictions. No agreement was reached between the delegates and the meeting was adjourned until October 21. Countries furnishing delegates to this meeting included Belgium, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Netherlands, France, Sweden, and Western Germany. Polish observers were also present at the meeting.

Union of South Africa

FISH PROTEIN USED TO FORTIFY GRAIN STARCH FOODS: A neutral fish flour with a protein content of better than 89 percent has been developed in South Africa for use in fortifying cereal starch foods, notably wheat and mealy flours. The fish meal is tasteless, odorless, does not prejudice the color of the product, and has an effective life of 90 days, according to the October 13 issue of the Canadian Foreign Trade.

This fish protein meal promises to aid the diet of the country, assist the fishing industry, and reduce the need for foreign exchange to purchase wheat since South Africa is dependent on imported wheat for domestic milling. It is reported that admixtures of up to 20 percent neutral fish flour are practicable.