



## International

**CARIBBEAN FISHERIES CONFERENCE:** A Conference on Fisheries, sponsored by the Caribbean Commission, convened at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, British West Indies, March 24-28, 1952, a recent U. S. Department of State news release announced. The United States Delegation was as follows:

**CHAIRMAN:**

RICHARD T. WHITELEATHER, ASST. CHIEF,  
BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES,  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

**DELEGATES:**

LUIS BONNET, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO  
FELIX INIGO, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

The Caribbean Commission is sponsoring a series of conferences for the purpose of increasing and disseminating the technical knowledge necessary to the development of the economic resources of the Caribbean area. This Conference was considered particularly important in view of the following factors: (1) fish is the principal protein in the diets of the Caribbean peoples; (2) the area is dependent upon the importation of fish; and (3) new techniques of fishing and marketing might make deep-sea fish from the Caribbean waters available at reasonable costs.

The provisional agenda for the Conference included consideration of such matters as: occurrence and distribution of commercial fish species in the Caribbean; techniques practiced in the Caribbean for fish capture; types of fishing craft in use in the Caribbean; fish marketing, including storage and distribution; methods for conserving and processing fish in the Caribbean; cultivation of fish in ponds; application of recent technical knowledge to exploration and development of new fisheries; and various papers and reports.

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**WORLD MARINE OIL PRODUCTION AND TRADE, 1951:** World production of marine oils in 1951 is estimated at 915,000 tons, an increase of about 7 percent from 1950, but still some 160,000 tons less than the 1935-39 average, the U. S. Department of Agriculture points out in its March 24 report "Fats and Oils: World Production and Trade in 1951." The increase from 1950 occurred almost entirely in sperm and

| Type                      | 1951 <sup>2</sup>           | 1950 <sup>1</sup> | 1949 <sup>1</sup> | 1935-39<br>Average <sup>1</sup> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
|                           | ..(in 1,000 short tons) ... |                   |                   |                                 |
| Whale .....               | 430                         | 425               | 420               | 545                             |
| Sperm whale .....         | 90                          | 55                | 70                | 30                              |
| Fish (including liver) .. | 395                         | 375               | 310               | 500                             |
| Total .....               | 915                         | 855               | 800               | 1,075                           |

<sup>1</sup>/REVISED ACCORDING TO LATEST AVAILABLE DATA.  
<sup>2</sup>/PRELIMINARY.

fish oils. Greater demand for sperm oil resulted in a sharp rise in output of 35,000 tons from the previous year. With the Antarctic pelagic catch of baleen whales still limited to 16,000 blue-whale units<sup>1</sup> by international agreement, the volume of both production and trade in this

<sup>1</sup>/ ONE BLUE-WHALE UNIT EQUALS ONE BLUE OR TWO FIN OR 2.5 HUMPBACK WHALES.

commodity remains fairly constant from year to year. Increases in fish-oil production in Iceland, Norway, Japan, and the Union of South Africa more than offset a decline in United States output.

In 1951, world trade in fish oils decreased about 7 percent from the preceding year, due largely to the decline in United States exports. Indications are that world trade will decline slightly again in 1952.

Whale Oil: World production of whale oil in 1951, excluding sperm oil, is estimated at 430,000 tons, a slight increase from the 425,000-ton output in 1950, but still only 79 percent of the prewar average. Although the Antarctic pelagic whale catch is restricted by international agreement, production of whale oil from this area in 1951, including South Georgia shore-station outturns, constituted almost 90 percent of the world supply. Most of the remaining catch occurred in waters adjacent to Madagascar, French Congo, and from shore stations operating in Australia, Norway, South Africa, Japan, Canada, and Iceland.

Norway continued to rank as the leading producer of whale oil with about 195,000 tons in 1951, or 45 percent of the world total. The United Kingdom's volume, the second largest, was 78,600 tons. Nineteen expeditions participated in the 1950-51 Antarctic operations, including 10 Norwegian, 3 British, 2 Japanese, and one each from South Africa, the Soviet Union, the Netherlands, and Panama.

Under present limitations of catch, it is unlikely that the production of whale oil will change greatly in the next few years.

Sperm Oil: A marked increase in the world output of sperm oil occurred in 1951 when an estimated 90,000 tons was produced. This is an increase of 64 percent from 1950 and some 60,000 tons greater than the 1935-39 average. The present international situation practically eliminated accumulated stocks of this product in 1950 and is responsible for the increase in production. Slightly more than half of the total world output was produced in the Antarctic during the 1950-51 pelagic season. Of the remaining half, about one-third was obtained from sperm whales caught off the coast of Peru. Another third was from sperm whales killed off the Azores and the Russian territories of Kamtchatka and the Kurile Islands, and most of the remaining quantity was from shore-station operations indicated above in the summary of whale oil.

Production and trade of sperm oil in 1952 is likely to increase as long as demand continues strong. Unlike the Antarctic baleen whaling, the catch of sperm whales has not been limited by international action.

Fish Oils: World output of fish oils in 1951, including liver oils, amounted to approximately 395,000 tons, an increase of 20,000 tons from 1950 but still more than 100,000 tons below the prewar average. Norway's production of fish oils again

Table 2 - World Trade in Marine Oils, 1951 with Comparisons and Forecast for 1952

| Type                         | 1952<br>(Forecast)                | 1951<br>(Estimate) | 1950 <sup>1/</sup> | 1935-39<br>Average <sup>1/</sup> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
|                              | ..... (in 1,000 short tons) ..... |                    |                    |                                  |
| Whale .....                  | 435                               | 430                | 425                | 545                              |
| Sperm whale .....            | 100                               | 90                 | 55                 | 30                               |
| Fish (including liver) ..... | 120                               | 125                | 135                | 135                              |
| Total .....                  | 655                               | 645                | 615                | 710                              |

<sup>1/</sup>REVISED ACCORDING TO LATEST AVAILABLE DATA.

reached a new high with an estimated output of 80,000 tons, mainly herring oil. Substantial increases in output also were reported for Iceland and South Africa. Production of fish oils in the United States, however, fell to about 72,000 tons, a decrease of almost 15 percent from 1950. Other important producing countries are Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union.

Trade in fish oils in 1951, estimated at 125,000 tons, declined some 7 percent from 1950 when exports approximated the prewar average. With production down in the United States, exports of fish oils from that country dropped almost 35 percent from the record 38,000 tons in 1950. Exports from Iceland increased, while shipments from Norway and Canada remained about the same as in 1950. Other exporting countries were the Netherlands, France, Portugal, South Africa, Japan, Argentina, and the United Kingdom. Trade in 1952 is forecast at slightly below the 1951 level.

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES COUNCIL FORMED: Agreement has been reached for the establishment of a General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, according to a March news release from the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The agreement came into force when the necessary fifth notification of acceptance was received at FAO's Rome Headquarters. Governments previously accepting the agreement were Italy, the United Kingdom, Egypt, and Yugoslavia.

The council, a technical and administrative body formed from among member governments of FAO, will encourage and coordinate national efforts for making more and better use of the fisheries in the sea and in the fresh waters of the Mediterranean area. The council will cite problems and rate them according to importance, exchange information on matters of common interest, and act as an advisory and consultative body to FAO in such fields as extension work and vocational training centers.



Chile

EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION OF FISHING INDUSTRY PLANNED: The Chilean Minister of Economy and Trade announced the latter part of last year that 37,200,000 Chilean pesos (US\$3,720,000) will be spent on establishing shore facilities for fishing activities, and modernizing fishing craft and gear. In addition, a complete reorganization of the Department of Fish and Game to implement the programs is planned, reports a January 1952 news release from the FAO North American Regional Office. At the same time, a new fishing law probably will be enacted by the national Congress.



## Argentine Republic

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES PLANNED: Thirty-five Belgian and 25 Netherlands fishermen were due in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in January. They were bringing



UNLOADING AND PACKING FISH AT FISH WHARF, MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA.

seven fishing vessels ranging in size from 90 to 117 metric tons, according to the January 31 issue of Fiskets Gang, a Norwegian trade paper. The vessels were built in Germany and France during the period from 1947 to 1949 and include radar among their equipment. Many of the fishermen were bringing their families so that the whole group numbered 110 persons.

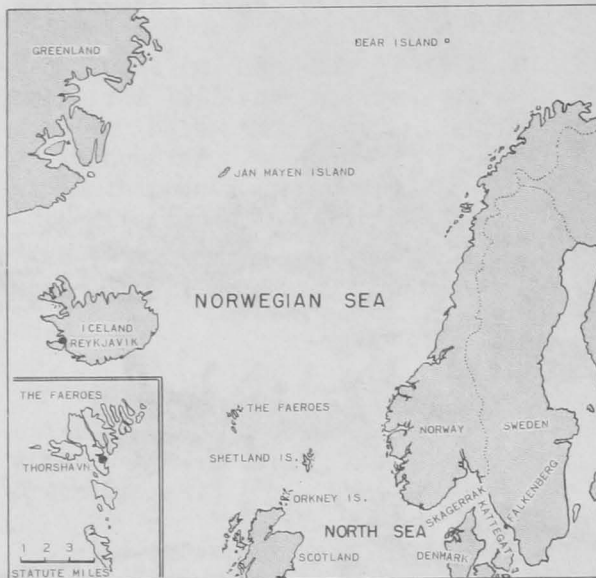
Fishing operations are to be based on Mar del Plata where a Belgian company, capitalized at 45 million francs (about \$891,000), has secured property for the installation of a modern freezer with a capacity of 300 tons of fish per day. The company expects to transport and distribute fish in Buenos Aires and the rest of the country through a network of freezers. Fishing is to begin in a few weeks, but the freezer will not be ready for eight months.



## Denmark

TUNA CATCH IN KATTEGAT AREA: The tuna (tunny) season in the Kattegat area off the Northeast coast of Denmark in 1951 was somewhat longer than usual for

these waters. Even in the beginning of November lots of tuna were willing to bite, reports the November 1951 issue of World Fish Trade. The reason why the tuna stayed longer this year was that in certain places of Kattegat large shoals of herring occurred.



The landings of tuna in Danish ports amounted to 1,100 metric tons for August through October (August 350 tons, September 500 tons, and October 250 tons). The number of fish is estimated at 8,000 with an average weight of 275 pounds each. In 1950, the catch during the same season totaled 991 tons, while in 1949 it was 2,084 tons. However, in 1951 the tuna were caught much later in the year and much farther south than normally. This, according

to the scientists, is due to the fact that a considerable amount of salt water has poured in the seas south of Kattegat. However, most of the Danish tuna catch for October was taken in the North Sea.

According to reports, in Falkenberg, Sweden, about 4,000 tuna were landed there in October 1951.



## Hong Kong

FISHERIES RESEARCH UNIT ESTABLISHED: A Fisheries Research Unit, with a 60-foot vessel at its disposal, will start operations in September in the Hong Kong University's Department of Biology, under an agreement between the university and the Hong Kong Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, according to the April 5 issue of Foreign Trade, a Canadian periodical. The cost of establishing the unit is being met out of colonial development and welfare funds. Recurrent expenditures will be met by the local government.

It is expected that the research carried out by the unit will improve the catch in the Colony's fishery and will contribute substantially to general fisheries research in the Indo-Pacific region. Among other projects, the unit will survey fishing grounds around Hong Kong; study the effect of ocean currents and prevailing winds on the movement of fish with the possibility of discovering new fishing grounds; investigate factors influencing the yield from local fishing grounds with a view to forecasting production; and consider measures to extend and improve brackish and fresh-water pond-fish culture.



## Iceland

IMPOSES FISHING RESTRICTIONS WITHIN FOUR-MILE ZONE: Regulations establishing a four-mile zone for fishing around all of Iceland were issued by the Government on March 19, states an American consular dispatch from Reykjavik. The straight base lines of the delimited zone are drawn from the outermost points of the coasts, islands, and rocks, and across openings of bays. All trawling and Danish seine netting, as well as all other foreign fishing activities, are prohibited within this four-mile zone.

The official press release announcing this action emphasized the economic importance of the step taken. The regulations issued became effective May 15, 1952.

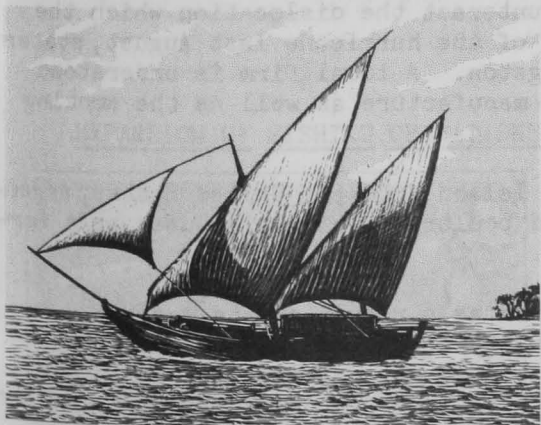


## India

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN MADRAS STATE: The Government of Madras plans to open six new deep-sea fishing centers in the State under a United States Point IV grant of US\$50 million, according to a February 19 American consular dispatch from Madras.

Two of the six deep-sea fishing centers are to be located on the West Coast, one at Kozhikode (Calicut), and one at Mangalore. The other four deep-sea fishing centers are to be located on the East Coast (Coromandel Coast), one at Visakhapatnam, one at Kakinada, and two at places not yet determined.

The Madras Hindu, a local newspaper, on February 13 made the following editorial comment on the proposed opening of six deep-sea fishing centers: "This is good news and should ultimately result in increasing the food supply of the State where the bulk of the people consume fish when it is available." The editorial further stated: "The coast line of Madras is 1,700 miles long and the seas teem with fish, but the country vessels which now operate off the shore are not able to go far out to sea where the larger shoals of fish are to be found. Nor have these areas been adequately surveyed. This lack of knowledge of the habits of marine life accounts for the comparative failure of our attempts to fish in the deeper waters. Here is a field where the survey vessels of the Indian Navy and even merchant ships can be asked to offer their cooperation. If these vessels could report on their findings of fish shoals to the Fisheries Department, the fishing vessels could be guided and their time and energy saved.



TYPICAL FISHING VESSEL OF INDIA.

"The Fisheries Department acquired eight power-driven vessels some time ago but their operations have not been very successful, partly because the trawlers themselves were not in good repair and partly because of inexperience in this line. In Bombay and West Bengal, there seems to have been a greater measure of success. In Bombay, for example, the two Dutch Diesel-motored trawlers recently acquired are in the charge of English captains who have had plenty of experience

in deep-sea fishing. The vessels operate 20 to 60 miles off shore and use 62-foot drag nets which sweep the sea bed for ten miles to make their catch which ranges from five to ten metric tons of fish each time. The trawlers are equipped with cold-storage holds of 30-ton capacity and so the catch does not get spoiled even when the trip takes several days. It is to be hoped that the trawlers that may be purchased for Madras will be modern vessels equipped with the proper tackle and machinery. It may be necessary for some time to employ foreign skippers and mates who will conduct operations and train Indians in techniques that are new to this country. At the same time, cold storage facilities at the fishing stations and arrangements to market the fish inland will have to be made. Proper planning of every detail is essential if the venture is to prove successful. The vessels that the Madras Government already possesses probably need better maintenance and upkeep than they have so far received. Foreign experts could do a great deal to put this infant industry on its feet and give our Fisheries Department the benefit of their experience."



## Irish Free State

FISHING INDUSTRY REORGANIZATION PLANNED: Plans to reorganize the fishing industry have been presented to the Legislature in a Sea Fisheries Bill, according to the April 12 issue of Foreign Trade.

The present fishing fleet consists chiefly of small craft not capable of operating on distant fishing grounds. The new proposals call for large Diesel-engined vessels which can range as far as Scotland, the Faroes, and the North Sea. They will be fitted with echo-sounding gear, radio-telephones, and all other modern equipment; will have a displacement of 80 to 100 metric tons; and will be able to stay at sea for 20 days and return with 35 metric tons of fish, graded and packed on board. The first six of the new boats, costing £25,000 (US\$69,500) each and built locally, will be operating next year. A new Sea Fishery Board will run the boats, employing crews on a wage-plus-share basis.



## Jamaica

FISH-MEAL MANUFACTURE SEEN AS NEW INDUSTRY POSSIBILITY: The manufacture of fish meal is being considered in Jamaica to counteract the dislocation which the Island's coconut industry suffered as a result of the hurricane last August, states a March 28 American consular dispatch from Kingston. A local firm is understood to be exploring the possibilities of fish-meal manufacture as well as the smoking and canning of fish.

Fish-meal is at present imported into the Island from the United States, Argentina, and Canada, mainly for feeding cattle and poultry. It is also used as a fertilizer.

The poultry industry in Jamaica has suffered as a result of the coconut shortage because dried coconut is used as a poultry feed by the majority of the poorer people. Imported feed is too expensive, so an alternative must be found. Fish meal in large enough quantities so that it can be bought by the poorest farmer seems to be the answer.

Manufacture of fish meal, however, is only possible or advisable if there is an unlimited supply of fish in the sea around Jamaica, over and above ordinary local requirements. Whether or not there are enough fish resources is a debatable point; the issue is clouded by the division of opinion among people in the fish industry.

Fishermen and owners of fish depots state that there is an unlimited supply of fish on the Pedro Cays south of the Island. This might be an exaggeration; but the fact must be taken into consideration that only recently thousands of pounds of fish were dumped into the sea over a period of two weeks because no one would buy them. True, the bulk of the fish dumped was of low grade; but owners of fish depots will not buy more than a set amount of any type of fish, because the present undeveloped market is restricted.

The real problem of surplus fish is to be found in the case of fish of the lowest grade which is sold to the public at about 8 to 10 US cents per pound. These are turbot, doctor, wenchman, and a wide variety of angelfish for which there is no demand. The possibility of using sharks for fish meal is also being considered.

However, while fish vendors state that only a small amount of fish is bought daily, housewives complain that they find it very hard to get fish to buy. Therefore, this surplus of fish which is dumped is believed to be due to faulty distribution.

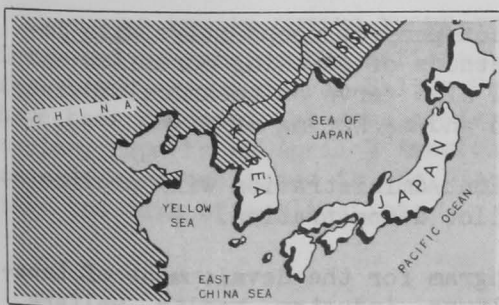
The Government Fisheries Officer is inclined to be somewhat pessimistic about the prospect of obtaining the great supply of fish which would be necessary for this industry. In fact, he has stated that a definite answer would be impossible now as the problem needs considerable research, which up to now has not been undertaken. He also has revealed that Caribbean waters, especially around Jamaica, lack the necessary amount of organic matter to provide food for any great amount of fish.

It should also be pointed out that with the establishment of fish-farms all over the Island, the demand for fish from the sea will be greatly lessened, and there will be an increased surplus of these fish. Therefore, there is reason to believe that this industry may succeed in Jamaica. A market for the meal is assured. It has even been suggested that the fish could be sun-dried especially in the summer months, instead of machine-dried.



## Japan

EXPANSION OF FISHING OPERATIONS IN EAST CHINA SEA: High seas fishing operators in Kyushu prefectures are already equipping boats with new and larger motors in anticipation of expanded operations in East China Sea when the peace treaty becomes effective, states a March 21 American consular dispatch from Tokyo. A 30 to 40 percent increase in catch is hoped for with the modernization of the fishing fleet which is taking place in this area.



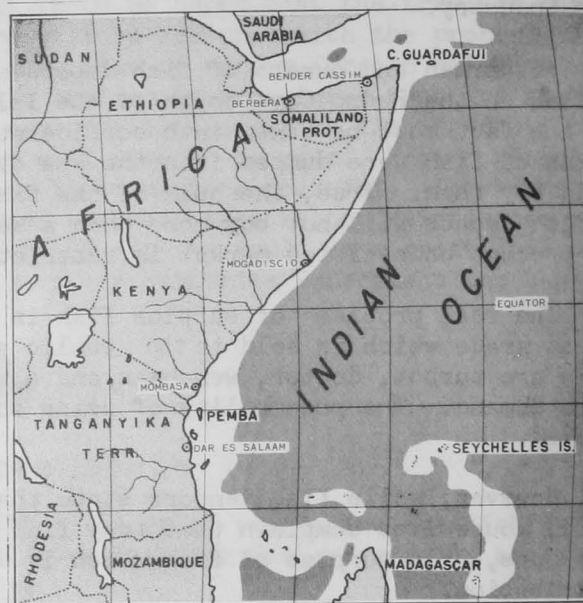


## Kenya

NEW FISHING GROUNDS FOUND OFF KENYA COAST: New fishing grounds have been discovered in northern Kenya coastal waters, states a February 25 dispatch from Mombasa, Kenya. Catches up to 800 pounds an hour have been taken in the waters off Malindi township.

The Fisheries Department's experimental fishing vessel, Menicha, is now making a survey of the Changoni Banks off Kiwighu Island running north to the Somalia frontier. During some months these banks are barren, while at others they team with valuable pelagic fish. The Fisheries Department is endeavoring to obtain data on the migration of these fish and catchrates to determine the possibilities of commercial exploitation.

During the past few months, the Menicha has been trawling off the Malindi-Mambrui regions on the mud bottoms made by the silt deposited at sea by the Sabaki River, which is the Athi River at its source. Very encouraging results have been obtained. It was thought that while this fishing could not stand a full-sized 350-ton commercial trawler it might provide profitable trawling for a couple of motor-fishing vessels. Two trawlers have already been ordered from Britain by business firms.



## Lebanon

POINT FOUR SPECIALIST TO ADVISE LEBANON ON EXPANSION OF FISH INDUSTRY: A United States Fish and Wildlife Service fishery expert, Elmer Quistorff, left Washington, D. C., for Beirut, Lebanon, about March 17 to advise that country in the development of salt-water fishery resources under the Point Four Program, the U. S. Department of the Interior announced in March.

Lebanon, a seacoast country on the eastern end of the Mediterranean, hopes to improve the quantity and quality of fisheries production to provide more protein food for her people and has asked the cooperation of the United States in exploring the potentialities of expanding the industry.

The American specialist will develop a pilot-project cooperative with improved equipment to demonstrate the feasible methods of catching more fish and bettering processing and distribution. He will also serve as technical advisor on methods to be developed for the preservation and marketing of fish.

The State Department's Technical Cooperation Administration will provide equipment to enable Quistorff to carry on the pilot demonstration.

The fishery project is part of a broad program for the development of Lebanon in the fields of natural resources, agriculture, industry, health, welfare, and education.

Point Four funds allocated for the project include the technician's salary and travel expenses, plus the cost of demonstration equipment and its transportation. Lebanon will contribute her share of the project expense in accordance with the project agreement.



## Mexico

PRODUCERS SEEK CLOSED SEASONS FOR CERTAIN FISHERIES: The Mexican National Association of Shrimp Producers obtained Government approval for the declaration of a closed season during all of March 1952 in the Gulf of California in an effort to increase this year's shrimp spawning. The shrimp industry on the west coast of Mexico suffered losses due to the disappointing catch and there was danger that some plants might be forced to close, states a February 28 American Embassy dispatch from Mexico.

There was much fear expressed that sardines and lobsters in the Gulf of California might disappear and local operators are seeking assistance from the authorities to prohibit fishing during the spawning season between February and July. At the present time sardines are fished the year around by both American and Mexican fishermen.

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GUAYMAS SHRIMP-FREEZING PLANTS CLOSED: Some of the Guaymas shrimp-freezing plants closed in mid-February for lack of shrimp, states a March 12 American consular report from that city. The remainder closed on March 8 after processing the catch landed by the Guaymas fleet which returned to port because of a temporary closed season.

The economic situation of the plants and boat owners is acute because of the poor season, and the economic activity in Guaymas is much depressed as a result.

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NEW OFFICIAL CANNED SARDINE PRICE ESTABLISHED FOR EXPORT DUTY PURPOSES: The official Mexican price for sardines in bottles, jars, or tins has been increased from Pesos 2.37 to Pesos 2.64 per gross kilo (from 12.45 to 13.87 U.S. cents per gross pound), according to a circular which appeared in the Diario Oficial of February 25, 1952. This official price is established for the purpose of assessing the ad-valorem export tax and additional surtax, states a February 26 American consular dispatch from Mexico.

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SHRIMP EXPORT DUTIES INCREASED: Mexican export duties on shrimp have been increased by raising the official evaluation 10 percent. At the same time, frozen shrimp exported from Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, and Santa Rosalia, Baja California, have been accorded the same preferential treatment as Gulf of Mexico frozen shrimp, reports an April 3 American consular dispatch from Mexico City. These changes were published in the Diario Oficial of March 25, 1952, and became effective the date of publication.

The following table summarizes the various export taxes on Mexican shrimp in accordance with the current regulations:

| Type of Tax                           | Fresh or Iced Shrimp                            |              | Frozen Shrimp                                     |                   |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|---|-------------------|
|                                       | From Gulf of Mexico                             | From Pacific | From Gulf of Mexico, Salina Cruz, & Santa Rosalia | From Pacific      |
|                                       | ..... (in Mexican pesos per metric ton) .....   |              |   |                   |
| General export .....                  | 3.00  | 3.00         | 3.00  | 3.00              |
| 10% ad valorem .....                  | 737.00  | 880.00       | -   | -                 |
| Additional 15% ad valorem .....       | 1,105.50  | 1,320.00     | 1,105.50  | 1,320.00          |
| Less exemption .....                  | -   | -            | -368.50 (33-1/3%)                                 | -440.00 (33-1/3%) |
| Total additional tax less exemption . | -   | -            | 737.00  | 880.00            |
| 2% municipal .....                    | 36.91   | 44.06        | 14.80   | 17.66             |
| Total tax .....                       | 1,882.41  | 2,247.06     | 754.80  | 900.66            |
|                                       | ..... (in U.S. currency--cents per pound) ..... |              |   |                   |
| Total tax .....                       | 9.9   | 11.8         | 3.9   | 4.7               |

The new Mexican export duties continue to encourage the exportation of frozen shrimp and discourage the exportation of fresh shrimp. In addition, frozen shrimp



exported from Salina Cruz, Oaxaca, and Santa Rosalia, Baja California, have a slight advantage over frozen shrimp from the Pacific on the basis of the present export taxes.

NOTE: VALUES IN U.S. CURRENCY BASED ON 1 MEXICAN PESO EQUALS 11.56 U.S. CENTS.

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NATIONAL CHAMBER OF FISHERY INDUSTRY FORMULATES OBJECTIVES: The Mexican National Chamber of the Fishery Industry met on February 19 for the purpose of formulating a program for the coming year and to elect officers. The 150 delegates to the meeting decided the following to be the major objectives of their program:

1. Scientifically regulate fishing, for the purpose of conservation of the species.
2. Create a Bank of Fishery Credit in order to obtain maximum development of the industry, increase production, and lower prices.
3. Strengthen the bonds of friendship with North American industrialists by means of the Shrimp Association of the Americas, in order to obtain a better market for products of the sea through strict quality control and a large advertising campaign.
4. Create a National Institute of Fisheries in order to develop scientific investigation of Mexico's marine species.
5. Make a conscientious study of the economic situation of the Mexican fishery industry in order to petition the Government for the assistance required to improve conditions.
6. Create a Directory of the Fishery Industry with all types of data pertaining to this activity and the men who are engaged in it.



## Norway

1952 WINTER HERRING CATCH AND UTILIZATION: The Norwegian 1952 winter herring season finished on February 12, while the spring herring season commenced on the following day, states a February 21 American Embassy dispatch from Oslo.

The preliminary estimate of the 1952 winter herring catch is given as 5,600,000 hectoliters (about 520,800 metric tons) with a value paid to fishermen of approximately 104,000,000 kroner (US\$14,560,000) as compared to the catch of 6,700,000 hectoliters (623,100 tons) in 1951, and 6,100,000 hectoliters (567,300 tons) in 1950, which makes 1952 the third largest year for this catch.

Of the total winter herring catch, 360,714 hectoliters (33,546 tons) have already been exported as fresh and iced fish, as compared to 475,210 hectoliters (44,194 tons) last year; 574,241 hectoliters (53,404 tons) of the catch were salted as compared to 716,138 hectoliters (66,600 tons) last year; while canneries took 63,754 hectoliters (5,929 tons) against 96,946 hectoliters (9,016 tons) last year. Herring oil and meal factories took 4,543,866 hectoliters (422,580 tons) as against 5,367,435 hectoliters (499,171 tons) last year; while 41,730 hectoliters (3,881 tons) of this year's catch have been used for bait and 35,707 hectoliters (3,321 tons) have been used for home consumption. (Totals on utilization don't add exactly to catch totals since latter have been rounded off.)



KLIPPISH STACKED DURING CLOUDY WEATHER, BUT LATER WILL BE LAID OUT FOR SUN DRYING.

It is reported that smaller quantities of this season's catch of frozen and fresh herring are being exported to other countries than was the case last year.

FISH-LIVER OIL DEMAND SLACK: Leaders in the trade indicate that the demand for practically all types of liver oils is at present very slack and that there is about a 20 percent drop in price quotations for medicinal cod-liver oil, while for other liver oils the price quotations show a decrease of approxi-

mately 30 percent. The same situation prevails with respect to herring oil. It is stated by local trade sources that the drop in value is due to the competition from vegetable oils and other fat products which for the past four months have been falling in price on the world market.

SEALING FLEET LEAVES FOR NEWFOUNDLAND: A Norwegian sealing fleet of 11 vessels left for Newfoundland waters to engage in sealing operations at the opening of the season during the first days of March.

KLIPFISH STOCKS SOLD: It is reported by the trade that nearly all of last season's klipfish stock will be sold before the new season starts. The present export price for this article is said to be very satisfactory.

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NORWEGIAN RESEARCH VESSEL FOLLOWS WINTER HERRING MIGRATION: After successfully locating and following the huge schools of winter herring on their migratory spawning journey toward the Norwegian coast in the winter of 1950-51, the Norwegian research vessel G. O. Sars repeated this performance in December 1951 and January 1952, according to an article by Finn Devold, leader of the cruises of the ASDIC-equipped vessel. He writes that the surveys this winter confirmed the observations of last winter that the herring, during their spawning migration to Vestlandet in Norway, follow the cold-water masses the East Icelandic Arctic Current carries southward in the direction of the Faeroes and then eastward toward the Norwegian coast. All searches for herring either south or north of this Current gave negative results, according to an article which appeared in the March 13 Fiskets Gang. The weather conditions during the winter were especially bad but it was possible, nevertheless, to carry out the program in every respect. This research gives promise of being able to follow the schools to land each year.

Perhaps the most important discovery during the winter was that the herring appear to remain for some days outside Storegga before going on over the banks. This winter the herring were found on Storegga on January 15 and reached the coast on January 22. It is therefore possible, under favorable weather conditions, that the winter herring fishery can be moved forward a whole week by the fishermen beginning to fish about 50 miles off the coast. With the good weather forecasting service available this should be possible with little danger to the fishing craft.

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NEW METHOD FOR PROCESSING DRY-SALTED COD: An epoch-making method for processing dry-salted cod has been developed in Kristiansund, Norway, recently by Ingvar Jonassen, according to the January 31 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian fishery trade paper. The new method utilizes a press which, within a period of seven hours, can prepare dry-salted cod (klipfisk) from the raw fish. The good qualities of the product are not affected by the method, which is a combination of vacuum drying and pressing. The equipment is relatively expensive but reportedly saves so much time and work that the original cost is soon counteracted.

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SAUSAGE CASING FROM SEAWEED: A new type of sausage casing, made from Norwegian seaweed, shortly will appear on the world market, states the Norwegian Information Service in an April 3 news release. In contrast to the cellophane skin now used for sausages, the alginate type is edible and 29 times lighter in weight.

Slated to be made by a factory now under construction in Germany, with an initial output of 22 million yards a month, the new type of casing is the result of two years of experiments. The manufacturing process is patented in Germany. The raw material, however, will be 100 percent Norwegian.

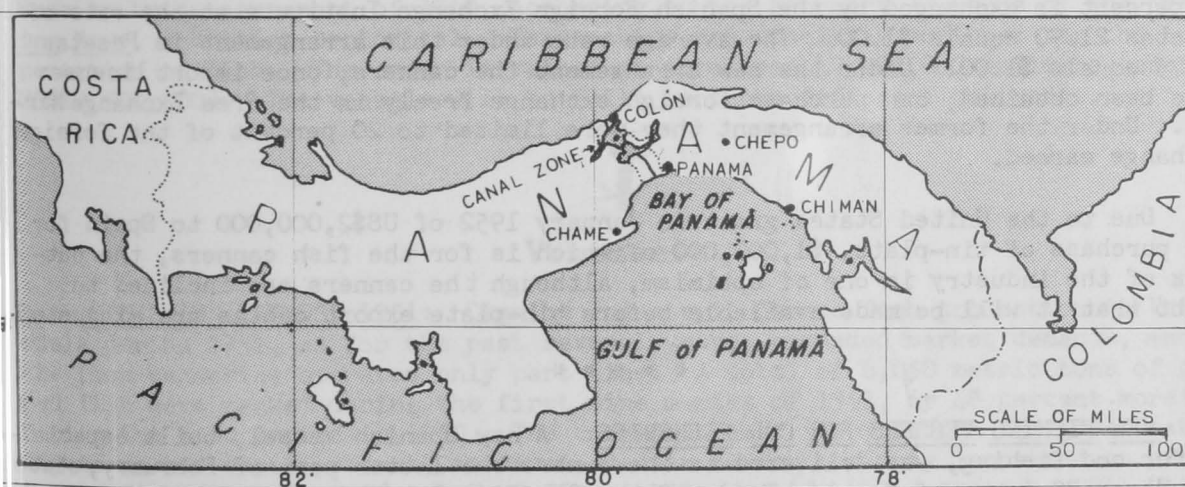
This coming summer Norway's largest processor of alginates will have about 900 workers collecting seaweed along the Norwegian coast. The company already has two dehydrating plants, near Bergen and Kristiansand, and another is being built in the northern district of Helgeland.

Norway's alginate industry has lately developed a number of excellent products which are used extensively in textiles, plastics, cosmetics, films, paints, ice cream, and jam. Used as a stabilizer, algin acid makes better and safer ice cream and in much shorter time than gelatin. Serving the same purpose as pectin in jam making, algin acid requires two-thirds less sugar to achieve the desirable consistency.



## Panama

REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1951: Panama's fisheries remained largely unexploited through 1951, states an April 2 American Embassy dispatch from Panama.



In 1950 the country imported fishery products valued at over US\$500,000. However, an increase has been noted in the country's shrimp exports during 1951 when an estimated 1,249,747 pounds of shrimp (valued at US\$711,430) were shipped out. The United States was the principal receiver of this shrimp. Only 302,284 pounds of shrimp (valued at US\$166,979) were exported in 1950.

Panamanian waters also provided a source of bait for tuna boats, and in 1951 the Government received approximately US\$73,000 from the issuance of bait-fishing licenses, principally to United States tuna vessels.



## Spain

FISH CANNING TRENDS IN VIGO DISTRICT, 1951: The decentralization to a board in Vigo of the authority to establish minimum export prices and materials requirements for the fish-canning industry in Galicia, a more favorable export exchange rate arrangement, and larger tin-plate supplies enabled the fish-canning industry in the Vigo District of Spain during 1951 to operate at a slightly higher percentage of capacity than in 1950. The percentage of capacity at which the industry operated is estimated at 30 percent as compared to 28 percent in 1950, according to a February 15 American consular dispatch from that district. This difference is even more favorable, however, when considered in the light of the fact that the production capacity of the industry for all of Spain was changed from 3,000,000 cases (approximately 44 pounds per case) to 4,000,000 cases during the year.

Fish-canning plants in the Vigo District purchased a total of 21,825,000 pounds of fish during 1951 as compared to 18,313,000 pounds in 1950. The larger part of the pack consisted of albacore and anchovies in oil. Although the sardine catches were larger than in 1950, the early catches were too small for canning and the later catches, which were larger, could not be canned because of the lack of tin-plate.

The export exchange rate arrangement, which was established by an order of the Ministry of Commerce dated October 31, 1951, allows the canners to negotiate 50 percent of the foreign exchange earned in the Free Exchange Market. The other 50 percent is exchanged by the Spanish Foreign Exchange Institute at the rate of Pesetas 21.90 equals \$1.00. The average rate under this arrangement is Pesetas 30.75 equals \$1.00. Under the new arrangement the canners, once import licenses have been obtained, can purchase foreign exchange freely in the Free Exchange Market. Under the former arrangement they were limited to 20 percent of the foreign exchange earned.

Due to the United States grant in January 1952 of US\$2,000,000 to Spain for the purchase of tin-plate, \$1,000,000 of which is for the fish canners, the outlook of the industry is one of optimism, although the canners are inclined to doubt that it will be made available before tin-plate export quotas are exhausted.

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NEW FISHING VESSELS FOR COD FISHERIES: A new Spanish vessel, built especially for cod fishing, was delivered to the owners the latter part of February, states the March 29 issue of Foreign Trade of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. The new vessel, Santa Cecilia, was built at the Astano dockyards in Spain and has a displacement of 2,300 metric tons. It is capable of developing a speed of 13 knots. The vessel will leave shortly for Newfoundland waters.

Eight more vessels of this type are under construction at the Astano dockyards according to reports from Madrid.



## United Kingdom

UNDERWATER TELEVISION MAY BE USED TO EXPLOIT WORLD'S FISHERIES: An underwater television apparatus is now being built for the Scottish Marine Biological Association, states the February 23 issue of the Fish Trades Gazette, a British fishery periodical. Information regarding this apparatus was presented in a paper given by Dr. J. D. M'Gee to the Royal Society of Arts in London during February.

The apparatus will consist of a camera mounted in a strong steel case which has a glass window in front of the operative lens and a water tight gland through which the camera cable is brought through the steel cover plate. The author of the paper ("Television Technique As An Aid to Observation") indicated its importance in exploiting to what he referred to as "that vast potential source of food, the ocean."

In outlining the beginning of the genesis of this piece of equipment, the author states that some three years ago Dr. H. Barnes, of the Scottish Marine Biological Association, proposed that a submarine television equipment should be built and tested for underwater observation. An application was made to the Treasury for a grant from the development fund. The application was considered by the Development Commission's Advisory Committee for Fisheries Research, which recommended that a grant should be made, and who appointed a scientific group to keep in close contact with the work. The grant was authorized early in 1951, and shortly afterwards a contract was placed with a British research laboratory for the construction of suitable equipment.



### U. S. S. R.

REFRIGERATED FISH TRANSPORTS ORDERED FROM NETHERLANDS: Russia has ordered from Dutch shipyards five 2,540-metric-ton refrigerator ships under the Dutch-Russian trade agreement of 1948, according to the February 23 issue of The Fishing News, a British periodical. These ships are specially equipped for the transportation of fish. The order is valued at more than 40,000,000 guilders (about US\$10,500,000). The vessels will be built in three different shipyards.



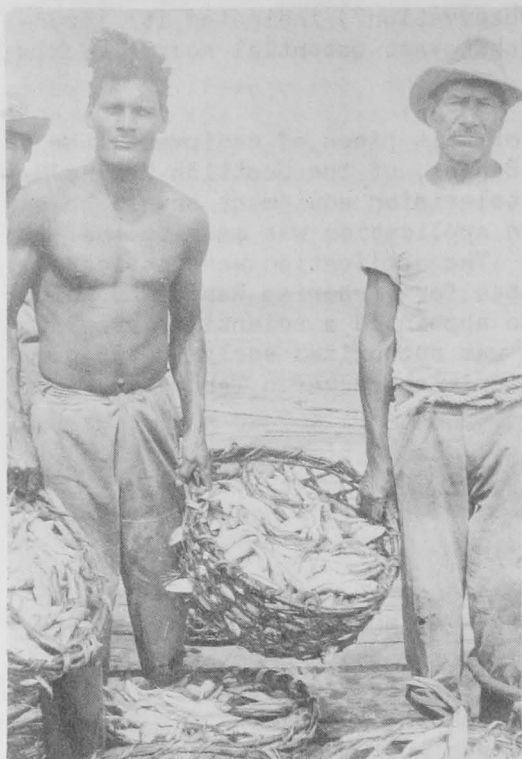
### Venezuela

FISHERIES TRENDS, 1951: Canning Industry: Canned fish production in Venezuela during 1951, as for the past several years, exceeded market demands, and the fish canneries operated only part time. A total of 6,050 metric tons of canned fish were packed during the first nine months of 1951, or 48 percent more than during the same period in 1950. The canners blamed importations for this inability to market their product, and succeeded in having the duty increased on certain canned fish from Bs.0.28 to Bs.2.00 per kilogram (from 3.8 cents to 27.1 U.S. cents per pound). But, the old rates of duty continued 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. However, it was recognized by the canners that imports are only a small part of their problem, and they persuaded the Government to engage in semi-barter deals whereby imports will be paid for at least in part with Venezuelan canned fish. An agreement was reached with Colombia for an exchange of canned fish for sugar. Under this arrangement, 3,000 metric tons of Colombian sugar were imported and 30 percent of the cost was paid in canned fish. In spite of this, the canners are still complaining of excess inventories and seek a favorable exchange rate on exports to permit them to dispose of their fish in the world market.

Fishing Fleet Expansion: The Venezuelan Development Corporation announced it has under construction 28 fishing vessels, of which 8 are of 20 metric-ton displacement, and 20 have 6 cubic meters of refrigerated storage each. It is



hoped that these additions to the fishing fleet will permit a wider range for fishing, and that the refrigeration facilities will help intensify the effort.



CARRYING SARDINES FROM BOAT TO CANNERY.

Production: Fish production in all categories increased in the first nine months of 1951 as compared with the same months of 1950. The fresh fish catch was 26,719 metric tons, or 16 percent above the first nine months of 1950; salt fish production was 7,531 metric tons, or 35 percent above the same period of 1950.

Foreign Trade: Fish imports for the 9-month period of 1951 show salt-herring imports were 14 tons, down 45 percent from the like period of 1950; non-salted herring, 23 tons, up 16 percent; salted cod (bacalao), 382 tons, up 28 percent; non-salted cod (bacalao), 4 tons, down 47 percent; caviar, 2 tons, up 170 percent; shellfish, 139 tons, up 32 percent; salmon, 114 tons, down 13 percent; sardines, 1,341 tons, up 53 percent; salted sardines, 14 tons, up 254 percent; other fish products (except salted), 124 tons, down 22 percent; and other salted fish products, 62 tons, up 25 percent.



### THE CODFISH INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL

As a producer, consumer, and importer of fishery products, Portugal is vitally interested in the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and is represented on three of five Sub-Area Panels.

Though the 1949 cod catch is reported by the Food and Agriculture Organization to be at about the 1938 level, Portugal realizes that this indicates an increasingly dangerous situation, for the catch was made with more modern fleets using more efficient fishing methods. It appears that continuance of the present fishing practices would cause an increasingly disastrous shortage.

Portugal, more than most of the other participating nations, must pin her hopes on the measures of the convention being sufficient to insure maximum production for otherwise she stands to lose a basic item in the diet of nearly every one of her citizens and a means of livelihood for several thousand people.