International

ANTARCTIC WHALING SEASON ENDS MARCH 9: The pelagic, or open-sea, catch of bale whales in the Antarctic shall cease on March 9, 1951, at 12 p.m., according to instructions given by the International Bureau of Whaling Statistics, Sandefjord, Norway, and reported by a radiogram dated February 21 received from the Bureau by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The message constitutes a forecast that the maximum quota of 16,000 blue-whale units will have been taken by the above closing date. As of February 17, 1951, the total catch was 12,636 blue-whale units, exclusive of the catch of the Soviet Union expedition for the preceding week. The notification to cease whaling was in pursuance of paragraph 8, subparagraph (d) of the Schedule annexed to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling signed at Washington, December 2, 1946, which is as follows (as amended by the International Whaling Commission July 20, 19 at its second meeting in Oslo, Norway):

> "(d) If it should appear that the maximum catch of whales permitted by subparagraph (a) of this paragraph may be reached before April 1 of any year, the Commission, or such other body as the Commission may designate, shall determine, on the basis of data provided, the date on which the maximum catch of whales shall be deemed to have been reached and shall notify each Contracting Government of that date not less than two weeks in advance thereof. The taking of baleen whales by whale catchers attached to factory ships shall be illegal in any waters south of 40 degrees South latitude after midnight of the date so determined."

The 1949-50 pelagic season, originally planned to extend from December 22 to April 7, was closed March 15, 1950. Consequently, the 1950-51 season will be 6 days shorter than was the previous one. This probably reflects the fact that there are 19 expeditions operating in 1950-51 whereas there were 18 in 1949-50.

British Malaya

CANNED SARDINES AND HERRING IMPORTS PERMITTED: Imports of canned herring and canned sardines against hard-currency payments are permitted by an amendment to the Malayan Import Guide, according to a March 1 American consular dispatch from Singapore. This amendment became effective February 24.

Canada

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS, 1949: Canada's annual per capita consumption of fishery products dropped from 12.83 pounds (edible weight) in 1948 to 12.69 pounds (edible weight) in 1949, according to preliminary data reported in the January 1951 Trade News of the Canadian Fisheries Department. However, consumption of fresh and frozen fish is gradually increasing in Canada, the annual total having risen from 73 million pounds in 1947 to 77 million in the following year and 84 million in 1949. The increase is partly attributable to the growth in population.

Canadian Per Capita Consumption (Edible Weight) of Fishery Products (By Type of Product)

Type of Product	1949	1948	1947
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Fresh and Frozen:			
Sea fish, whole or dressed	2.81	2.88	3.05
Sea fish, filleted	2.10	1.86	1.52
Fresh-water fish, whole or dressed	0.69	0.73	0.77
Fresh-water fish, filleted	0.17	0.18	0.20
Shellfish	0.40	0.30	0.24
Total	6.17	5.95	5.78
Cured:			
Smoked	0.67	0.82	0.78
Pickled	0.41	0.45	0.42
Salted and dried	0.93	0.92	0.80
Total	2.01	2.19	2.00
Canned:			
Sea fish	4.27	4.47	4.24
Shellfish	0.24	0.22	0.24
Total	4.51	4.69	4.48
Grand Total	12.69	12.83	12.26

Fresh and Frozen Fillets: The chief product which has tempted the Canadian housewife to increase her fish purchases is the fresh and frozen fillet, total annual consumption of which has grown from 22 million pounds in 1947 to 26 million in 1948 and 31 million in 1949, a truly remarkable expansion.

For the second consecutive year consumption of sea-fish fillets increased substantially during 1949. Average monthly consumption, which amounted to 1.9 million pounds in 1947, grew to 2.2 million in 1948 and 2.6 million in 1949.

This expanding market has encouraged the industry to send out more draggers for fish suitable for filleting and to invest in more equipment for fillet production. This in turn makes it possible to develop the market further and leads one to expect continuing increases in fillet consumption. Cod and haddock made up 70 percent of the 31 million pounds of fillets eaten by Canadians in 1949, about 40 percent being cod and 30 percent haddock. Indications are that demand for haddock will soon catch up with that for cod, since consumption of haddock fillets in 1949 was 23 percent higher than in 1948 and cod only six percent higher although supplies of the latter were ample.

Fresh and Frozen Whole or Dressed Salt-water Fish: Increased demand is not entirely confined to fillets. Consumers bought a million more pounds of unfilleted sea fish in 1949 than in 1948. The total was 38 million pounds, including fresh and frozen sea fish marketed whole or dressed. Salmon was by far the most important item in this total, the figure being 16 million pounds, over 40 percent of all the "whole or dressed" category. In 1948 the figure was 12 million pounds, or 32 percent of the category. Domestic marketings of halibut, Atlantic cod, herring, mackerel, and haddock exceeded two million pounds each in this category. Other species contributed less than five million pounds altogether.

Fresh-water Fish: Canadian consumption of fresh-water fish was about the same in 1949 as in the previous year, the totals being 22 million pounds of round or

dressed inland fish and well over two million pounds of filleted inland fish. Whit fish, yellow pike (pickerel), pickerel (pike), ciscoes, and lake trout were the mos popular varieties.

Shellfish: Canadian consumption of shellfish also expanded in 1949 but most o the increase was in shelled oysters imported from the United States. Altogether, the total consumption of shellfish in Canada during 1949 was 1.5 million pounds greater than in 1948; the figure was 5.5 million pounds, as against about 4 million in the previous year.

Canned Fish: About 10 percent more canned salmon was bought by Canadian consu ers in 1949 than in 1948, partly no doubt as the result of an advertising campaign to promote domestic consumption.

Since year-end stocks of canned fish can only be estimated, precise figures ar not available but total domestic sales of canned salmon amounted to about 850,000 cases, or 41 million pounds, in 1949; and accounted for about 70 percent of all can ned fish sold. In the previous year about 66 percent was salmon.

Production of canned sardines dropped from 850,000 cases (100: 3¼ oz.) in 1948 to only 600,000 cases in 1949 and, although export demand also dropped, a much smal amount remained for Canadian consumers. As far as can be estimated from available sources of information only about 4.5 million pounds were marketed in Canada, about half as much as the estimate (possibly a little high) for the previous year.

Chief among other canned fish items bought by the Canadian housewife are her ring and chicken haddies. Consumption of these products has not changed signifi cantly in recent years. The 1948 surplus of chicken haddies was, however, bought by the Fisheries Prices Support Board and distributed to charities and public in stitutions in 1949, somewhat raising that year's consumption of this item.

The Canadian market also absorbed 13 percent more canned lobsters and clams in 1949 than in 1948, the total being over three million pounds. As far as clams are concerned, however, both the crop and the pack were abnormally low in 1948 and the higher figure for 1949 represents only a return to normal. Almost the entire pack of clams is consumed in Canada.

Cured Fish: Cured fish is relatively unimportant in the Canadian diet when compared with fresh, frozen, and canned products.

Preliminary figures for 1949 indicate that consumption of smoked fish dropped 1.5 million pounds below the figure for the previous year. The total was about 9 million pounds, made up largely of kippered herring, finnan haddies, and smoked fillets of cod.

Consumption of salted fish, on the other hand, advanced from less than 12 mil lion pounds in 1948 to over 12.5 million in 1949. As already mentioned, this does not include substantial quantities salted by the fishermen and consumed in fishing communities without entering regular commercial channels. A recent survey in New foundland, of which the compilation is not yet finished, shows that salted fish is an important item in fishermen's diet in that province. The same is probably true all along the East Coast. The same is true of pickled fish. Commercial sales of this product have varied little in recent years. The 1949 total was 5.5 million pounds.

NOTE: FIGURES FOR 1949 INCLUDE NEWFOUNDLAND, WHILE THOSE FOR THE PREVIOUS YEARS DO NOT. THIS DOES NOT SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER THE PICTURE FOR CONSUMPTION, SINCE NEWFOUNDLAND'S POPU LATION IS RELATIVELY SMALL: ABOUT 348,000 IN 1949. PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION IN THE TENTH

PROVINCE IS, HOWEVER, BELIEVED TO BE HEAVIER THAN ELSEWHERE IN CANADA, SINCE FISH IS READILY AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS LIMIT THE SUPPLY OF OTHER PROTEIN FOODS IN MANY AREAS. IT MUST FURTHER BE REMEMBERED THAT STATISTICS ARE BASED ONLY ON SUPPLIES WHICH ENTER NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. THE AMOUNT OF THE FISHERMAN'S CATCH WHICH IS EATEN BY HIS OWN FAMILY AND THE AMOUNT HE PEDDLES IN HIS OWN NEIGHBORHOOD ARE NOT FULLY COVERED BY THE STATISTICS.

* * * * *

PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF CANNED FISH EXPORTS: The Canadian Government has notified the French Embassy that the Canadian Department of Fisheries maintains an inspection service for canned fish in accordance with Federal regulations and has requested that the Department's Inspection Service be designated as the agency for certifying canned fish exports to France. The Department will provide an inspection certificate, which will accompany shipments, in evidence of the condition and quality of the fish, reports a February 7 American consular dispatch from Ottawa.

To date, the Canadian Government has not been notified whether this procedure meets with the French Government's approval. The Canadians point out that they have been using this procedure in connection with canned fish exports to other countries requiring certificates and that it has proved acceptable and workable.

* * * * *

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED: The creation of a Fisheries Development Committee to formulate a development program for the Newfoundland inshore and offshore fisheries was announced by the Newfoundland Government on January 27, according to the January 1951 Trade News of the Canadian Fisheries Department.

The functions of the Committee will be: (1) to examine the fisheries resources available to Newfoundland with a view towards the fullest utilization of known resources and the discovery and development of others; (2) to examine the economics of existing methods of fishing and other methods which may be applicable; (3) to examine the economics of existing methods of processing and other methods which may be applicable.

The Committee's purpose is increased utilization of fishery resources through methods of fishing and processing based on sound scientific, economic, and social considerations, and in particular, recommending a program capable of implementation by both the Federal and provincial governments and those engaged in the fishing industry.

In its work the Committee will investigate all possible means of improving the productivity of the Newfoundland fisheries. Research by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada already has resulted in new stocks of rosefish, capelin, American plaice, and cod being found off Newfoundland's shores. Experimental long-lining operations off Bonavista by the Board also has been carried out with promising results. These experiments were conducted to determine whether larger boats and better equipment could improve the production by extending the range of operations.

It is expected also that the Committee will investigate the possibility of accelerating the rate of application of technological research developed by the Board. This involves latest methods of handling, processing, and distributing fishery products, and the production of new byproducts.

Chile

CANNED FISH PRODUCTION, 1950: There was an increase of almost 25 percent in the volume of fish canned and processed in Chile in 1950, the Director of Hunting and Fishing reports. Total canned fish production amounted to 35,453 metric tons.

BELGIUM TRAWLERS TO OPERATE IN CHILEAN WATERS: The Director of Hunting and Fishing announced that a fleet of seven fishing trawlers from Belgium would arrive in Chile in March to operate in Chilean waters, according to a March 8 American Embassy dispatch from Santiago.

Cuba

SPONGE INDUSTRY FACES DIFFICULTIES: Overfishing and a blight present new difficulties for the Cuban sheepswool sponge industry, according to a March 7 American Legation dispatch. Of the three prosperous exporting companies operating a decade ago, only one exporting firm remains. One exporter complained that Cuban sponges were being discriminated against by the United States duty of 12 percent ad valorem while Mediterranean sponges (similar to the Cuban sheepswool) are given preferential treatment by being assessed a 7.5 percent duty. The Cuban sponge interests are looking to their Government to aid them in rehabilitating their industry by transplanting and propagating desirable varieties of sponges, and to the United States for a readjustment of tariffs.

* * * * *

PURCHASES BOATS FOR SHRIMP FISHING: A Cuban fishing outfitter recently acquired in Florida two motor-equipped sailboats (the Kadholvsky and the John Panagis). Reports indicate that these boats will be used for fishing shrimp, a new Cuban venture, according to a March 5 American consular dispatch from Havana.

* * * * *

FISH REFRIGERATION PLANTS TO BE CONSTRUCTED: Bids for the construction of three fish refrigeration plants have been requested by the National Development Commission of Cuba in advertisements published in the Havana press. These plants will be erected at Nueva Gerona (Isle of Pines), Santa Cruz del Sur, and Nuevitas (Camaguey), according to a March 1 American consular dispatch from Havana.

Denmark

NEW GERMAN-DUTCH TYPE TRAWL TESTED: Trawling gear in European countries is being improved steadily, according to recent reports published in the February 14 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian fishery periodical. A new German-Dutch type trawl constructed in Esbjerg, Denmark, has been tested with good results. Danish fishermen who watched the tests were enthusiastic over its performance. No details on the construction or operation of the gear were given.

Ecuador

NEW FISHERIES LAW INCREASES FEES FOR AMERICAN VESSELS: The new Ecuadoran Presidential Decree on Fish and Fisheries increases the fees for American fishing vessels, according to an American consulate dispatch from Quito dated March 15. The new Decree, published in the Registro Oficial, No. 747, dated February 23, 1951, is Ecuadoran law until the next session of the Ecuadoran Congress in August 1951. If the Congress does not amend the Decree during that session, it then becomes a permanent Ecuadoran law. It is not believed that there will be any attempt to alter the present Decree in the next Congress.

There is no prohibition of tuna purse seining. In Article 2, the territorial waters of Ecuador are claimed to extend from the lowest tide to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the mainland coast; also, concerning the Galapagos Islands, that territorial waters extend similarly for 12 miles, measured as a unit from the furthest points of the exterior islands, rather than around each island.

In Article 23 the system of issuing licenses by radio to fishing vessels at sea is authorized. In Article 28 the fees given show that permits from California, valid for 100 days, now are as follows: Registration for tuna, swordfish, and shark, $200.00, and for codfish, $100.00; additional permit fee per each net ton of registry for tuna and shark, $12.00, for swordfish, $20.00, and for codfish, $8.00.

France

SALT-WATER FISH CATCH, 1949-50: French landings of fresh sea fish in the period July 1, 1949, to June 30, 1950, totaled 289,055 metric tons (exclusive of crustaceans and molluscs), according to a January 16 American Embassy dispatch from Paris. Prewar average landings were about 282,000 tons.

Total fish supplies (exclusive of the domestic production of fresh-water fish for which data are not available) reached 320,987 tons, including net imports of 31,932 tons. It is believed that fish production in 1950-51 will be somewhat lower than in 1949-50, chiefly because of marketing difficulties and unsatisfactory prices.

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CANNED FISHERY PRODUCTS IMPORTS FROM U. S. SUSPENDED: The French customs authorities have been requested to suspend entry into France of canned fish, crustaceans, and other marine animals beginning on April 1, 1951, according to a note addressed to the U. S. Department of State from the Embassy of France in the United States. The order was issued by the French Minister of the Merchant Marine.

Apparently this action was taken because no agency has yet been selected to issue inspection certificates for shipments from the United States. Efforts are being made to select such an agency. These certificates have been required since January 1, 1951, to accompany imports into France of the products mentioned. The regulations which require these inspection certificates were issued in a decree of October 5, 1949, published in the Journal Officiel of October 12, 1949.

French Morocco

FORBIDS DRAGGER FISHING: The use of drag nets fished by one or more boats is forbidden during a period of three years in the territorial waters of the French Zone of the Sherifian Empire, a December 13 American consular dispatch from Rabat reports. The decree (dated September 2, 1950) was promulgated in order to protect the country's fishing grounds, and became effective on November 1, 1950.

The area in which this type of fishing is prohibited is designated by the decr as lying between the lighthouse of Mehdia and the lighthouse of Fedala; and from th parallel of the lighthouse at Tefelnet and the parallel of the marabout Sidi Ouassa to the south of the outlet of the River Massa.

Not affected is gear fished "by hand, along the bank, near the shore, or on board a stationary boat, as well as those which sink to the bottom and are immediat pulled to the surface again from the land or at sea, such as seines."

German Federal Republic

PILCHARDS CAUGHT BY GERMAN TRAWLERS: After the German herring season ended in December, German trawlers continued looking for herring. Going deep into the English Channel, the trawlers made a 14-day voyage and were able to catch herring. Als for the first time known, they netted pilchards--a fish unknown to these fishermen who mistook them for anchovies, a January 25 American consular dispatch from Bremerhaven reports.

Two reasons are given for the catch of pilchards: (1) the fish apparently appeared farther north than heretofore, and (2) German trawlers in previous years generally went farther south to fish for herring. The pilchards were well received at Bremerhaven and sold at auction at the same price as the herring.

Iceland

FISH CATCH, UTILIZATION, AND EXPORTS, 1950: Production: Fish production for 1950 in Iceland was slightly below that of 1949, according to a February 23 report from the American Legation at Reykjavik. The decline in total catch continues the trend of the past few years, with 1950 production 21 percent below that of 1948 (table 1). The difference between the catch in the two years was approximately equal to the decrease in herring. A detailed description of the fish catch by species in 1950 and 1949 is included in table 2.

The 1950 catch of demersal fish would no doubt have exceeded that of 1949, if the nation's trawler fleet had not been tied up by a seamen's dispute which lasted from July 1 until early November. The dispute prevented the trawlers from delivering iced fish to West Germany during the normally favorable period after August 1. Other trawlers would have delivered fish to local reduction plants for processing into meal and oil, or to local salting plants, if they had not been laid up by the dispute.

Table 1 - Icelandic Fish Production, 1948-50

Year	Demersal Fish[1]	Herring[2]	Total
	..... metric tons		
1950	262,585	60,441	323,027
1949	265,915	71,407	337,322
1948	259,087	150,122	409,208

1/Drawn fish; 1950 data includes 63,321 tons of whole fish delivered to reducing plants.
2/Whole fish.

Considering the loss occasioned by the trawler dispute, the 1950 catch compared favorably with 1949. Cod accounted for 58 percent of the total catch of demersal fish in 1950 as compared to 62 percent in 1949 (table 2).

Table 2 - Icelandic Fish Catch by Species, 1949-50

Species	1950	1949	Species	1950	1949
	(metric tons)			(metric tons)	
Plaice	2,265	3,721	Haddock	15,934	18,812
Lemon sole	627	897	Ling	2,729	4,495
Witch	52	408	Wolffish (catfish)	4,542	11,062
Megrim	28	101	Ocean perch (rosefish)	6,634	26,927
Dab	11	72	Coalfish	12,508	32,417
Halibut	736	1,529	Cusk (tusk)	1,255	1,083
Skate	102	82	Herring	60,441	71,407
Cod	151,839	164,311	Unspecified	63,321[1]	-
			Grand Total	323,027	337,322

[1] Consisted mainly of rosefish and some coalfish delivered to reduction plants.

The most interesting development in the demersal fisheries in 1950 was the exploitation of ocean perch (rosefish) fisheries. In view of the firm foreign markets for meal and oil, there was a good demand for ocean perch at the reduction plants. A few trawlers received special authorization to engage in ocean perch fisheries off the north coast during the trawler seamen's strike, and they were joined by many other trawlers after the dispute was settled in November. The fish delivered by the trawlers to the reduction plants were not sorted by species, accounting for the "unspecified" category in table 2. It is known that most of the fish in this category (probably as much as three-fourths of the total) were ocean perch, the remainder consisting principally of coalfish.

The 1950 principal herring fisheries, which take place off the north coast during the summer months, were most disappointing, the catch amounting only to 32,000 tons. However, the year's total herring catch was raised to 60,000 tons as the result of an unexpected run of herring during the fall and early winter months off the southwest coast.

Utilization: There were marked changes in 1950 in the utilization of Iceland's fish catch (table 3).

Iceland's fishing industry was in a state of flux and conversion in 1950, as a result of the collapse of the previously lucrative markets for iced and frozen fish. In view of the loss of foreign markets for iced fish and frozen fish, the local fishing industry turned to salting the catch. More fish was delivered for salting than for any other method of preparation. Salt-fish operations thus once again became a predominant feature of

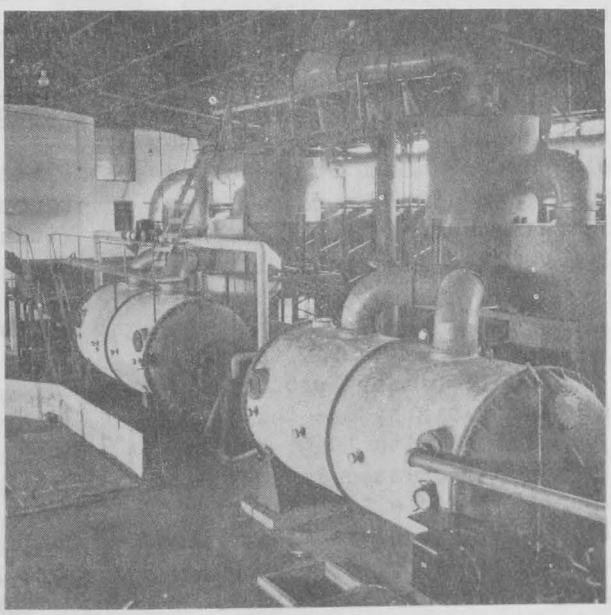


FIGURE 1 - IN FAXA BAY, SOUTHWESTERN ICELAND, A LARGE AND COMPLETELY MODERN HERRING- AND FISH-PROCESSING PLANT HAS RECENTLY BEEN CONSTRUCTED BY THE AID OF SUBSTANTIAL ECA FINANCING. THE METHODS USED IN THIS PLANT FOR PRODUCING FISH MEAL AND EDIBLE OILS ARE ENTIRELY NEW. SHOWN ARE SOME OF THE NEW ECA-BOUGHT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (TWO EVAPORATORS USED IN DEHYDRATING WHOLE FISH UNDER VACUUM) IN THIS LARGE AND MODERN PLANT. (SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, DECEMBER 1950, PP. 41-5.)

the local fishing industry. Salt-fish production had been the most valuable source of export revenue before World War II, but decreased very sharply during and immediately after the war when iced and frozen fish were in greater demand. Production of salt-fish (wet-salted basis) amounted to 49,671 metric tons in 1950, as against only 21,200 tons in 1949. In the same years, production of frozen fish decreased from 29,853 tons (actual weight of product) to 19,810 tons, while iced fish shipments dropped to less than one-fourth of the 1949 level. In 1950, a total of 57,041 tons of fish were utilized for frozen fish, compared to 77,872 tons in 1949 (table 4).

Table 3 - Utilization of Iceland's Fish Catch, 1949-50

	1950	1949
Utilization:	(metric tons)	
Iced	32,178[1]	142,227
Frozen (except for bait)	57,041	77,872
Dried (for stockfish)	494	59
Canned	85[2]	271
Salted:		
Demersal fish	99,343	42,362
Herring	27,257	17,387
Domestic consumption	2,110	3,191
Frozen for bait (herring)	7,272	7,950
To reduction plants:		
Demersal fish	71,448[3]	[4]
Herring	25,799	46,003
Total	323,027	337,322

1/ Includes 103 tons of herring.
2/ Includes 11 tons of herring.
3/ Only whole fish delivered to plants are shown; in addition, reduction plants process offal of fish delivered to freezing plants.
4/ No whole fish; only offal processed in 1949.

Another important change in the processing of the local fish catch in 1950 was the considerable quantity of demersal fish, chiefly ocean perch, delivered to the reduction plants prompted by the strong demand abroad for fish meal and oil. The delivery of whole fish to the reduction plants for the manufacture of meal and oil will continue to be a feature of local fishing operations so long as the demand for meal and oil continues. It may be noted that in addition to the whole ocean perch delivered to the reduction plant the plants also handle considerable quantities of fish offal removed from fish delivered to the freezing plants. In 1949, the reduction plants did not handle any whole demersal fish but depended entirely on offal for raw material (excluding herring, which are normally delivered whole to plants in considerable quantities each year).

Table 4 - Amount of Icelandic Catch Utilized to Produce Frozen Fish (By Species), 1950

Species	Quantity
	Metric Tons
Plaice	1,631
Lemon sole	546
Witch	33
Megrim	14
Dab	1
Halibut	459
Skate	7
Cod	37,645
Haddock	7,709
Ling	13
Catfish	3,250
Ocean perch (rosefish)	5,644
Coalfish	32
Cusk (tusk)	57
Total - 1950	57,041
Total - 1949	77,872

Exports: Although the volume of Icelandic fishery products exports decreased by one-third in 1950 in comparison with 1949, the value of exports increased in a similar proportion (table 5). The rise in value is attributable to increased local currency prices resulting from the two substantial devaluations of September 1949 and March 1950. However, the percentage of the nation's total export value accounted for by fishery products decreased from 98.1 to 90.5 percent in 1950.

Despite the rise in export values, the volume of exports in 1950 was substantially under the 1949 level. The decrease in tonnage was very sharp in iced and frozen fish, and was only partially counterbalanced by an increase in salt-fish exports. The increase in the value of exports resulted primarily from the two successive devaluations of Icelandic currency, which increased local kronur receipts despite falling markets abroad. However, in the case of a few commodities, principally cod-liver oil, rising foreign prices contributed to the increase in total export value.

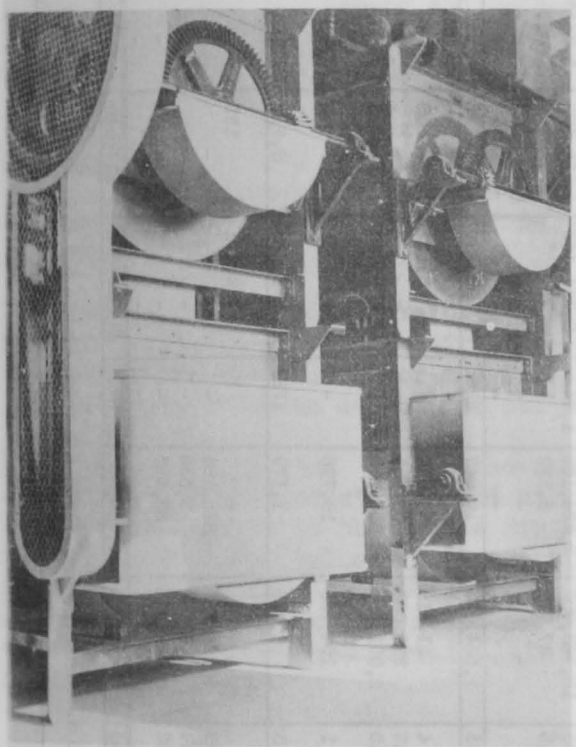


FIGURE 2 - COOKERS FOR COOKING HERRING MEAL IN NEW FISH-PROCESSING FACTORY.

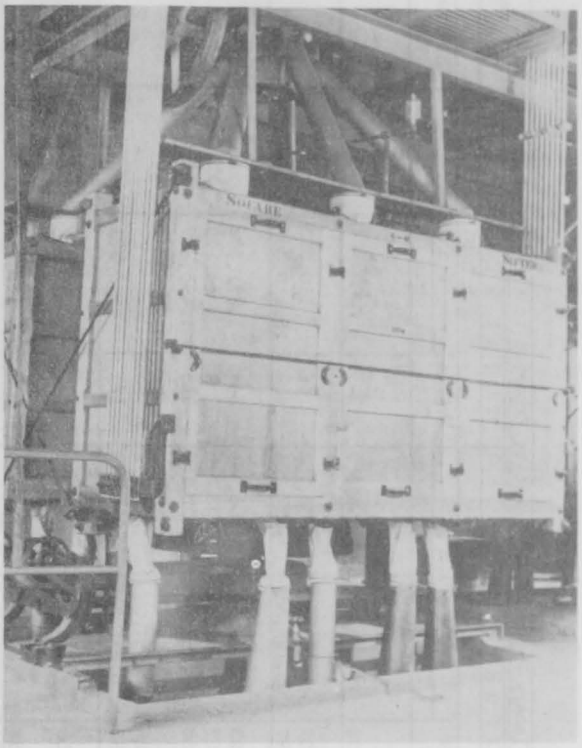


FIGURE 3 - AFTER THE MEAL HAS BEEN COOKED AND DRIED IT IS PUT THROUGH SIFTERS BEFORE BEING PACKED INTO SACKS FOR SHIPMENT.

A considerable change took place in the pattern of fishery products exported in 1950. This resulted from the collapse of foreign markets for iced and frozen fish. Whereas Iceland exported almost 120,000 tons of iced fish in 1949 to West Germany and the United Kingdom, exports in 1950 dropped to 28,000 tons. Only slightly more than one-half as much frozen fish was exported in 1950 as in 1949 (19,000 tons against 36,000 tons). An interesting development in frozen fish sales was the emergence of the United States as the predominant purchaser of Icelandic frozen fillets (table 5). Exports to the United States increased from 2,480 tons in 1949 to 7,409 tons in 1950, and the value of these exports increased almost sevenfold. Exports to the United States accounted for 39 percent of Iceland's frozen fish shipments by volume, and 44 percent by value. Another significant change in the frozen fish market was the almost complete collapse of purchases by the United Kingdom, which imported from Iceland less than 2,000 tons in 1950 as against more than 18,000 tons in 1949.

The most significant development in the export field in 1950 was the large increase in shipments of salt fish. The considerable increase of shipments in 1950, together with the collapse of markets for iced and frozen fish, made salt fish Iceland's leading export commodity. Shipments of uncured (wet) salt fish increased

Table 5 - Iceland's Export of Fishery Products and Quantity Exported to the United States, 1950

Product	TOTAL EXPORTS 1950 Metric Tons	TOTAL EXPORTS 1950 Value Kronur	TOTAL EXPORTS 1950 Value U.S. $	TOTAL EXPORTS 1949 Metric Tons	TOTAL EXPORTS 1949 Value Kronur	TOTAL EXPORTS 1949 Value U.S. $	TOTAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES 1950 Metric Tons	TOTAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES 1950 Value Kronur	TOTAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES 1950 Value U.S. $	TOTAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES 1949 Metric Tons	TOTAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES 1949 Value Kronur	TOTAL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES 1949 Value U.S. $
Fresh Fish:												
Herring	104	84,109	5,804	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	28,380	24,187,912	1,668,966	119,776	75,676,350	10,594,689	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frozen Fish:												
Herring	1,451	2,880,232	198,736	307	255,369	35,752	46	110,393	7,617	-	-	-
Other	18,765	80,324,021	5,542,357	36,197	95,195,387	13,327,354	7,409	35,210,381	2,429,516	2,480	5,353,861	749,540
Salted Fish:												
Herring	18,102	54,664,802	3,771,871	10,123	20,758,241	2,906,154	344	1,271,274	87,718	1,360	3,526,621	493,727
Other, cured	4,024	22,507,632	1,553,027	297	952,247	133,315	2	14,179	978	-	-	-
" uncured ..	27,129	64,471,416	4,448,528	15,668	30,365,413	4,251,158	613	1,495,477	103,188	-	-	-
" pressed ..	56	161,060	11,113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" in bbls. .	59	194,006	13,386	29	54,088	7,572	-	-	-	2	3,376	473
" flaps	792	1,642,835	113,356	2,182	5,831,246	816,374	1/	981	68	-	-	-
Fish Meal:												
Herring	2,146	4,106,775	283,367	558	545,668	76,393	-	-	-	100	116,250	16,275
Ocean perch	6,030	13,568,218	936,207	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	8,620	19,511,823	1,346,316	6,392	7,264,542	1,017,036	100	148,960	10,278	-	-	-
Oil:												
Herring	5,807	21,504,853	1,483,835	7,099	16,922,216	2,369,110	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cod liver	11,519	41,934,513	2,893,481	5,805	18,743,802	2,624,132	1,942	8,734,459	602,678	2,441	7,865,777	1,101,209
Shark	41	370,854	25,589	13	37,798	5,292	-	-	-	13	37,798	5,292
Coalfish	342	1,662,953	114,744	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean perch	1,504	6,894,603	475,728	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canned Fish	383	2,001,038	138,072	423	1,534,623	214,847	226	1,186,990	81,902	223	687,918	96,308
Miscellaneous:												
Dried fish	94	482,057	33,262	4	21,515	3,012	2/	2,151	148	-	-	-
Roe, frozen	69	215,371	14,861	162	228,033	31,925	-	-	-	3/	790	111
" salted	2,452	5,292,147	365,158	2,245	2,551,850	357,259	10	59,220	4,086	8	21,531	3,014
Fish skins, tanned	-	1,335	92	1	134,130	18,778	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fish skins, salted	229	329,166	22,712	3	8,425	1,179	178	126,232	8,710	1	3,218	450
Whale Products:												
Whale meat, froz.	374	573,207	39,551	-	-	-	1	2,201	152	-	-	-
" oil	2,335	10,196,305	703,545	2,499	5,894,186	825,186	-	-	-	-	-	-
" liver oil	15	7,500	517	14	38,086	5,332	-	-	-	-	-	-
" meal	465	992,201	68,462	502	597,094	83,593	-	-	-	-	-	-
" bone	127	174,152	12,016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	141,414	380,937,096	26,284,659	210,299	283,610,309	39,705,443	10,872	48,362,898	3,337,040	6,628	17,617,140	2,466,400

1/ 1,386 lbs. 2/ 330 lbs. 3/ 1,118 lbs.

Note: Exchange rates used for conversion of values to U. S. currency were: 1950 - 1 krone equals 6.9 U.S. cents; 1949 - 1 krone equals 14 U.S. cents.

almost twofold, from under 16,000 tons to more than 27,000 tons. The relative increase in exports of cured salt fish was even much larger, from only 297 tons in 1949 to more than 4,000 tons in 1950. The bulk of the salt-fish shipments were made to the Mediterranean area.

After a poor year in 1949, when low prices kept Icelandic shipments at a low level, cod-liver oil exports rose substantially in 1950. The volume of shipments was almost exactly twice as high in 1949, and the value of these shipments was 124 percent greater. The deterioration in the international situation was the principal factor increasing demand and prices for the oil. The Netherlands, which purchased cod-liver oil mainly for the production of margarine, and the United States, which uses the oil mainly for medicinal purposes, were the leading buyers.

As a result of the unexpectedly good herring catches in the fall and early winter months, salted herring shipments in 1950 were 79 percent higher in volume than in 1949. Foreign prices were relatively steady, but because of the two successive devaluations, the value of salted herring shipments was 163 percent higher in 1950 than in 1949.

Another interesting development in 1950 was the export of a considerable quantity of oil and meal produced from whole ocean perch. A number of trawlers engaged in ocean perch fisheries, for the first time since the early 1930's, in order to supply the steady foreign demand for oil and meal.

For the first time the United States assumed a leading position as a purchaser of Iceland's fish products, second only to the Netherlands in 1950. The sharp increase in shipments to the United States was principally in frozen fish, which rose to 7,409 metric tons valued at $2,429,516 (1949: 2,480 metric tons valued at $749,540). The most notable development in frozen fish shipments to the United States was the emphasis placed on freezing ocean perch. At the end of 1950, local freezing plants were busy producing ocean perch fillets in anticipation of continued United States demand in 1951.

* * * * *

GERMAN-ICELANDIC TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISHERY PRODUCTS: Fishery products are included in a German-Icelandic Treaty of Commerce and Navigation signed at Frankfort-on-the-Main on December 19, 1950. This treaty will be in force until March 31, 1951, and from then on will be extended automatically for a period of one year unless one of the parties denounces it with an advance notice of three months, reports a January 25 American consular dispatch from Bremerhaven.

Connected with the Treaty is the "Trade Agreement for the period March 15 to December 31, 1950," signed on December 12, 1950, and at the same time extended until December 31, 1951.

According to the Trade Agreement, the German government will issue import licenses, among others, for fishery products, as follows:

US$1,800,000	ICED FRESH FISH OTHER THAN HERRING (INCLUDING UP TO $200,000 QUICK-FROZEN FISH)
400,000	SALTED HERRING
200,000	ICED FRESH HERRING
100,000	SALTED FILLETS, SALTED FISH, DRIED FISH
1,300,000	HERRING OIL
785,000	HERRING MEAL
150,000	COD LIVER OIL
60,000	FISH ROE
TOTAL US$4,795,000	

The above amounts may be exceeded upon mutual agreement.

To carry through the importation of fish from Iceland, the "Open Individual License System" is to be applied.

Fresh fish (except herring and frozen fish) from Iceland may be landed in the Federal Republic of Germany only during the period from August 1 to November 15.

The Treaty provides reciprocal most-favored-nation treatment and, in addition to other conditions, payments for all commodities to be made in pound sterling through the National Bank of England, London, as Iceland is a sterling-block country.

No fishery products are included in the list of German exports to Iceland.

* * * * *

LOANS FOR TRAWLERS: Loans to complete the financing of ten new trawlers which are being constructed in the United Kingdom were recently granted the Icelandic Government by two London banks. The present short-term loans total £350,000 ($980,000) and are supplementary to an initial 20-year loan of £1,250,000 ($3,500,000) which was also negotiated with a London bank in July 1949.1/

In a speech to the Althing (local parliament) on October 13, 1950, the Minister of Finance reported that the total cost of the ten trawlers, fully equipped with up-to-date machinery, including fish-meal processing equipment, is £1,724,000 ($4,827,200) excluding interest. These ten trawlers were ordered in 1948 when it appeared desirable to enlarge Iceland's fleet of so-called "reconstruction trawlers," reports an American consular dispatch dated December 15, 1950, from Reykjavik.

These trawler purchases were first and foremost initiated by two of the largest trawler centers in the country, Reykjavik and Hafnarfjordur. The decision was based on the premise that the old trawlers would be so costly to operate that it would be impossible to continue their operations, as experience had already indicated. It has become evident that the number of trawlers operating from this country during the coming years would be reduced if measures to purchase new trawlers were not taken. These trawlers are now under construction in Great Britain, and will be completed during the period October 1950-August 1951.2/

These trawler purchases were undertaken first and foremost at the instigation of the major trawler centers in order to prevent a reduction in the trawler operations in these centers, and therefore it is presumed that these municipalities will take over the trawlers ordered as soon as they are completed.

1/SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1949, PP. 47-48.
2/IBID, FEBRUARY 1951, PP. 55-56.

Indonesia

ECA FUNDS AIDING DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES: For the procurement in the United States of scientific instruments to equip a research fishing vessel, the Economic Cooperation Administration on March 14 authorized an increase of $7,000 to a previous authorization of $8,000, making a total of $15,000 available for this purpose. The research vessel was procured with ECA funds from the Netherlands for $130,000. To procure equipment from The Netherlands and the United Kingdom, $3,000 was previously authorized.

The March 14 authorizations bring the ECA aid approved for the development of fisheries in Indonesia to a total of $1,003,000. This sum includes the purchase of 60 majang-type fishing boats, 100 Diesel boat engines, and 15 tuna-fishing boats, all manufactured in Japan. The initial shipment of majang boats is scheduled to be delivered in Indonesia in April.

Japan

FISHERMEN FACING ECONOMIC CRISIS: With an increase in operating costs and, in many instances, a decline in the prices paid to fishermen for their catches, the Japanese coastal fisheries are facing a growing economic crisis, in spite of the fact that physical rehabilitation has been encouraging. While fish production is almost up to the prewar level, the number of fishermen is now about 40 percent larger than before the war, according to the Weekly Summary of February 17, 1951, issued by SCAP's Natural Resources Section.

The total catch of all species for Japan proper is still slightly less than that taken before the war because of the continued scarcity of sardines and herring. The 1950 production of 3,540,000 metric tons (excluding aquiculture and Antarctic whaling), is an increase over the 1949 production, but remains below the 1935-39 average of 3,590,000 metric tons.[1/] Supply scarcities rather than decreased fishing effort is responsible for this decline in catch.

With the removal of price controls in the spring of 1950, the free market price of fish has dropped to about the 1949 controlled price level. This indicates that present production is about adequate for Japanese current demand for food at present price levels. Higher production as a result of increased consumption could only result through further decreases in consumer prices or through marked improvement in the quality of fresh and processed fish.

Although the physical rehabilitation program is about complete, the growing economic crisis becomes increasingly apparent. The crisis has been caused by the following factors:

1. Fishermen operating in Japan's coastal fisheries are now about 40 percent more numerous than before the war, as a result of repatriation of fishermen from Japan's colonies and the absorption of unemployed persons from stagnant industries.

2. Over-all fisheries production has not reached the prewar level in spite of the larger number of fishermen and boats because of the scarcity of sardines and herring, and in some cases of overfishing and decreased catches caused by too many fishermen and boats. Thus, with about 40 percent more fishermen and a smaller total production, the individual fisherman's share in the catch now is much less than before the war.

3. Operating costs for fishermen have increased, and in many instances the price of his catch has declined. The drastic rise in the cost of fuel oil, Manila fiber, and cotton in the world markets has greatly increased his cost of operations. The decrease in price of fish received by the fisherman, since the spring of 1950, has reduced his income. For most coastal fishermen, these two movements have wiped out whatever operating margin they enjoyed in 1949.

As a result of these developments, more and more coastal fishermen are unable either to pay off their old loans or to obtain additional credit to finance further operations. Sound financing is impossible under such conditions and production in some fisheries already is beginning to decline. Coastal fishermen in most areas now are facing financial collapse. If this situation is allowed to continue, it will make necessary great outlays of relief funds; serious declines in production will be incurred; and it will seriously threaten the success of the orderly fishery reforms which now are progressing favorably.

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JUNE 1950, P. 56.

Rehabilitation measures are unable to solve this growing complexity. To meet the economic crisis facing the coastal fishermen, a five point program has been offered by the Natural Resources Section: (1) stopping of further expansion in over-exploited fisheries, (2) development of sound conservation regulations, (3) establishment of strong Government departments for the enforcement of fishery regulations, (4) increase of fishermen's profits, and (5) establishment of a sound financing program.

* * * * *

FISHING AREA INSPECTORS VESTED WITH POLICE POWERS: Officials of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, who are assigned to the Fisheries Inspection System, are authorized to exercise the functions of judicial police in enforcing the provisions of SCAPIN 2046, "Area Authorized for Japanese Fishing and Whaling," by an order (SCAPIN 2050/1) issued by SCAP on January 31. Before the issuance of SCAPIN 2050/1, officials assigned by the Ministry to act as inspectors on the vessels engaged in enforcing the observance of fishing areas were not vested with police powers, the February 10 Weekly Summary of SCAP's Natural Resources Section states.

* * * * *

EXPERIMENTS IN DRYING MARINE PRODUCTS BY INFRARED RAYS: Experiments in drying marine products by means of infrared rays are being conducted in Japan, according to the February 3 Weekly Summary issued by SCAP's Natural Resources Section. Some of this work is being done at the Tateyama Branch Fisheries Experimental Station, operated by the Chiba Prefectural Government. Experiments have been made with seaweed, cuttlefish, sardine, horse mackerel, and whale meat.

General results indicate that when fish is exposed under infraray lamps with a temperature at 40° to 50° C. (104° to 122° F.) a high percentage of the water content is eliminated within two hours. The drying time is further reduced if artificial ventilation is used to accelerate heat convection.

Researchers report that fish treated by infrared rays had little or no smell and no oily rust. Experiments are being continued to determine whether results will justify operation on a commercial scale.

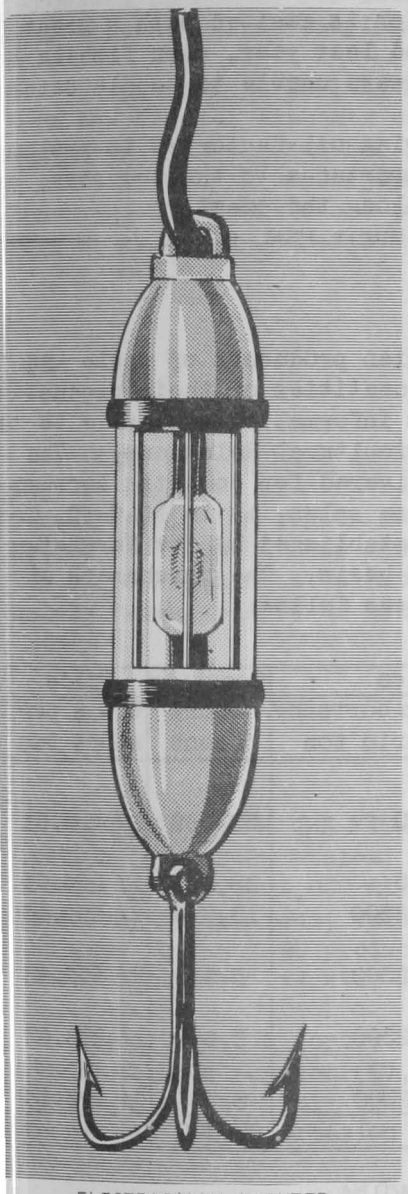
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Norway

UMBRELLA-TYPE BAG NET FOR HERRING AND COD: A type of bag net designed for herring and cod, which closes like an umbrella as it drops into the water, has been tested by Laurits Hoisaker of Nusfjord, Norway, according to the January 31 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian fishery periodical. It is reported that this new type of gear for which a patent is being sought, will not frighten the fish as it drops into the water

The principle of this gear appears to be somewhat like that worked on and described by Johan Asphaug of Kristiansund. When the bag net has reached a position under the fish, hauling in begins, and the umbrella opens and covers an area equal to about 30 square yards. As soon as the gear is above the school of fish, it is

pursed to prevent the fish from escaping. Its capacity is about 20 metric tons. One advantage claimed for the gear is its ability to fish at much greater depths than ordinary nets.



ELECTRICALLY-LIGHTED LURE OR JIG.

ELECTRICALLY-LIGHTED JIG: An electrically-lighted lure or jig for line fishing, which can be connected to a battery or a fishing craft's lighting system, has been invented by a Norwegian skipper, Andreas Flesland of Flesland in Fana, Norway. The inventor has filed for a patent.

A two-phase cable insulated with plastic is used as a line. The type used in tests had a breaking strength of 176 pounds, but further tests are under way with a cable of smaller dimensions.

The lure or jig consists of a cylinder pointed at each end (see sketch). The ends are of metal while the central portion is a special type of pressure-resistant glass cylinder within which an electric lamp is placed. The strength of the lamp depends upon the battery or power source, for example 10 amperes and 24 volts or 10 amperes and 12 volts. The lamp is connected to the cable and the latter is fastened to the eye in the lure or jig with a turn so that there is no direct strain on the lamp connection. Watertight seals of rubber are used between the glass and the metal. A firmly fixed triple hook of slightly greater dimensions than in the illustration is used. It is reported the lure has had a good reception by fishermen.

* * * * *

FISH CANNERS ACCORDED PRIORITY FOR TIN PLATE: The shortage of tin plate has been a cause for concern to Norwegian canners, according to a January 29 American consular dispatch from Oslo. The Norwegian Government had forbidden the use of tin plate, effective on January 1, in certain food-preserving operations, but accorded priority to canners of fish and other export products.

* * * * *

EXPERIMENTAL STORAGE SILOS FOR HERRING: Methods for preserving herring for water reduction into meal and oil are being tested by the Norwegians, a January 23 American consular dispatch from Bergen reports.

The new experimental storage plant at Trollebø (close to Maaløy) is now ready for the storage of herring. Two of the three contemplated silo tanks for storage of herring are completed. One has a capacity of 180 metric tons and the other 20 tons. It is expected that the third tank will be finished during the course of the season. In addition to the tanks, a bin with a capacity of approximately 20 tons has also been built. Engineer Sola, an employee of the Chemical and Technical Experimental Institute of the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, has been

in charge of the construction. According to him, tests made last year gave favorable results and he states that the cost of the preservative to be used will average a little less than 1.5 cents per 100 pounds of herring.

The results of the experimental storage installation is awaited with a great deal of interest in view of the difficulties encountered last year, when fishing had to be stopped for ten days because shore installations were unable to handle catches.

If successful, the tanks will also enable the herring oil factories to prolong their operating season which will be of considerable importance to the industry, and a number of such silo storage tanks will be installed along the coast.

NOTE: ALSO SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, MAY 1950, P. 78; APRIL 1950, P. 74.

* * * * *

PART OF 1950/51 WHALE OIL PRODUCTION SOLD: Norwegian producers of whale and sperm oil already have contracted to sell substantial quantities of their production from the 1950-51 Antarctic pelagic season, according to information available to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The total whale oil sold, including that which is to be delivered for domestic consumption, is 142,570 short tons (129,339 metric tons). These sales, as in 1949-50, have been arranged through the Selling Pool which has been established by the Norwegian whaling companies to facilitate sales on a more orderly basis. The purchasers of the whale oil, the quantities contracted, and sales prices follow:

Contractor	Quantity	Price	Quantity	Price
	Metric tons	In foreign currency per metric ton	Short tons	U.S.$ per short ton
United Kingdom, Ministry of Food	30,000	£100	33,069	1/ 254.01
Norway, Sandar Fabrikker and De-No-Fa	30,000	£100	33,069	1/ 254.01
Western Germany, Margarine Union	12,500	N.Kr. 2300	13,779	2/ 292.43
Netherlands, Voedselvoorziening Import Bureau	5,000	N.Kr. 2300	5,511	2/ 292.43
Sweden, Karlshamns Oljefabrikker	7,500	N.Kr. 2300	8,267	2/ 292.43
Denmark, Dansk Sojakagefabrik A/S and Aarhus Oliekagefabrik A/S	3,000	N.Kr. 2300	3,307	2/ 292.43
Total	88,000	-	97,002	-

1/ Pound sterling converted at official rate of $2.80.
2/ Norwegian kroner converted at official rate of $0.140154.

Deliveries of whale oil to be made in Norway will total 45,568 short tons, all of which is exclusive of the above contracts.

The Selling Pool has sold further about 5,512 tons of sperm oil at prices ranging from $203 to $224 per short ton (£72-10-0 to £80 per metric ton). This is somewhat higher than the prices at which the British and South African whaling companies have arranged to sell their production of sperm oil from this season. Their prices ranged from $196 to $205.80 per short ton (£70 to £73-10-0 per metric ton).

The total Norwegian Antarctic whale and sperm oil production from the 1949-50 season was 207,232 tons. Of the 195,107 tons of whale oil produced, 46,297 tons were sold for domestic use at a price of $141.13 per ton. Of the balance, some was processed in Norway for later export and the remainder was sold direct to other countries at prices varying from $200 to $210 per ton.

The Norwegian Selling Pool for the joint sale of whale and sperm oil produced from the 1950-51 season's catch was organized on May 22, 1950, according to the Norwegian Whaling Gazette for May 1950. Agreement to have a pool again was reached at a meeting held in Sandefjord, Norway. All the Norwegian pelagic companies and A/S Tonsbergs Hvalfangeri are parties to the pool. A similar agreement was made on July 6, 1949, in Sandefjord for the 1949-50 sale of whale and sperm oil.

Panama

TAXES FOR FISHING RIGHTS: A Panamanian executive decree was issued in January 1951 to regulate fishing by foreign-owned vessels in the territorial waters of Panama. Taxes for fishing rights were fixed at $300 for ships of less than 25 tons and up to $1,000 for vessels over 150 tons, according to an American Legation report of March 5. The decree further stipulated that live-bait fishing will be permitted in Pacific waters from April 15 to December 31 each year.

Portugal

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY, 1950:[1] Production: Portuguese fish production (excluding whales) for 1950 was estimated at about 228,000 metric tons with a value of nearly 1,000 million escudos ($34,700,000) as compared to the revised total of 216,086 tons, valued at 950 million escudos ($36,860,000) in 1949. This increase in the 1950 production was due primarily to the good sardine catch, an American Embassy dispatch from Lisbon dated February 28, 1951, reports.

Imports and Exports: Imports of fish (mainly cod) totaled 26,984 tons, valued at 229 million escudos ($7,946,300) for 1950. The Portuguese cod-fishing fleet is insufficient to supply the annual consumption requirements of about 60,000 tons of groundfish and importation from Newfoundland, Norway, and other countries is always necessary.

Exports of fish (mainly canned fish) were approximately equal to imports in weight but about double in value.

Canned Fish: The Portuguese canneries in 1950 produced an estimated 1,700 standard cases[2] of sardines, or more than double the 1949 production. Although the canning industry had been faced with a critical supply shortage at the beginning of 1950, the return of the sardine to the coastal waters in the latter part of July resulted in an estimated annual production of at least double the 1949 catch of 36 thousand metric tons. The estimated total production of canned fish for the year, including anchovies, salmon, etc., amounted to about 2,300,000 cases.

1/ SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1950, PP. 55-66.

2/ A WOODEN CASE HOLDING 100 1/4 CLUB CANS (30 MM. SIZE), EACH CAN CONTAINING 4 1/2 OZ.--GROSS WEIGHT OF CASE IS APPROXIMATELY 51 POUNDS, WHILE THE CONTENTS OF THE CASE (EXCLUDING THE WEIGHT OF THE WOODEN CASE) IS ABOUT 42 POUNDS.

Exports of canned fish did not keep pace with production, amounting to a total of only 1,357 thousand cases of canned fish, including 846 thousand cases of sardines, in an 11-month period. Exports of sardines for the year are estimated at about one million cases. Total exports of canned sardines in oil or sauce were 17,423 metric tons (729,189 cases) in 1950 against 16,925 metric tons in 1949 (table 1). Sardine shipments to the United States in 1950 were 120,701 cases, compared to 57,319 cases in 1949.

Table 1 - Exports of Principal Fishery Products, 1949-50

	QUANTITY		V A L U E			
	1950	1949	1 9 5 0		1 9 4 9	
	Metric Tons	Metric Tons	Million Escudos	U. S. Dollars	Million Escudos	U. S. Dollars
Sardines, canned	17,423	16,925	334	11,589,800	294	11,407,200
Anchovies, "	3,297	3,788	84	2,914,800	87	3,375,600
Tuna and similar species, canned	1,827	1,957	49	1,700,300	52	2,017,600
Other preserved fish	2,241	1,006	29	1,006,300	13	504,400
Total	24,788	23,676	496	17,211,200	446	17,304,800

According to informants in the trade, however, nearly half of the 1950 pack remained unshipped at the end of the year. It is understood, however, that there was a very good foreign demand for Portuguese sardines at the beginning of 1951, and it is assumed that the large stocks in Portuguese warehouses will be shipped during the first five months of 1951 before the new fishing season gets under way.

The British Government signed a collective contract with the Canned Fish Institute on June 2 for the purchase of 500,000 cases of sardines of the 1950-51 pack at a price of 290 escudos ($10.09) a case. The contract provided, however, that if production should fail to reach 2,000,000 cases only 25 percent of the actual production need be reserved for the British contract. Actual exports to Great Britain totaled only 5,375 metric tons or about 235,000 cases during 1950, but it is anticipated that the balance of the contracted amount will be shipped early in 1951.

Exports of anchovies were especially good, amounting to 2,888 tons in 1950 against 623 in 1949. Over 80 percent of the exports went to the United States.

The return of the sardines, while it brought relief to the canning industry, created a new problem. The Canned Fish Institute, which had accumulated large stocks of tin plate for which it saw no prospective market, disposed of a portion of the stocks in May. It became evident by the end of July that additional supplies would be needed and the Institute and the Portuguese Government, as well as individual canners, made desperate efforts throughout the last 5 months of the year to place orders for tin plate. These efforts were largely futile. Until new supplies of tin plate are received, the canners will be unable to prepare stocks of cans for the new season, and if substantial supplies are not received before the end of April, part of the new season's catch may be lost.

Whaling Industry: Whale and sperm oil were exempted from export duty in a legislative decree issued by the Portuguese government on September 11, 1950. The exportation of whale oil in 1950 amounted to 4,997 metric tons with a value of 24 million escudos ($832,800), a substantial increase over the 1949 figures of 1,187 metric tons worth 9 million escudos ($349,200).

NOTE: VALUES CONVERTED TO AMERICAN CURRENCY ON THE BASIS OF THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE RATES: 1950 - 1 PORTUGUESE ESCUDO EQUALS 3.47 U. S. CENTS; 1949 - 1 ESCUDO EQUALS 3.88 U. S. CENTS.

Sweden

ONE-BOAT FLOATING TRAWL: In March or April this year, a floating trawl, requiring only one boat, will be tested off Bornholm, Sweden, on bottom so rough that the usual trawl cannot be used effectively. The Swedish inventor, Karl-Hugo Larsson of Stockholm, calls his new gear the "phantom trawl," according to the February 14 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian fishery periodical. No details on the construction or operation of the gear were given.

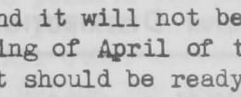
United Kingdom

HERRING OIL AND MEAL PRODUCTION, 1950: Herring oil production in the United Kingdom in 1950 was 3,144 long tons--an increase of 50.8 percent over the 2,085 long tons produced in 1949, according to the British Herring Industry Board. Of the total output in 1950, 2,926 tons were sold for first-grade edible purposes and 218 tons of lower-grade quality were sold for manufacturing purposes, a March 9 American Embassy dispatch from London states.

Production of herring meal for animal feed totaled 6,284 tons in 1950, compared with 4,150 tons in 1949.

The amount of herring diverted for processing into oil and meal in 1950 increased to 36,509 tons, compared with 23,269 tons in 1949. The Board reports that the herring fishing in 1950 was not as productive as had been expected, the landings being some 24,500 tons less than in 1949. Domestic and export demand were, however, on a generally lower level than in 1949, with the result that substantially greater quantities of herring became available for reduction to meal and oil.

In describing its expansion program, the Board states that early last year the Board had hoped to begin construction of a second plant. This project has, however, been somewhat delayed and it will not be possible to put the plant into operation until about the beginning of April of this year. Work on the third factory has begun, and this plant should be ready for the autumn fishing season this year. The approved program envisages the construction of three factories in addition to those here mentioned. The provision of these factories should raise the production potential by the end of 1951 to about 15,000 tons a year of oil and 10,000 to 12,000 tons of meal. Additional apparatus for the full recovery of meal (say 25,000 to 30,000 tons) is to be installed between 1952 and 1954.



Venezuela

FISHERY PRODUCTS IMPORT DUTIES INCREASED: In order to provide additional protection to the national fish-canning industry, Venezuelan import duties on fishery products were substantially increased effective March 1, 1951, according to an American Embassy dispatch from Caracas (see table). Excepted, however, were canned salmon and sardines from the United States.

Under the existing United States-Venezuelan trade agreement, canned salmon under item No. 3(d) produced in the United States is dutiable at the rate of 0.90

Venezuelan Former and New Rates of Duty for Fishery Products Imports

Tariff No.	Description	Former		New	
		In Bolivares Per Gross Kilogram	U.S. Cents Per Gross Pound	In Bolivares Per Gross Kilogram	U.S. Cents Per Gross Pound
2	Dried, salted, salt-preserved, or smoked fish products:				
	(a) Herring	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
	(b) Codfish	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
	(c) Sardines	.28	3.8	2	27.3
	(d) Unspecified	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
3	Fish products, except dried, salted, salt-preserved, or smoked:				
	(a) Herring	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
	(b) Tuna	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
	(c) Codfish	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
	(d) Salmon	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
	(e) Sardines, in unspecified form	.28	3.8	2	27.3
	(h) Unspecified	1.20	16.4	2	27.3
	(i) Sardines in olive oil	-	-	2	27.3

Note: - Values converted to U. S. currency on the basis of 1 bolivar equals U.S. $0.30.

bolivar per gross kilogram (12 cents per lb.); also the agreement rate on United States canned sardines packed in sauce, their own juice, or oil (but not olive oil) and included under item 3(e) of the customs tariff is specified at 0.28 bolivar per gross kilogram (3.8 cents per lb.). These trade-agreement rates continue in effect for imports from the United States and from other countries with which Venezuela has commercial treaties or modus vivendi containing most-favored-nation clauses.