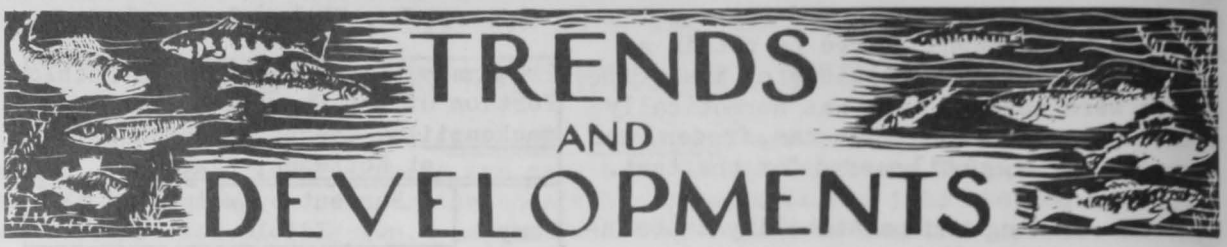



## Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

First documents as fishing craft were received by 49 vessels of 5 net tons and over during February 1952--9 more than in February 1951. Alaska lead with 11 vessels, followed by California and the West Coast of Florida with 5 vessels each, the Treasury Department Bureau of Customs reported.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, February 1952

| Section | February | | Two mos. ending with Feb. | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | 1951 |
| | Number | Number | Number | Number | Number |
| New England ..... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 36 |
| Middle Atlantic ..... | 5 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 34 |
| Chesapeake ..... | 5 | - | 9 | 2 | 36 |
| South Atlantic ..... | 8 | 8 | 19 | 16 | 118 |
| Gulf ..... | 9 | 9 | 15 | 27 | 173 |
| Pacific Coast ..... | 9 | 13 | 16 | 26 | 284 |
| Great Lakes ..... | - | - | 1 | 1 | 25 |
| Alaska ..... | 11 | 5 | 14 | 8 | 71 |
| Hawaii ..... | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Total ..... | 49 | 40 | 84 | 90 | 780 |

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

## California Shrimp Fishing Season Opened April 1

Commercial trawling for shrimp (prawn) in Pacific Ocean waters off California became a reality when the season opened on April 1. According to reports, shrimp fishing may prove to be a new major fishing industry for the State. This is the first time that trawling for shrimp has been permitted by California.

This experimental shrimp season was sanctioned by the Legislature after the Department of Fish and Game discovered commercial quantities of shrimp (prawn) in three California offshore areas. Regulations were established by the California Fish and Game Commission which are designed to protect the so-called bottom fishery for halibut, sole, flounders, and similar fishes.

Permits are now being issued by the Department's Bureau of Marine Fisheries in the Ferry Building, San Francisco. Boats must be registered for shrimp fishing.

Under terms of the Legislative law which set up the new fishery, permits will expire on the 91st day after final adjournment of the 1953 session of the Legislature.

# California Biologists Alarmed at Pacific Mackerel Scarcity

The Pacific mackerel (Pheumatophorus diego), the basis of a one-time multi-million dollar fishery, has pulled a disappearing act which alarms marine biologists of the California Department of Fish and Game, according to a March 12 news release from that Department.

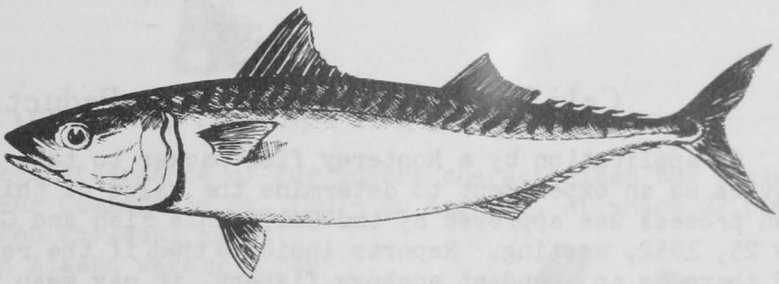
Recent commercial landings of Pacific mackerel at California ports are the lowest since 1932. Symptoms of a sick fishery have been diagnosed by the State specialists for several years.

Los Angeles has always been the center of the mackerel fishery, with Newport Beach an important harbor since 1935. First the lampara and then the purse-seine fleet dominated the fishery at Los Angeles.

Newport Beach was the base for the small-boat operator, employing the technique of "sticker" fishing from which evolved the technique of "scooping." By the late 1930's the seine fleet was no longer able to meet the demands of Los Angeles harbor canneries and the small-boat fishery expanded tremendously. Despite this, the trend of the catch has continued downward.

The mackerel catch, canned almost entirely in southern California, has been a staple diet item among low-income Americans generally throughout the South, and in the Philippines.

During their abundance, the Pacific mackerel were fished from May through the winter. In recent years, most of the fishing has been concentrated between Labor Day and Christmas. The 1951 season, however, ended in early November. There just weren't any Pacific mackerel to catch.



PACIFIC MACKEREL (PNEUMATOPHORUS DIEGO), OCCURS IN LARGE SCHOOLS ALONG THE CALIFORNIA COAST MOSTLY SOUTH OF MONTEREY BAY. SOMETIMES MIXED WITH SARDINES (SARDINOPS CAERULEA) AND JACK MACKEREL (TRACHURUS SYMMETRICUS).

A crew of Bureau of Marine Fisheries researchers has been studying the Pacific mackerel's movements, reproduction, and habitat for a decade, from the Department's Marine Fisheries Laboratory at Terminal Island and aboard research vessels at sea. Although they have no pat answer, they are willing to submit "an educated guess," based on catch, population, and age studies they've completed.

The fading fishery has fluctuated in cycles of at least a decade--from population peaks of highly rewarding fishing seasons--to depressions when they have virtually disappeared. But for the past 20 years the charted peaks of their abundance have been lower, and the plateaus of their absences from the fishing grounds longer and deeper.

"Spawning was good in 1947 but today this class, which produced a major portion of the years' catches from 1948 to 1950, is cleaned out. What remains of the fishery is dependent on three-year-olds as its largest and oldest fish," states the Bureau. Yet it takes the Pacific mackerel two years to become sexually mature--able to reproduce its species.

"The reserve spawning stock more than four years old has dwindled until in 1950 and 1951 less than three percent of the Pacific mackerel taken were four years old or older. The greatest contribution by any single year class was that of 1941 which produced 130 million fish weighing 109 million pounds," continues the Bureau. But the biologists state that when all returns are in the 1951 catch of Pacific mackerel will just about reach 30 million pounds.

"The future of the Pacific mackerel in California is not bright. The fishery during the past 10 years has been fading rapidly toward ultimate destruction," add the Bureau Biologists.

Department specialists, faced with a similar dilemma in the California sardine fishery, believe both fisheries can eventually be rehabilitated and restored to economic importance under a sustained yield, annual harvesting program. But only if all segments of the fisheries and their dependent industries will agree on seasonal bag limits that will fluctuate from year to year, and which would be mutually agreed to by fishermen, canners, reducers, and the public.

The limits would be set upon recommendation of marine scientists specializing in mackerel and sardine studies and would depend upon such data as population and age samplings, migration research, "availability" of the fish populations to the fishermen, and other factors.

It may be a long, slow haul, the biologists believe, but there is no reason a sustained-yield based on intelligent, mutually-acceptable planning, cannot rehabilitate California's greatest potential resource--the marine life in her coastal waters, the biologists state.

## California Issues Anchovy Reduction Permit

An application by a Monterey fish packer to take and reduce 100 tons of anchovies as an experiment to determine the value of this fish in a straight reduction process was approved by the California Fish and Game Commission at its January 25, 1952, meeting. Reports indicate that if the results prove satisfactory and there is an abundant anchovy fishery, it may mean the survival of some of those plants which have been inactive because of the shortage of sardines (pilchards) which developed during the past few years on the West Coast.

## Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, FEBRUARY 1952: For the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, the

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army
(February and the First Two Months, 1951 and 1952)

| QUANTITY | | | | VALUE | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| February | | January-February | | February | | January-February | |
| 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 |
| lbs. | lbs. | lbs. | lbs. | $ | $ | $ | $ |
| 2,173,316 | 2,150,482 | 4,490,727 | 3,855,610 | 1,041,122 | 934,934 | 2,126,118 | 1,667,307 |

Army Quartermaster Corps during February 1952 purchased 2,173,316 pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products (see table). Compared with the previous month's purchases, this was a drop of 6.2 percent in quantity and 4.0 percent in value. However, this February's purchases were higher than in February 1951 by 1.1 percent in quantity and 11.4 percent in value.

For the first two months of 1952, purchases were greater by 16.5 percent in quantity and 27.5 percent in value as compared with the corresponding period of 1951. The average price per pound of 47.3 cents paid for fresh and frozen fishery products during the first two months this year was higher than the 43.3 cents paid in January-February 1951.

## Florida's Shrimp Fishery Expanded in 1951

Preliminary estimates indicate that Florida's shrimp landings in 1951 amounted to around 35 million pounds as compared with 23 million pounds in 1950--an increase of 52 percent. This increase was due partially to increased fishing effort, better mapping of shrimping grounds, and more experienced fishermen. However, the most important factor contributing to the increased Florida landings was the production from the Campeche Banks located outside Mexico's territorial waters.

Florida's 1950 fishery statistical survey revealed approximately 900 fishing vessels operating in that State. Of these, 400 were shrimp vessels. Out of nine major producing counties, Monroe County landings represented nearly one-third of Florida's total shrimp landings.

## Fur-Seal Skin Prices Drop at Spring Fur Auction

Active bidding by a large attendance of fur buyers characterized the spring auction held by the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis on April 7, at which 22,008 United States Government-owned fur-seal skins from the Pribilof Islands in Alaska were sold for $1,790,681, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported in April to the Secretary of the Interior.

The April 1951 auction brought $2,591,796 for the Government-owned skins; the September sale, $2,249,892.

The grand average for all United States Government skins at the April 1952 auction was $81.27, a decline of 8.1 percent below the September 1951 auction. The dyed "Matara" (brown) skins sold for an average of $87.49, an advance of 1.3 percent over last fall's sale. "Safari" brown (a lighter brown) skins declined 2.7 percent to $66.48, while the black skins declined 24.2 percent to $78.30. A total of 550 blue-fox pelts averaged $5.86, an advance of 7.7 percent.

In addition to the United States-owned skins, the fur company sold 4,539 Cape-of-Good-Hope fur-seal skins for the Government of the Union of South Africa. These skins averaged $24.27, a decline of 20 percent.

NOTE: ALSO SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1951, P. 13.

## Great Lakes Fishery Investigations

SEA LAMPREY CONTROL PROSPECTS ENCOURAGING: An economical means of controlling the sea lamprey in the Great Lakes has been discovered by the Great Lakes Fishery Investigations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Two of several electrical devices show great promise and have stopped the upstream migration of spawning sea lampreys. One experimental device used on a 90-foot stream operated successfully on as little as two kilowatts of power (cost 5 to 10 cents per hour). The use of electrical devices makes it possible to place under control a great many streams which by other known procedures would have required large capital outlays and large maintenance and operational costs.

SEA LAMPREY
(PETROMYZON MARINUS)

MOUTH OF SEA LAMPREY

In addition to the electrical devices, mechanical weirs, barrier dams, and inclined plane traps can be used effectively on certain streams. This spring a number of electrical devices will be operated for the purpose of refining techniques and procedures and especially to develop an electrical leading device capable of leading valuable fish species out of the lethal electrical field. Many species of fish can be guided whereas sea lampreys rush headlong into the electrical field until they are rendered unconscious.

In the spring of 1953 the work will have progressed far enough to permit installation and operation of proven control devices in streams tributary to Lake Superior. This lake has the single remaining lake trout fishery. The sea lamprey did not enter Lake Superior until 1947 and for the first time in 1952 will produce in its own streams millions of parasitic lampreys. Up to now all have come from Lakes Huron and Michigan. It is possible that the lake trout population can be conserved if control of the sea lamprey is undertaken without delay.

## New England Tuna Explorations

VESSEL CHARTERED FOR THIS YEAR'S EXPLORATIONS: The vessel Marjorie Parker, a line trawler owned by a fishing company located in Portland, Maine, has been chartered for this year's New England bluefin-tuna explorations. The vessel is a 78-foot schooner-type vessel previously used in the line-trawl fishery and is well suited for tuna long-lining and gill-netting, the main types of gear which will be used in this year's operations. The explorations will be conducted by the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, and their main purpose is to search for untapped resources of bluefin tuna in waters principally off the shores of Maine and Massachusetts.

Present plans call for the operations to be based at Portland, Maine. Exploratory fishing will be carried on from June 1 to September 30.

## Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

RESEARCH VESSELS SEEK TUNA IN PACIFIC EQUATORIAL WATERS: Several tons of large yellowfin tuna (ahi), taken near the Equator southwest of Hawaii, were brought back by the research vessel Hugh M. Smith. This is one of the vessels being operated by the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations. The vessel returned to Honolulu on March 13 from a six-week cruise in equatorial waters.

The vessels Hugh M. Smith and the John R. Manning were sent into tropical waters early this year to explore further the discovery by the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations that large stocks of unfished tunas exist in the equatorial regions south of Hawaii. The trip was designed to test whether the tuna were in the area during the winter as well as during the summer and fall.

The Hugh M. Smith studies were carried out in close cooperation with the John R. Manning, which fished flag lines for tuna in these rich fishing grounds. This research is expected to provide information leading to the exploitation of new fisheries resources.

A tuna-processor in Hawaii is cooperating with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in an experiment to test whether the yellowfin tuna taken at the Equator will approach the same high-grade product as the tuna caught in Hawaiian waters.

## Shipments of Metal Cans for Fish and Sea Food, January 1952

Total shipments of metal cans for fish and sea food for January this year amounted to 3,743 short tons of steel (based on the amount of steel consumed in the manufacture of cans), which was considerably below 5,960 short tons of steel during the corresponding period in 1951. A decline in West Coast tuna canning and sardine canning were largely responsible for this drop in use of metal cans for packing of fishery products. This is based on a report issued by the Bureau of the Census on March 26.

NOTE: DATA CONVERTED TO SHORT TONS OF STEEL ARE ON THE BASIS OF 23.0 BASE BOXES OF STEEL PER SHORT TON OF STEEL.

## South Atlantic Shrimp Explorations

AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR CONDUCTING ONE YEAR'S EXPLORATIONS: A one year's exploration for shrimp in the waters off the east coast of Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico, to supplement explorations of the Service's exploratory fishing vessel Oregon, will result from a cooperative agreement between the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Gibbs Corporation of Jacksonville, Fla. The company is supplying their new experimental steel shrimp trawler Antillas for the explorations, as well as the crew and standard fishing gear. The Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries is furnishing technical assistance by assigning Carl Carlson, Fishery Engineer, to supervise the work, and also supplying items of experimental gear to be tested, such as floating trawls, bottomless trawls, etc. The Antillas is equipped with the latest instruments and a new-type variable-pitch propeller which will also be tested.

Besides experimentation with standard and new types of trawls, consideration is being given to the testing of certain promising electronic devices, as well as the use of underwater television for studying fishing gear in action.

At present the Antillas is exploring waters off northern Florida and southern Georgia at depths from 10 to 100 fathoms.

## Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, FEBRUARY 1952: Increased landings on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts accounted for the sharp drop in edible fishery products prices this February. Generally lower prices for most types of fishery products prevailed during that month. Edible fishery products prices as a group in February were 5.5 percent below the previous month, but remained 0.9 percent above February 1951. The edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) revised wholesale price index for February 1952 was 108.2 percent of the 1947-49 average (see table).

Drawn, dressed, or whole fin-fish prices in February 1952 were 13.2 percent below the previous month, but 4.3 percent higher than in February last year. Fresh

Table 1 - Revised Wholesale Indexes for Edible Fish and Shellfish, February 1952, with Comparative Data

| GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION | POINT OF PRICING | INDEXES (1947-49 = 100) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Feb. 1952 | Jan. 1952 | Dec. 1951 | Feb. 1951 |
| ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned) | | 108.2 | 114.5 | 113.3 | 109.21 |
| Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products: | | 114.3 | 125.1 | 122.7 | 108.6 |
| Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Fin Fish: | | 118.4 | 136.4 | 133.2 | 113.5 |
| Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh | Boston | 120.0 | 174.7 | 167.8 | 102.8 |
| Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen | New York City | 106.8 | 102.2 | 101.4 | 120.0 |
| Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen | " " " | 120.9 | 120.9 | 121.0 | 118.6 |
| Whitefish mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh | Chicago | 156.2 | 156.2 | 112.0 | 140.6 |
| Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh | New York City | 106.2 | 88.0 | 113.2 | 102.3 |
| Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh | Chicago | 133.2 | 129.1 | 129.1 | 116.8 |
| Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh | New York City | 99.7 | 99.7 | 101.3 | 123.1 |
| Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish): | | 108.8 | 111.9 | 111.6 | 102.2 |
| Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins | Boston | 125.9 | 154.9 | 149.4 | 109.8 |
| Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen | New York City | 102.8 | 81.4 | 81.3 | 92.5 |
| Oysters, shucked, standards | Norfolk area | 111.3 | 136.1 | 136.8 | 113.3 |
| Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish): | | 110.9 | 110.5 | 106.2 | 103.6 |
| Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. pkg. | Boston | 143.7 | 143.7 | 145.8 | 122.7 |
| Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack | " | 122.7 | 122.7 | 114.2 | 88.8 |
| Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack | Gloucester | 120.4 | 125.2 | 125.2 | 139.6 |
| Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg. | Chicago | 88.7 | 84.8 | 78.0 | 83.3 |
| Canned Fishery Products: | | 99.2 | 98.9 | 99.5 | 110.1 |
| Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case | Seattle | 109.6 | 109.6 | 109.6 | 130.4 |
| Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. ½ tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case | Los Angeles | 81.2 | 81.2 | 81.2 | 93.7 |
| Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case | " " | 102.2 | 102.2 | 100.2 | 78.8 |
| Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. ¼ drawn (3¾ oz.), 100 cans per case | New York City | 105.9 | 102.7 | 110.5 | 68.8 |

large offshore haddock during the month dropped 31.3 percent below the previous month, but the index for this commodity was still 16.7 percent above February 1951. Frozen Western halibut prices at New York City continued to rise and increased 4.5 percent from January to February, while whitefish and lake trout also increased substantially during this period due to good demand and light supplies.

Processed fresh fish and shellfish prices this February were 2.8 percent below the previous month, but 6.5 percent higher than in February 1951. Haddock fillets sold 18.7 percent lower than in January 1951, but were still priced 14.7 percent above February a year ago. Shucked fresh oyster prices continued to drop (18.2 percent) in February 1952 and were 1.8 percent below February 1951. Fresh shrimp prices this February, on the other hand, were 26.3 percent above January and 11.1 percent higher than during the same period a year earlier.

Although processed frozen fish and shellfish prices in February were 7.0 percent higher than for the same month in 1951, they rose only 0.4 percent from January to February this year. Frozen shrimp prices, which have been steadily increasing the past few months, rose 4.6 percent from January to February and were 6.5 percent higher than a year earlier. All fillets remained steady at January levels, except frozen ocean perch fillets which dropped 3.8 percent from January to February. Heavier-than-normal cold storage stocks accounted for this latter decline. Compared to February 1951, ocean perch fillets this February were quoted 13.8 percent lower.

Canned fish prices this February remained almost steady, except for Maine sardines which rose 3.1 percent from January to February this year. In February Maine sardines were priced 53.9 percent higher and California sardines 29.8 percent higher than in February 1951, but canned pink salmon was priced 16.0 percent lower and canned tuna 13.3 percent lower.

REVISION OF RETAIL PRICE INDEX FOR FRESH AND FROZEN FISH: Retail prices of "fresh and frozen fish" have been used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in its retail food index since January 1938, and a separate index has been computed back through 1939. This index has been based on a composite of two price quotations from each store in the sample for the two species selling in the largest volume at each pricing date. Average prices were not published. Prices are collected monthly from chain and independent stores in 56 cities during the first three days of the week which includes the 15th of the month.

To improve the index and to provide for the publication of average prices, the Bureau is now pricing two specific varieties of fin fish in each of the 56 cities where food prices are collected. The new index (Fresh and Frozen Fin Fish) will be made up of a composite of prices of frozen ocean perch fillets and frozen haddock fillets in 44 cities, and other varieties in cities where adequate quotations for one or both of these are not normally available. The 12 cities where the other varieties are priced, together with the items priced, are shown below:

| City | Fin-Fish Varieties Priced | |
|---|---|---|
| Boston | Haddock fillet, fresh | Cod fillet, frozen |
| Butte | Salmon, fresh or frozen | Halibut, fresh or frozen |
| Houston | Ocean perch fillet, frozen | Sea trout, fresh, dressed |
| Los Angeles | Salmon, fresh or frozen | Halibut, fresh or frozen |
| Manchester | Cod fillet, frozen | Haddock fillet, frozen |
| New Haven | Cod fillet, frozen | Haddock fillet, frozen |
| Portland, Me. | Haddock fillet, fresh | Haddock fillet, frozen |
| Portland, Oreg. | Salmon, fresh or frozen | Halibut, fresh or frozen |
| Providence | Haddock fillet, fresh | Cod fillet, frozen |
| Salt Lake City | Halibut, fresh or frozen | Salmon, fresh or frozen |
| San Francisco | Ocean perch fillet, frozen | Salmon, fresh or frozen |
| Seattle | Salmon, fresh or frozen | Halibut, fresh or frozen |

The prices for the new specifications were introduced into the former index (linked) at the January 1952 level, thus maintaining index continuity in spite of the specification changes. The calculation base period (100 percent) for the Fresh and Frozen Fin-Fish Index is the average of the two years 1938 and 1939. There has been no change in this base period.

The Consumers' Price Index for moderate-income families in large cities computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics measures average changes in retail prices of goods, rents, and services purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in large cities. The Fresh and Frozen Fin-Fish Index measures average changes in the retail prices of fin fish

The Fresh and Frozen Fin-Fish Index is combined with the prices and index for canned pink salmon (with the base period 1938-39=100) and the All Fin-Fish Index (with the base period 1935-39=100) is computed. This latter index consists of components of fresh, frozen, and canned fin fish.

RETAIL PRICES, FEBRUARY 1952: Lower prices were paid by urban families of moderate incomes between mid-January and mid-February for all foods, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. During this period the retail price index for all foods dropped 2.1 percent, but it was still 0.7 percent above mid-February 1951 (see table 2).

Table 2 - Adjusted Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Fin Fish, February 15, 1952, with Comparative Data

| Item | Base | INDEXES | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Feb.15,1952 | Jan.15,1952 | Feb.15,1951 |
| All foods ..... | 1935-39 = 100 | 227.5 | 232.4 | 226.0 |
| All fin fish (fresh, frozen & canned) ..... | do | 351.8 | 351.5 | 347.8 |
| Fresh and frozen fin fish ..... | 1938-39 = 100 | 300.1 | 298.3 | 283.7 |
| Canned salmon: pink ..... | do | 467.1 | 471.2 | 501.1 |

On the other hand, retail prices for fin-fish products (fresh, frozen, and canned) rose slightly--on February 15 the index for these products was 0.1 percent higher than a month earlier and 1.2 percent above mid-February 1951. This increase was entirely due to higher retail prices for fresh and frozen fin fish. The index for the latter group of products rose 0.6 percent from mid-January to mid-February and was 5.8 percent above February 15, 1951. Retail prices for frozen ocean perch fillets averaged 46.5 cents per pound in 46 cities, while frozen haddock fillets averaged 52.1 cents per pound in 47 cities in mid-February this year. A year ago frozen ocean perch fillets retailed at 46.4 cents per pound and frozen haddock fillets at 50.5 cents per pound.

LOADING FISH AT THE FULTON MARKET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices and Price Ranges of Individual Fin-Fish Products, February 15, 1952

| Product | Unit | United States | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Average | Range of Prices |
| Frozen Fin Fish Fillets: | | | |
| Ocean perch[1/] | lb. | 46.5 | 29-69 |
| Haddock[2/] | lb. | 52.1 | 35-75 |
| Canned Fin Fish: | | | |
| Salmon, pink[3/] | 16-oz. can | 57.8 | 40-80 |

1/PRICED IN 46 CITIES OUT OF 56.
2/PRICED IN 47 CITIES OUT OF 56.
3/PRICED IN 56 CITIES.

Canned pink salmon retail prices continued to drop. These prices have declined consistently each month since June 1951, and in mid-February this year were 0.9 percent below the previous month and 6.8 percent below mid-February 1951. The average retail price per 16-oz. can in 56 cities was 57.8 cents as compared with 58.3 cents a month earlier and 62.0 cents a year ago.

## FEDERAL PROCUREMENT MANUAL

If you want to sell your products to the Government, the revised edition of the Government Procurement Manual should be especially helpful. When the manual was recently released by the Department of Commerce, Secretary Charles Sawyer described it as "the only source of information in the Federal Government covering the procurement activities of all major military and civilian agencies."

The Manual lists 5,000 items and classes of items for which Federal agencies are in the market. It contains a military agency and a civilian agency index together with a listing of the locations of the appropriate procurement offices.

This publication represents many months of cooperative effort among the Office of Small Business, National Production Authority, and military and other civilian agencies in gathering and organizing current procurement data.

The Manual has been placed in Department of Commerce Field Offices throughout the country, in local chambers of commerce, and in the seven Market News Service offices (Boston, New York, Hampton, Chicago, New Orleans, San Pedro, and Seattle) where it can be consulted by businessmen interested in obtaining a government contract. Copies are also available at the offices of the Small Defense Plants Administration and at all principal purchasing offices of the military and civilian agencies.

Although only a small portion of the manual is devoted to fishery products, those in the fishing industry who are interested in making sales to the Government should find it worthwhile to consult.