



## Australia

**FISH SCALER:** Faced with the unpleasant prospects of scaling, single-handed, a large consignment of small fish, a cafe proprietor of Adelaide decided to try scaling some in his potato peeler, according to the Australian Fisheries Newsletter, December 1947. He was delighted to find that the machine, instead of harming his fish, scaled perfectly, in a few minutes, a batch that would have occupied almost one tedious hour of his time.

An electrical engineer of Adelaide has developed a modification of the potato peeler capable of scaling large fish. Today most fish in South Australia are mechanically scaled by one or other of these types of machines. Not only has the drudgery been removed, but speed in handling consignments has resulted also. For instance, one man operating the scaler easily keeps pace with 10 to 12 filleters. Eleven fish filleting plants and one cannery, using scalers, are now operating at South Australian ports.



## Belgium

**LIFTS CANNED FISH REGULATION:** By Decree appearing in the Moniteur Belge of January 4, 1948, the Royal Decree of August 9, 1939, requiring the marking of country of origin on canned fish was abrogated, according to a U. S. Embassy airgram from Brussels, Belgium, on January 5.

American exporters of canned fish had protested against the enforcement of the Belgian requirement that the country of origin be marked on imported canned fish. Following these protests and representations by the Embassy, the Belgian Government decided to discontinue this requirement.

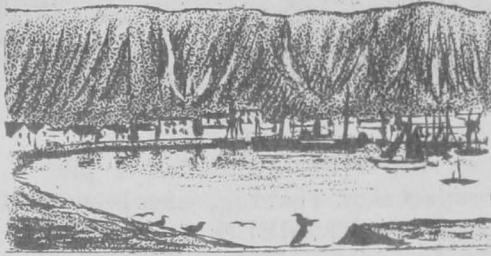


## Germany

**ICELAND HERRING TO GERMANY:** Negotiations for the purchase of Faxa Bay herring from Iceland have been successfully concluded, according to a December 18 report by the Fisheries Bipartite Control Group in Hamburg. Transport of these herring to Germany will be undertaken by German trawlers which will call at Reykjavik for cargoes. So far, 6 trawlers have commenced operating this scheme, and at the time of writing, the majority of these are just arriving in Iceland. Catches of Faxa Bay herring are still reported as being good, and there seems no doubt that all the vessels concerned will be able to load a full cargo. If the venture is a success, further numbers of trawlers will be diverted for this purpose.

## Iceland

**FISHERIES SALES:** Contracts for the sale of 3,000 tons of herring fish meal to Denmark, and 5,000 tons to the United States have just been concluded, according to the American Legation, Reykjavik, Iceland. The latter deal is of especial importance as it will provide Iceland with badly needed dollar exchange at a time when dollar reserves have reached an all-time low, and also west-bound cargo for vessels shortly to sail for New York. With the dollar shortage, instructions have just been issued to exporters of cod liver oil forbidding them to sell for any currency other than dollars. This means in effect that the United States should receive most of the 1948 production (estimated at 8,000 to 9,000 tons) unless Russia, which in 1947 acquired 40 percent of the total, is willing to buy for dollars.



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**HERRING FISHERIES:** Since the beginning of the winter herring fisheries in November, over 80,000 tons had been caught by the end of the year, according to a report of the American Legation in Reykjavik, Iceland. As most of this fish is being processed, some 10,000 tons of herring oil should be produced, which equals half of the summer production. According to the latest measurements, the fat content of the herring caught in Hvalfjordur amounts to 15.9 percent, while that of the fish from the Sounds varies between 12 percent and 13 percent.

The chartering of foreign vessels for the transportation of the herring to Siglufjordur has already cost the Government some \$460,000.

As a partial solution to the problem of processing the fish caught off the west coast, the Government was recently authorized to buy a ship and alter it for the processing of 1,350 tons of herring a day. (It is contemplated that the S. S. Lagarfoss may be used for this purpose.) The Government will also construct herring oil tanks, store houses, and other installations on Faxa Bay (situated off the southwest coast). It is estimated that these operations will cost around \$2,150,000.



## Inter-American

**CONFERENCE AT DENVER, COLORADO:** The Department of State announced on January 20 that the First Inter-American Conference on the Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources is scheduled to be held at Denver, Colorado, from September 7 to 20, 1948. After many other sites had been considered, the Governing Board of the Pan American Union and the Department of State decided to hold the Conference at Denver. The presence of many conservation projects in the surrounding territory was one of the factors contributing to the selection of Denver as the site. The Conference is being held pursuant to a resolution adopted at the Third Inter-American Conference on Agriculture held at Caracas, Venezuela, in October 1945.

The Conservation Conference, the first international meeting of its kind, will bring together Delegates from the American Republics to consider the develop-

ment and use on a sound scientific basis, of the renewable natural resources of the Hemisphere. It is anticipated that leading Government officials, scientists, and other interested groups from the entire Hemisphere will attend.

Among the problems to be discussed will be those arising out of deforestation, soil erosion, overgrazing, fish and wildlife decimation, floods, and failing water supplies. These problems are yearly growing more serious throughout the Hemisphere because of inadequate conservation practices, mounting populations, and attempts to raise living standards. They are of world-wide significance because of the increasing needs of Europe and Asia.



Warren Kelchner, Chief of the Division of International Conferences, Department of State, has been appointed Executive Vice President of the Conference, and William Vogt, Chief of the Conservation Section of the Pan American Union, Secretary General.



### Japan

JAPAN EXPORTS AGAR-AGAR: Natural Resources Section of SCAP has concurred on the export from Japan to the United States of 12 tons of gelidium-bearing seaweed from which agar-agar is made. This shipment, the first of its kind, is experimental in nature. Information on the method of testing the weed for gelidium content and determining a price is not yet available.

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JAPANESE PRODUCTS OFFERED FOR EXPORT: The following items are among those that appear on a list of Japanese products offered for export released by the Office of International Trade, U. S. Department of Commerce.

	Unit	Est. Production Jan.-Mar. 1948		Unit	Est. Production Jan.-Mar. 1948
Agar Agar .....	lb.	570,000	Dried abalone .....	MT	60
Fish livers .....	MT	9	" cuttlefish .....	"	450
Fish Liver Oil:			" oysters .....	"	48
Vitamin A .....	K	10,440	" shark fins .....	"	72
" D .....	K	4,680	Fishing gut, artifi-		
Canned crabmeat .....	c/s	1,000	cial ..	lb.	45,000
" oysters(smoked)			" jigs & lures ...	Pc.	90,000
" in oil .....	"	2,500	Bamboo poles, tuna .	"	114,000
" sardines in oil			MT - metric tons		
" " (pepper)			K - kilograms		
" " tomato	"	75,000	c/s- cases		
" mackerel in oil			Pc.- pieces		

Among those commodities which are in limited production or may be produced on special order are listed "fishing boats."



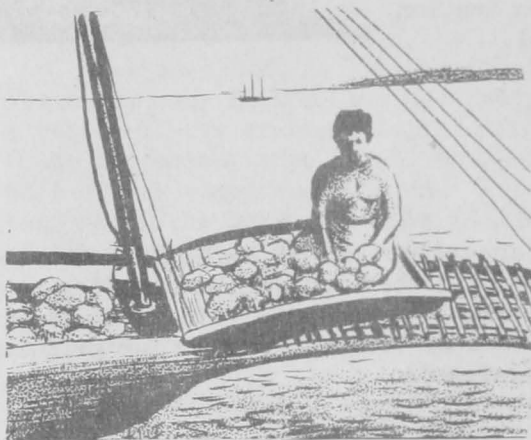
For further information, consult with the local office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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**SPONGE CULTURE:** Experiments in sponge culture in the South Pacific Islands were started by the Japanese at Ponape in 1927 and ended at Ailinglapalap Atoll in the Marshalls in 1943, according to information collected by the Natural Resources Section of SCAP. Three methods were used:

1. Attachment of sponges to aluminum wire loops set in concrete plates and planted on the bottom.
2. Rafts of bamboo, from which sponges were suspended.
3. The bottle float method.

The first method was found unsatisfactory because the heavy discs settled into the sandy bottom of the sea, smothering the sponges. The raft method was successful, but wind and tide action caused injury to the sponges. The bottle float method was the most successful. Here a string of sponges strung on thin coconut palm rope was anchored to a bottom rock and suspended vertically by a bottle float which was about 18 inches below the surface of the ocean at low tide.



Plantings at Ailinglapalap were successful. The Japanese, however, as a result of their studies in the ex-mandated area believe that the small island of Manoric in the Ralick chain of the Marshalls is the ideal place in the South Pacific for artificial sponge culture. They estimate

that a crop of 18,000,000 sponges could be successfully produced there. The two species of sponges used were the sheepswool and the velvet, both high quality sponges of good commercial value.



## Mexico

**FISHERY LAW:** The President of Mexico issued, on December 31, 1947, a Decree setting forth various regulations for the fisheries. It is in 70 articles, divided into 9 chapters entitled: "Fishing in General," "Fishing Activities," "Fishing Authorizations," "Commercial Fishing by Cooperative Societies," "Fishing Conducted by Foreign Boats in Marine Territorial Waters," "Fishery Control," "Obligations and Restrictions upon Persons Engaged in Fishing," "Obligations of Third Parties," and "Penalties."

A translation of this Decree has been made and issued as Fishery Leaflet 283 and may be obtained free by writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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FISHERY EXPORT DUTIES: There follows a Decree establishing export duties published November 27, 1947, in the Mexican Diario Oficial. A second Decree, published December 31, made additions and corrections to the Decree published November 27. Excerpts of the original Decree relating to fishery products, including the additions and corrections published December 31, follow.

The translation was made by the Mexican Fishery Mission of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

DE C R E E :

"The Congress of the United Mexican States decrees:

GENERAL EXPORT TAX TARIFF

Article 1. The Export Tax shall be applicable in accordance with the following tariff:

Nomenclature	Unit	R a t e	
		Specific	Ad valorem
Animal Matter in Natural State or Simply Prepared			
Live Animals			
Fish, Crustaceans, Molluscs and Cetaceans:			
Clams .....	G. K. <sup>1/</sup>	\$0.03	plus 5%
Lobster .....	G. K.	0.10	plus 5%
Oysters in the shell .....	G. K.	0.01	plus 5%
Sea elephant and seal .....	Head	100.00	-
Sea lion .....	Head	100.00	-
Fishes .....	G. K.	0.03	plus 5%
Crustaceans, molluscs and cetaceans, unspecified .....	G. K.	0.03	plus 5%
Other Animals:			
Tortoise-shell turtle .....	G. K.	3.00	-
Turtles, unspecified .....	G. K.	0.02	-
Fishes, Crustaceans and Molluscs, Fresh, Dried, Salted, Smoked, or Simply Cooked			
Fresh or Frozen Fish:			
Fish fillets wrapped in sanitary paper .....	N. K. <sup>2/</sup>	Exempt	-
Fresh or frozen fish, unspecified .....	G. K.	0.03	plus 10%
Lobster, cooked, fresh or frozen .....	G. K.	0.03	plus 10%
Dried, Salted, or Smoked Fish:			
Dried, salted, or smoked fish .....	G. K.	Exempt	-
Shrimp, fresh, raw, dry or peeled .....	100 G. K.	0.03	plus 10%
Fresh salted or simply cooked crustaceans, unspecified .....	G. K.	0.03	plus 5%
Fresh, Dried, Salted, or Simply Cooked Molluscs:			
Fresh, dried, salted or simply cooked molluscs	G. K.	0.03	-
Raw Materials of Animal Origin			
Untanned Hides of Other Animals, Fresh, Dried or Salted:			
Untanned cayman, crocodile, or alligator hides up to 1.50 meters long .....	G. K.	10.00	-
Untanned cayman, crocodile or alligator hides more than 1.50 meters long .....	G. K.	5.00	-
Untanned hides of other animals, fresh, dried or salted .....	G. K.	0.40	-
Animal Intestines and Swim Bladders:			
Animal intestines and swim bladders .....	G. K.	Exempt	-
Animal Waste:			
Shark and other fish livers and liver waste .	G. K.	Exempt	plus 10%
Waste, trimmings and offal of other animals .	G. K.	Exempt	-

Nomenclature	Unit	R a t e	
		Specific	Ad valorem
Turtle, Mother-of-Pearl, and Other Shells, Coral and Sponges in their Natural State:			
Bulk tortoise shell .....	G. K.	2.00	-
River or ocean mother-of-pearl shells .....	G. K.	0.01	-
Shells and conchs, bulk coral and sponges in their natural state or cleaned .....	G. K.	Exempt	-
Animal Matter, Unspecified:			
Shark fins .....	G. K.	Exempt	plus 5%
Vegetable Matter in Natural State or Simply Prepared			
Miscellaneous			
Other Plants and Parts of Plants for Sundry Uses:			
Marine Algae (state species) and sargasso ...	G. K.	Exempt	plus 10%
Foods, Beverages, Tobaccos and Products of the Chemical Industry, and Their By-products			
Preparations and conserves			
Fish, Crustacean and Mollusc Preparations and Conserves:			
Abalone in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Tuna in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Shrimp in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Crabs in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Lobster in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Oysters in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Salmon in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Sardines in bottles, jars or tins .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Preparations and conserves of fishes, crustaceans and molluscs, unspecified, in bottles, jars or tins (state name of products) .....	G. K.	Exempt	5%
Products of Various Industries			
Products of Various Industries			
Oils and Greases for Industrial Use:			
Whale oil .....	G. K.	Exempt	plus 10%
Manufactures of Jet, Amber, Tortoise Shell, Shell, and Analogous Materials:			
Tortoise shell and horn, transformed in any way .....	G. K.	Exempt	-
Mother-of-pearl transformed in any way .....	G. K.	Exempt	-
Coral transformed in any way .....	G. K.	Exempt	-
Fish scales transformed in any way .....	G. K.	Exempt	-
Valuables, Arms, Explosives and Miscellaneous			
Metals and Precious Stones			
Pearls and Precious Stones:			
Pearls in bulk or processed .....	N. G. 3/	Exempt	-
Miscellaneous			
Artistic and Collectors' Items:			
Zoological, botanical, mineralogical, geological and anatomical specimens (after receiving permit from the Ministry of Public Education or the National University of Mexico, as the case may be) .....	G. K.	Exempt	-

Article 2. The ad-valorem rate shown in the tariff shall be applied to the price indicated for the merchandise on the commercial invoice accompanying it, except in cases covered by Article 4.

Article 3. The Ministry of Treasury and Public Credit, after hearing the opinion of the Tariff Commission, shall determine official prices for the various items exported, for the purpose of assessing the ad-valorem tax.

The official prices fixed shall be published in the Diario Oficial of the Federation and shall enter into effect on the date set in each instance by the Ministry of Treasury, but under any circumstances this must be subsequent to the date of publication in the Diario Oficial.

The Federal Executive shall establish by decree the standards to be followed by the Ministry of Treasury in determining the official prices mentioned in this article.

Article 4. When the invoice price of an item is lower than the official price determined by the Ministry of Treasury and Public Credit, the ad-valorem tax shall be calculated on the official price.

Article 5. When the merchandise exported has no official price, the commercial invoice presented for assessing the ad-valorem tax shall include a sworn declaration by the exporter to the effect that the price shown thereon is the actual market value of the merchandise. A person making false declaration shall be liable to the corresponding penal action, without prejudice to the Ministry of Treasury exacting payment of the ad-valorem tax on the market value of the merchandise.

Article 6. The Federal Executive Branch is granted authority, until December 31, 1948, to amend this Export Tax Tariff in its entirety or in part.

Article 7. The 12% aforo tax and the provisions of the decree of August 4, 1938, are abolished, as well as the Export Tax Tariff of June 14, 1939 and other related regulations, wherein they are contrary to the provisions of this Decree.

Article 8. Until such time as they are repealed or amended, the provisions of chapter "0" of the tariff classification, the rules and the vocabulary of the Export Tax Tariff of June 14, 1939, remain in effect wherein they are not contrary to the provisions of this Decree.

TRANSITORY ARTICLE. This Decree shall enter into effect on January 1, 1948.

1/Gross kilograms

2/Net kilograms

3/Net grams

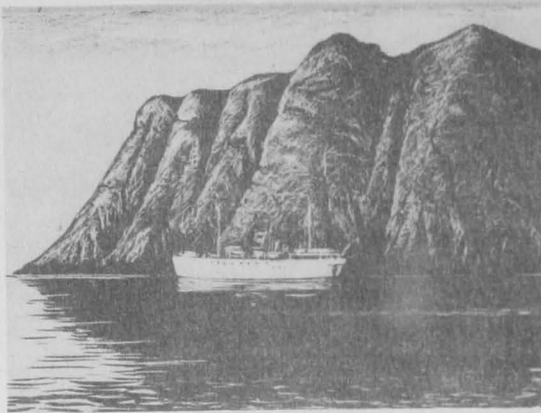
(According to the American Embassy, Mexico City, the new Mexican export duty on lobsters (spiny) and raw shrimp is 31 percent lower than the previous assessments. The duty on tuna shows an increase of 76 percent and that on unspecified fish, a decrease of 37 percent. The new duties on other fisheries products appear to be in line with those studied. Free of duty are fish fillets wrapped in sanitary paper and dried, salted, or smoked fish.)





## Norway

**NORWEGIAN ARCTIC INSTITUTE:** On December 12, the Norwegian Parliament approved the establishment of Norwegian Arctic Institute for Scientific Investigation,



according to the American Embassy, Oslo, Norway. It will begin activities February 1, 1948, under the leadership of Professor H. U. Sverdrup, for the past 11 years Director of Scripps Institute's coastal station near San Diego, Calif. The present Norwegian Svalbard and Arctic Ocean Institute will be incorporated with the new organization.

The purpose is to coordinate Norwegian activities in the Arctic and Antarctic with a view to furthering Norwegian interests in those areas. It will be divided into administrative, topographic, hydrographic, geologic, geophysics, and biologic sections. It will not concern itself with Norwegian whaling activities at the start, although this may be added to its activities later on.



## Poland

**DEVELOPMENT OF FISH INDUSTRY:** The following article appeared in a recent Polish newspaper, according to a U. S. Embassy airgram from Warsaw, Poland, dated December 31, 1947:

Development of Fish Industry. It is anticipated that fish may become one of the most important foods for the Polish consumer and a significant export article. The yearly fresh-water fish catches nearly attain the prewar level. Poland possesses about 500,000 hectares (1,235,500 acres) of ponds and lakes. It is estimated that the yearly catch yields will increase by 20,000 metric tons.

Poland attained the prewar level of sea-fisheries in 1946. More than 40,000 metric tons were caught in 1947. The number of sea-fisheries exceeds prewar by 30 percent. The prewar per capita consumption will be exceeded in 1948, and domestic fisheries are expected to cover 90 percent of the demand.



## Portugal

**TRAWL FISHING REGULATIONS:** The General Director of Marine of Portugal published on November 24, 1947, in the Diario de Governo, a Decree which regulates the trawl fishing fleet of Portugal. Some of the main provisions are:

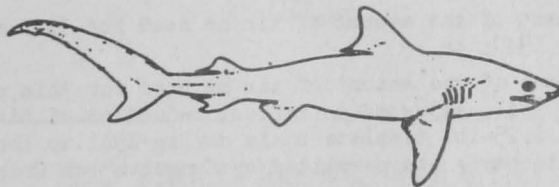
1. All trawl fishing vessels must be licensed for fishing in the three zones: coastal (out to depths of 100 fathoms); high seas; and distant (Grand Banks, etc.).



2. Types, tonnage, and number of vessels may be limited.
3. Size and shape of the trawl nets and doors must have prior approval of the Central Commission of Fisheries.
4. Minimum size of mesh of trawl nets set at 2.56 inches (stretch mesh).
5. Seasons and areas for fishing may be set.
6. The number of trips per year for "distant" or "high seas" vessels may be set by the Minister of Marine.
7. Legal minimum sizes for all commercial species to be set.
8. Certain species must be gutted on board vessels.
9. Fish for fresh consumption may not be stowed in layers deeper than  $31\frac{1}{2}$  inches including the ice.
10. Certain safety and sanitary rules are set.
11. A report, showing area fished and quantity caught, required for each trip for vessels fishing in the "high seas" and "distant" areas.
12. The Central Commission of Fisheries is required to make technical, economic, and biological studies and investigations of the fisheries.
13. Penalties are set for violation of the different regulations of this Decree.



## THE CUBAN SHARK INDUSTRY



For many years, Cuban fishermen have caught large numbers of sharks and exported shark products, particularly to the United States and Germany. Until recent years, however, the industry operated in a haphazard manner. The skin frequently was the only product retained while at other times only the liver or the fins were used. More recently, shark liver oil has been shipped to the United States, while most of the meat has been used in Cuba.

Cuba now has three complete processing plants, about 20 smaller dependent ones, and about 20 collecting stations. In addition, there are two oil-rendering plants and a third one will soon be constructed. A new shark-skin tannery began commercial production in 1946.