

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 124 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during July 1949—8 more than in July 1948, according to the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department. California led with 37 vessels documented, followed by Washington with 26, and Florida with 8. During the first 7 months of 1949, a total of 622 vessels were documented, compared with 682 during the same period in 1948.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, July 1949					
Section	July		Seven mos. ending with July		Total 1948
	1949	1948	1949	1948	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	
New England	6	6	20	32	52
Middle Atlantic	4	3	34	30	40
Chesapeake Bay	9	9	44	29	59
South Atlantic and Gulf	31	48	205	275	541
Pacific Coast	70	40	216	217	347
Great Lakes	2	4	29	29	51
Alaska	5	7	71	63	81
Hawaii	-	2	3	7	12
Total	127	119	622	682	1,183

Note: Vessels have been assigned to the various sections on the basis of their home port.

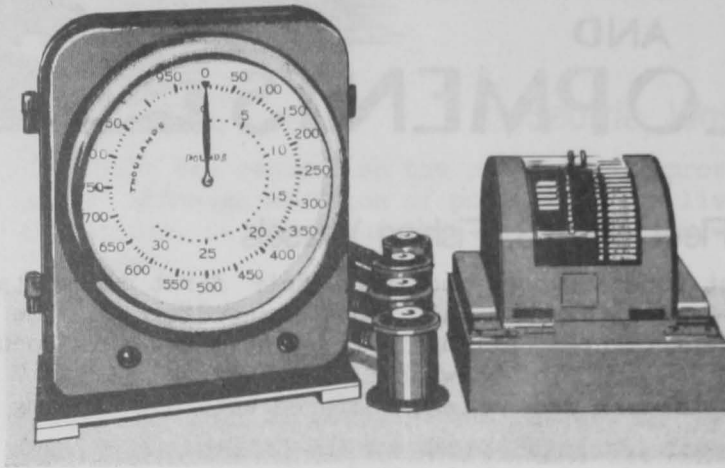


Electronic Scale Developed

An electronic livestock scale which weighs quickly and accurately has been developed by an aircraft corporation under the direction of the Production and Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to that agency's August 1949 Marketing Activities. Employing electronic principles rather than mechanical principles, the scale automatically registers weights on a large dial and prints them on a ticket with the push of a button. This new, accurate, automatic, virtually fool-proof and tamper-proof scale offers possibilities for use in the fishing industry, or any industry requiring large-scale weighings, since it is not affected by dirt, rust, or moisture.

The electronic scale virtually eliminates the shortcomings of the lever-type scale. The heart of the new development—the strain-gage cell with electronic indicator—had been designed previously by the aircraft corporation. Four of the compact cells are placed under the corners of a conventional platform. Each cell electronically transmits its pressure impulse through an electric cable encased in a flexible rubber-covered conduit. The measure of the pressure on the cells

is translated into the recorded weight in an indicator unit, and registered on a 16-inch dial with two concentric graduated circles, the smaller divided plainly at thousand-pound intervals to a capacity of 32,000 pounds, and the larger circle graduated in 5-pound intervals to 1,000 pounds capacity. Two indicator hands, corresponding to the hands of a time clock, combine to register a total that is clearly visible up to distances of at least 10 feet. On the lower section of the indicator assembly are red and green signal lights which show whether the unit is in operation or locked for printing.



FOUR WEIGHING CELLS (CENTER)--THE SIZE OF PINT FRUIT JARS--ARE THE HEART OF THE SCALE. A SMALL LIGHT BELOW THE DIAL FLASHES GREEN WHEN WEIGHING AND RED WHEN CONTROLS ARE SET FOR PRINTING OR ZEROING. THE PRINTER (RIGHT) CONTAINS ALL THE OPERATIONAL CONTROLS.

On the printer, the third element of the assembly, a series of keys controls a set of type wheels arranged to record the number and species of animals weighed, as well as the initials of the selling agency. This unit is electrically connected to the indicator and it prints simultaneously: the registered weight on the dial, the species and number of animals weighed, and the month, day, hour, and minute in which the weighing is performed. Depending upon the size of the load, the weight value is indicated in two to seven seconds.

Time required for installation is but a fraction of that required for the normal lever-type scale. In the new device, the general compactness and the flexibility of coupling between the cells and the indicator unit establish such a degree of adaptability that the entire mechanism can be installed in approximately one hour where a lever system scale is replaced. All parts are replaceable as units, so that "trouble shooting" and repair are distinctly simplified. Commercial installation of the new scale was expected to begin in September.



Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, July 1949: A total of 1,457,729 pounds (valued at \$485,767) of fresh and frozen fishery products was purchased by the Army Quartermaster Corps during July 1949 for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for military feeding (see table). This is an increase of 12 percent in

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army							
Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
J u l y		January-July		J u l y		January-July	
1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948	1949	1948
Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,457,729	1,513,512	9,338,053	9,438,142	485,767	497,910	3,130,441	3,373,330

quantity and 13 percent in value compared with the previous month, (1,305,391 pounds, valued at \$430,175), but a decline of 4 percent in volume and 1 percent in value with July 1948.

ARMY TO BUY FRESH AND FROZEN FISH IN JAPAN FOR OVERSEAS TROOPS: In line with its policy to purchase locally, foods which are available in quantity in foreign countries, it is learned that the Army's Quartermaster Corps, as of November 1, will stop purchasing fresh and frozen fish in the United States for use by overseas troops stationed in Japan, and will buy from Japanese sources to meet the needs of the occupation troops. This will result in a saving for the Army, especially on transportation charges. Fresh and frozen fish purchases by the Quartermaster Corps in the northwest area of the United States for use by overseas troops have approximated 20 percent of the total Army purchases in that area.

The Quartermaster Corps will continue to purchase fresh and frozen fish in this country to meet the domestic requirements of the Armed Services.



ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products

Procurement authorizations for commodities and raw materials announced during August 1949 by the Economic Cooperation Administration included \$818,000 for the purchase of fishery products (all from the United States and Possessions), com-

ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products, August 1949			
Product	Country of Origin	Recipient Country ^{1/}	Amount Authorized
Fish, canned	U.S. & Possessions	Ireland	\$ 200,000
Oil, whale and fish	U.S. & Possessions	Korea	162,000
" fish ^{2/}	" " "	Bizone Germany	456,000
Total for August 1949			818,000
Total ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products, April 1, 1948-Aug. 31, 1949			
Fish, canned	U.S. & Possessions & Canada	United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Belgium-Luxembourg	14,582,800
Fish, salted or cured	Newf., Canada, & U.S. & Possessions	Italy & Fr. West Indies	5,229,000
Fish meal	Canada, Iceland, Norway, & Angola	Denmark, Austria, & Bizone Germany	3,956,361
Oil, herring	Iceland	Bizone Germany	1,694,000
" , seal	Newf.	France	257,600
" , shark liver	Latin America except Argentine & Brazil	France	250,000
" , fish	U.S. & Possessions	Bizone & Fr. Zone of Germany & Korea	846,000
" , technical fish	U.S.	Bizone Germany	100,000
" , whale (includes sperm oil)	Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, & U.S.	Austria, Bizone & Fr. Zone of Germany	7,056,150
" , whale and fish	U.S. & Possessions	Korea	162,000
Vit. A (Commercial grade, for stock feed)	U.S.	Netherlands	567,000
Grand Total Authorized			34,700,911

^{1/}Unless otherwise indicated, the recipient country is the procuring agency, and the government of the participating country or its authorized agents or importers do the purchasing.

^{2/}Dept. of Agriculture designated as procuring agency. Mostly menhaden oil.

pared with \$550,000 during July 1949. The total amount authorized for the purchase of fishery products during the 17-month period through August 31, 1949, was \$34,700,911.

During August, ECA cancelled an authorization of \$139,000 for sperm whale and Fish oils which were to be purchased in the United States and Possessions for delivery to the French Zone of Germany.



Fishery Biology Notes

"ALBATROSS III" - LOCATES A HADDOCK NURSERY GROUND (Cruise 27): On Cruise 27 (August 11-19, 1949), the Albatross III's chief purpose was a census of the fish populations on the Southern New England Banks and Nantucket Shoals, and in South Channel, Cape Cod Bay, and Massachusetts Bay. During the cruise, half-hour tows were made at 59 stations scattered over these areas. Hydrographic observations, consisting of temperatures and bottom topography, were also collected.

The Southern New England Banks south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and west of Nantucket Lightship (out to 40 fathoms) were found to be a nursery ground for scrod haddock. A large concentration of 1-year old haddock was found 30 miles WNW. of Nantucket Lightship. It is apparent, from the large numbers of 1-year old haddock caught during this and the previous cruise, that 1948 was a successful year for haddock spawning.

Large haddock and redfish were found in commercial quantities in 80 to 120 fathoms in South Channel (the area bounded by latitudes $41^{\circ} 51'$ and $42^{\circ} 20'$ and longitudes $68^{\circ} 50'$ and $69^{\circ} 40'$).

During the first three days of the cruise 191 drift bottles were released, in cooperation with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in an attempt to determine the speed and direction of ocean currents, at twelve different stations located between Muskegat Channel and Fishers Island in Block Island Sound and from 50 to 70 miles offshore. To date more than 30 of these bottles have been returned from Rhode Island beaches and the eastern end of Long Island.

Two of the yellowtail flounders tagged on the previous cruise have been recaptured. One was landed at Woods Hole and the other was caught by a New Bedford dragger. Both fish were recaptured near the point of release.

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BLUE CRABS TAGGED IN RAPPAHANNOCK: The Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (Maryland), the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory and the Fish and Wildlife Service tagged 330 blue crabs in the Rappahannock Estuary between February 28 and March 4, 1949. By June 30, none of the 83 male and 72 female immature crabs had been returned; 27 of the 72 male and 35 of the 113 female mature crabs were returned. The returns from male crabs, in agreement with previous observations, were entirely within the Rappahannock Estuary; the predominant number of returns from male crabs, in agreement with previous observations, were entirely within the Rappahannock Estuary; the predominant number of returns from female crabs was from the main Chesapeake Bay and south of their area of release. A slightly higher portion of males was taken.

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SERVICE'S BEAUFORT LABORATORY REACTIVATED: On June 28, 1949, the Service's Beaufort Laboratory, relatively inactive for several years, was given fully active status again within the research program of the Service. It is under the jurisdiction of the Middle and South Atlantic Fishery Investigations of the Branch of Fishery Biology. Summer investigators will be encouraged to use the laboratory. Built before 1910, the laboratory is on an 11-acre tract of Pivers Island and consists of seven major buildings. It provides an opportunity to observe and study fish and related marine conditions in the area.

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SOUTH PACIFIC FISHERY INVESTIGATIONS: Albacore Sighted by "Black Douglas": On a cruise off northern California and Oregon completed on August 18, the Black Douglas, research vessel of the Service's South Pacific Fishery Investigations, located albacore schools in the vicinity of $44^{\circ} 20' N. 126^{\circ} 30' W.$ This information was relayed to commercial fishermen, fishermen's unions, canneries, and other interested groups in Astoria, Coos Bay, and Portland. Fishermen were able to reach the designated area in time to fish the schools. Albacore specimens were taken by biologists aboard the Service's vessel.

Stations Occupied and Observations: The vessel occupied 40 stations between Cape Mendocino and the Columbia River and up to 450 miles offshore during this cruise. At each station observations included a plankton haul, temperature, salinity, oxygen and phosphate determinations, phytoplankton collections, and secchi disk readings.

Operations Are a Cooperative Program: The operations of the Black Douglas are part of a cooperative program on pilchards involving, in addition to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Academy of Sciences, the California Division of Fish and Game, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Cruises of the Black Douglas are carried out simultaneously with cruises of the Scripps vessels, Crest and Horizon. Earlier, the California Fish and Game vessel, N. B. Scofield, also participated. The area thus surveyed each month extends from the Columbia River in the north to the middle of Lower California in the south. The results of these surveys will be of great importance, not only in the studies of the sardine, but for any present or future studies of other fishes in this area.



Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Organized

On July 16, 1949, the Governor of Alabama placed his signature upon the first official document of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Compact at Mobile, Alabama, on board the State yacht Dixie, according to the Commission's report. Due to prior commitments and other pressing affairs of State, the governors of Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi were unable to attend the formal signing. Thus, after several years of tireless efforts on the part of the Continuing Conference Committee, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission came into existence as a joint inter-state cooperative arrangement between the Gulf States to "promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell, and anadromous, of the seaboard of the Gulf of Mexico, by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries and the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause".

Later, the same day, the first business session of the Commission was called to order. One of the speakers traced the Compact through its formation and of its ultimate ratification as Public Law 66 of the 81st Congress, which was approved by the President of the United States on May 19, 1949. Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas had passed Enabling Acts, in that order, and it is foreseen that Mississippi will come in as soon as the Legislature of that State convenes next year.

The Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service discussed "The Problem of the Marine Fisheries". He called attention to recent Federal action assigning two research vessels to the Gulf of Mexico, and these vessels should be in operation in the Gulf by next year. The Director expressed the hope that the Commission would consider among its first tasks the formulation of an adequate fishery research program to meet the needs of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico.

The Special Assistant for Fisheries to the Undersecretary of State, Washington, D. C., spoke on "Participation by Interstate Fisheries Commissions in Treaty and Convention-Making". He pointed out that regional commissions formed by states are a big help to the efforts of the Department of State in Washington; and that the work of the State Department embraced the protection of the rights of American fishermen on the high seas.

The Conservation Commissioners of the five Gulf States submitted the official list of three Commissioners from each State to serve for that State during the first year. The Conservation Commissioners are ex-officio members of the Commission and the listings were given as follows:

ALABAMA

Mr. Bert E. Thomas, Director, State Department of Conservation;
Mr. Thomas A. Johnston, III, Member appointed by the Legislature;
Mr. James H. Faulkner, Representative appointed by the Governor.

FLORIDA

Mr. George Vathis, Supervisor, Florida State Board of Conservation;
Mr. William J. Hendry, Member appointed by the Legislature;
Mr. Bryant G. Patton, Representative appointed by the Governor.

LOUISIANA

Mr. Ernest S. Clements, Commissioner, Louisiana Department of Wild
Life and Fisheries;
Mr. E. J. Grizzaffi, Member appointed by the Legislature;
Judge Leander H. Perez, Representative appointed by the Governor.

TEXAS

Mr. Howard D. Dodgen, Executive Secretary, Texas Game, Fish and
Oyster Commission;
Mr. Jimmy Phillips, Member appointed by the Legislature;
Colonel L. A. Kurtz, Representative appointed by the Governor.

The second phase of the conference involved the permanent Organization. Mr. Bert E. Thomas of Alabama was unanimously elected and chosen as the first Chairman of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for the ensuing year, and Mr. Howard D. Dodgen of Texas as Vice-Chairman.

The Commission discussed rules and regulation; named the Council of State Governments as temporary secretariat and treasurer of the organization until a permanent secretary and treasurer could be secured; and passed a motion that the temporary office of the Commission be the office of the Chairman until a permanent office is selected at the next meeting.



Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council Accepted by Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan's acceptance of the Agreement reached at Baguio, Republic of the Philippines, on February 28, 1948, for the formation of an Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council, was received by the Food and Agriculture Organization on August 1, 1949. (See Commercial Fisheries Review, May 1949, pp. 22-25.)



Meeting on Proposed Mediterranean Sea Fisheries Council

All Member Governments of the Food and Agriculture Organization were notified of the proposal to establish a Regional Council for the Study of the Sea in the Mediterranean Sea and contiguous waters, and a meeting was called in Rome (September 19 through September 24, 1949) by that agency.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider an agreement for the establishment of a regional council for the scientific exploration of the sea in the area of the Mediterranean Sea and contiguous waters, similar to that drawn up for the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (See Commercial Fisheries Review, August 1948, page 17).

Invitations to attend this meeting were sent to all Member Governments of FAO who are interested in the area in question, and also to governments who are not members of FAO but who were members of the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea. The United States was also invited, and an officer from the staff of the American Embassy at Rome will act as observer.

The establishment of Regional Fisheries Councils is in accordance with the resolution passed by the Third Session of the Conference of FAO at Geneva in September 1947 "that FAO should take action to initiate the formation of Regional Councils for the scientific exploration of the sea in the parts of the world not now actively served by similar bodies, giving primary consideration to the following areas:

North Western Atlantic, South Western Pacific and Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous waters, North Eastern Pacific, South Eastern Pacific, Western South Atlantic, and Eastern South Atlantic and Indian Ocean.

Michigan's Great Lakes Fisheries Production, 1948

The commercial production of fishery products in the State of Michigan waters of the Great Lakes during 1948 amounted to 30,103,292 pounds, the highest since 1935. The increase was attributed to the larger catches of whitefish and herring, according to the Division of Fisheries of the Michigan Department of Conservation.

Species	Lake Michigan	Lake Superior	Lake Huron	Lake Erie	Total 1948	Total 1947
	(in pounds).					
Blue pike	-	-	-	17,599	17,599	1,300
Bowfin	5	-	10,220	8,076	18,301	19,600
Bullheads	9,160	-	54,332	44,373	107,865	125,500
Burbot	11,563	843	508	146	13,060	8,300
Carp	63,413	4	1,474,354	535,245	2,073,016	1,825,900
Catfish	845	-	188,729	27,111	216,685	313,800
Chubs	2,071,261	15,057	154,027	-	2,240,345	1,524,300
Gizzard shad	-	-	27,705	-	27,705	500
Goldfish	-	-	-	49	49	-
Lake herring	2,886,235	4,515,076	1,641,324	-	9,042,635	6,490,700
Lake trout	590,063	2,158,897	5,144	-	2,754,104	3,152,600
Pike, northern or pickerel ..	16,751	-	48,882	10,439	76,072	19,100
Rock bass	1,461	21	15,747	7,939	25,168	21,000
Sauger	1,684	157	2,277	3,919	8,037	28,000
Sheepshead	6,432	-	4,102	80,585	91,119	119,000
Smelt	624,028	31	1,231	-	625,290	339,100
Sucker, longnose	105,871	19,040	62,236	3	187,150	2/
Sucker, white & redhorse	1,112,840	28,734	1,246,560	41,983	2,430,117	2,270,100
White bass	-	-	1	32,865	32,866	44,900
Whitefish, common	4,272,004	474,432	2,971,948	9,491	7,727,875	7,363,000
Whitefish, Menominee	103,998	17,061	26,107	-	147,166	152,800
Yellow perch	298,441	5,255	693,812	17,480	1,014,988	598,500
Yellow pike	597,633	2,102	223,438	402,907	1,226,080	1,127,500
Totals	12,773,688	7,236,710	8,852,684	1,240,210	30,103,292	25,545,500

^{1/}Subject to slight revision.

^{2/}Included with white and redhorse sucker.



North Carolina Joins Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

The Governor of North Carolina recently signed the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Compact as authorized by an Act passed during the 1949 session of the legislature of the State, according to the July 1949 Maryland Tidewater News of the Maryland Department of Research and Education. North Carolina's action brings together all of the Atlantic States in a single body whose functions are to consider any and all problems of the fisheries submitted to it by member states, and to bring to these problems the best available information bearing on their solution, whether they involve technology, fishery biology, or further interstate cooperation and coordination.

The Chesapeake states, Maryland and Virginia, have been members of the interstate group since its organization some six years ago. Among the local problems that have received its attention are the maintenance of high levels of crab production, the shad situation and certain aspects of game fish depletion, especially the drum or channel bass.



Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

CONTINUED TUNA RESEARCH IN JUNE: The staff of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, Honolulu, T. H., in the Hawaiian, Leeward and Line Islands, continued observations in June on the catch composition, areas of fishing, and production rates of the local long-line tuna fishery. During this month, the catch of yellowfin tuna increased while that of big-eyed tuna decreased, a regular seasonal occurrence. By regular visits to the local wholesale market, staff biologists obtained length and weight frequencies of the catches. Big-eyed tuna in the late June catches were all spent fish, while yellowfin were in very advanced stages of sexual maturity.

In late June, a biologist of POFI went to Saipan to observe local fishing methods and to gather biological data on the skipjack taken in the local fishery. He is particularly interested in morphometric data for comparison with similar data from Japan and Hawaii for the solution of the program of racial distribution of the skipjack.

The large landings of skipjack at Kewalo Basin during June made it possible to gather a good series of morphometric data from 51 big-eyed, 50 yellowfin, 67 skipjack and 12 albacore. Analysis of these data, similar data from the last year's cruises of the Oregon, and data taken by the Territorial Division of Fish and Game awaits completion of these series. Preliminary calculations have been completed of regressions, characterizing the yellowfin and skipjack from the Society and Marquesas Islands, based on measurements of fish landed in Honolulu in April.

HAWAIIAN TUNA FISHERY - July 1949: The Hawaiian tuna fishery was quite variable during July, according to observations made by the POFI staff. From time to time bait shortages were an impediment to both long-line and pole fishing. The long-line bait supply was particularly critical. Since the importation of frozen sardines was impossible because of shipping difficulties, fresh long-line bait cost as much as 80 cents a pound.

The long-line catch was largely yellowfin tuna in contrast to the predominance of big-eyed tuna several months ago. The average catch of 12 vessels interviewed during July was 2.2 fish per 100 hooks per set. This is somewhat lower than the average earlier in the year. Aku fishing fluctuates from very good to very poor. Although probably not the best catch, one sampan started fishing at 8:00 a.m., caught 9,000 pounds of skipjack, and returned to the dock for unloading by 9:30 a.m.

SAIPAN TUNA FISHERY: One of the biologists of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations went to the Marianas Islands in July to aid in establishing a fishing industry at Saipan and to take morphometric data from the tunas. Although skipjack are present there in commercial quantities, the fishery is at a low ebb.

TUNA GEAR: Several trips were made during July by members of Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations on Hawaiian fishing vessels to observe the types of gear in use, the methods of operation, the types of bait-catching gear, methods of catching bait, and behavior of the tunas for the dual purposes of providing the staff members with experience in the local fisheries and establishing a basis for the design of gear for use by POFI.

TRIP TO KONA COAST: A trip was made to the Kona Coast of Hawaii during July to observe the gear and methods of the flag-line fishery and to test various types

of trolling lures. A series of tests were attempted with various lures, but no tuna were present during the week of the tests; even the existing commercial gear gave very meager returns. However, considerable information was obtained on the types of gear in use, which will be of value in future operations.

TUNA-FISHING GEAR AND BAIT: On the basis of practical fishing conditions, certain experimental types of flag-line tuna gear were designed for testing by the vessels of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations.

During August, observations were made on the methods of catching bait. A trip was made to the Kona Coast of Hawaii to assist in and observe the results of a cooperative testing of a light baiting net obtained from Japan. This net was tested on the Territory vessel, the Makua. Information was obtained on the performance of this net and hanging proportions; and observations were made which should be of value in rigging the Investigations' night baiting nets.

U. S. FISHERY TEAM COMPLETES STUDY OF JAPANESE TUNA FISHERIES: In November 1948, a Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations team (composed of three members) arrived in Japan to study the tuna and other pelagic fishery resources of Japan. The third member of this team departed for Honolulu on July 9. The other two members completed their assignments and left Japan March 1.

The objectives of this team were to (1) obtain morphometric measurements and other biological data on Japanese tunas and allied fishes for the purpose of defining the stocks of these fish in the Pacific Ocean, (2) complete a bibliography of Japanese tuna publications, and (3) gather information on Japanese fishing and processing methods and research techniques.

Although highest priority was given to the collection of morphometric data, they could not obtain as much information as desired because of the abnormally late tuna fishing season. However, 117 fish of seven different species were measured. Japan is the only country known to have conducted research on tuna and related fishes in the western Pacific before World War II; therefore, public and private libraries were surveyed in order to prepare a list of Japanese publications relating to these fishes, and a bibliography of about 500 titles was compiled. Whenever possible, copies of publications were obtained, and about 350 other publications were recorded on microfilm. Many publications were translated into English. (See Commercial Fisheries Review, August 1949, page 23.)

The team inspected Japanese tuna canning and processing methods, and the Photo Division, 71st Signal Service Battalion, took moving pictures of tuna long-line fishing. Other fisheries also were observed and recorded.

In addition, the team obtained samples of fish gear, which include a model bait retainer, tuna long-line gear, a shackle of tuna gill net, and a blueprint of the spray system in use on the skipjack boats.



Pribilof Island Fur-Seal Take, 1949

A total of 70,891 fur-seal skins were taken this year in the Government-administered sealing operations on Alaska's Pribilof Islands, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced on August 25. This year's yield was 749 skins more than in 1948. The annual season for taking fur seals skins began on June 10 and continued on a daily basis from June 17 through July 27.

Two daily record kills were reported, one on July 22 with 5,329 skins (the largest kill in more than 60 years); the other on July 17 with 4,950 skins.

Under the provisions of the 1944 Alaska Fur-Seal Law, 20 percent of the annual take of skins become the property of the Canadian government. Approximately 60 percent of the world's fur seals come to the Pribilof Islands to breed.

The 1949 fur-seal census has not been reported but last year it was 3,837,000 animals. The seal population of the Pribilofs increased from a low of 132,000 animals in 1910 to its present size under Federal conservation and management.

After being dressed and dyed by a fur company in St. Louis, the furs are offered for sale at public auction, the net proceeds going to the Treasury of the United States.

Valuable byproducts of this year's fur-sealing are the 350 tons of fur seal meal, 14,000 gallons of carcass oil and 33,000 gallons of blubber oil. These products are made in a Government-operated plant on the Pribilofs and will also be offered at auction.

Pelagic sealing (the killing of seals while they are at sea) is prohibited by an international agreement between Canada and the United States. At one time pelagic sealing nearly brought about the extinction of the animals.



Production of Sponges at Tarpon Springs, Florida, 1948

During 1948, 12,000 bunches (approximately 72,616 pounds) of sponges, valued at \$465,938.02, were produced and sold over the Tarpon Springs Sponge Exchange, Inc., compared with 23,030 bunches (approximately 158,304 pounds), valued at \$1,741,883.03 in 1947. This was a considerable decline in production as well as value in 1948.

For many years the sponge industry of the United States was confined to the shoal waters of the Key Grounds (between the Florida Keys and the mainland), and Key West was the center of the sponge trade. However, with the exhaustion of these grounds and the introduction of machine diving in the deeper waters of the Bay Grounds (beginning near Johns Pass, a few miles north of Tampa Bay, and extending without material interruption as far as St. Marks), Tarpon Springs soon became the largest sponge market in the world, and in normal times about 90 percent of the United States sponge catch is landed there. Most of the catch is sold on the Tarpon Springs Sponge Exchange, a nonprofit organization established in 1908. Some of the sponges sold at Tarpon Springs are obtained by the hooking method, but most are taken by machine divers.



TARPON SPRINGS SPONGE EXCHANGE BUILDING

Reports indicate that in 1948 less than 70 boats were engaged in this fishery, compared with 200 boats operating prior to 1939. Because of the shortage of sponges, many of the diving boats have been converted for other types of fishing and some of the experienced divers are seeking other employment.

Type of Sponge	Production of Sponges at Tarpon Springs, Fla., Quantity (bunches and pounds) and Value, 1947-48							
	1948 ^{1/}			1947 ^{2/}				
	Quantity		Total Value	Avg. Price Per Lb.	Quantity		Total Value	Avg. Price Per Lb.
	No. Bunches (est.)	Lbs. (est.)	\$	¢	No. Bunches (est.)	Lbs. (est.)	\$	¢
Rock Island Sheep's-Wool:								
Large	725	7,975	87,345.00	10.95	1,038	12,456	349,629.54	28.07
Extra-med., med., & small	906	6,342	69,364.58	10.94	2,245	15,715	310,550.85	19.76
Rags, large	1,367	12,303	109,944.48	8.94	12,426	99,408	977,926.20	9.82
" , extra-med., med., & small	5,585	33,510	167,335.41	4.99				
Total	8,583	60,130	433,989.47	7.22	15,709	127,579	1,638,106.59	12.84
Other:								
Yellow	1,182	3,546	12,864.73	3.63	2,640	11,220	45,390.11	4.05
Grass	2,235	8,940	19,083.82	2.13	4,681	19,505	58,386.33	2.99
Total	3,417	12,486	31,948.55	2.56	7,321	30,725	103,776.44	3.38
Grand Total	12,000	72,616	465,938.02	6.42	23,030	158,304	1,741,883.03	11.00

1/ Sales over the Tarpon Springs Sponge Exchange, Inc. (Approximately \$50,000 of sponges were sold outside the Exchange)
 2/ Consists of sales reported by the Tarpon Springs Sponge Exchange, Inc. and a sponge cooperative (cooperative did not operate in 1948).



U.S. Imports of Fish Meal and Scrap, January-June 1949

The United States imports of fish meal and scrap for use in feeds and fertilizers during the first six months of 1949 amounted to 30,982 short tons, valued at \$4,523,387--an increase of 36 percent in quantity and 57 percent in value when compared with the corresponding period in 1948.

Canada was the leading shipper of fish meal and scrap, accounting for 60.6 percent of the January-June 1949 total imports, compared with 48.8 percent of the imports for the first half of 1948, and 64.1 percent of the imports for the year 1948.

U. S. Imports of Fish Meal and Fish Scrap, January-June 1949 and 1948, and the Year 1948

Country of Origin	Fish Meal and Fish Scrap for Feeds						Fish Meal and Fish Scrap for Fertilizers						Combined Total					
	Jan.-June 1949		Jan.-June 1948		12 Months-1948		Jan.-June 1949		Jan.-June 1948		12 Months-1948		Jan.-June 1949		Jan.-June 1948		12 Months-1948	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Canada	18,710	3,167,189	11,054	1,490,887	25,287	3,407,687	70	14,000	60	8,518	50	8,518	18,760	3,181,189	11,034	1,497,505	25,337	3,416,305
Newfoundland	3,056	285,500	1,537	102,911	2,923	204,454	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,056	285,500	1,537	102,911	2,923	204,454
Mexico	201	32,463	97	11,366	450	48,774	505	33,078	386	32,706	1,068	86,470	706	65,541	483	44,092	1,518	135,244
Venezuela	200	21,902	436	49,599	601	63,405	54	7,301	-	-	-	-	284	29,203	436	49,599	601	63,405
Peru	414	35,841	-	-	55	2,570	1,017	58,410	496	27,456	456	27,466	1,431	54,051	496	27,466	551	30,336
Uruguay	556	66,339	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2,525	-	-	-	-
Argentina	556	66,339	698	69,911	835	82,404	442	56,834	256	30,543	458	43,332	998	123,173	594	100,454	1,293	123,738
Iceland	-	-	4,505	612,073	4,505	612,073	-	-	3,186	443,905	3,186	443,905	-	-	7,591	1,005,978	7,691	1,005,978
France	564	70,345	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	564	70,345	-	-	-	-
Norway	1,500	233,796	-	-	28	4,547	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	233,796	-	-	28	4,547
Portugal	1,619	190,452	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,619	190,452	-	-	-	-
French Morocco	96	7,582	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	7,582	-	-	-	-
Portuguese Guinea	265	36,877	-	-	-	-	570	88,749	-	-	-	-	935	125,625	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	112	16,525	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	112	16,525
Union of South Africa	505	39,192	-	-	60	4,330	478	56,110	-	-	-	-	983	114,302	-	-	60	4,330
Totals	27,736	4,206,505	18,309	2,336,767	35,856	4,447,083	3,246	314,482	4,424	543,238	5,266	609,791	30,982	4,523,307	22,733	2,880,005	41,124	5,056,854



U.S. Pack of Canned Clams and Clam Products, 1948

The 1948 pack of canned clams and clam products amounted to 1,179,774 cases, valued at \$8,329,639 to the canners. This was a decline of 6 percent in the number of cases packed and 4 percent in value compared with the previous year.

Table 1 - Pack of Canned Clams & Clam Products, By Type of Product & By Area, 1948 (Quantity & Value to Canners)

Product, State and Number of Plants	Whole and Minced			Chowder, Juice, Broth, & Nectar			Total	
	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Value
Soft Clams:								
Maine (12)	107,177	\$10.25	\$1,098,863	166,521	\$5.68	\$ 945,204	273,698	\$2,044,067
Razor Clams:								
Washington (4)	9,393	17.17	161,312	-	-	-	9,393	161,312
Alaska (11)	27,539	17.95	494,402	-	-	-	27,539	494,402
Total razor clams	36,932	17.75	655,714	-	-	-	36,932	655,714
Hard Clams:								
Mass. (1), R.I. (1), N.Y. (6)	19,332	8.53	164,843	67,072	5.33	357,631	86,404	522,474
N.J. (1), Pa. (1), Md. (1) ..	-	-	-	770,685	6.47	4,989,857	770,685	4,989,857
Wash. (4)	9,679	11.23	108,684	2,100	3.26	6,856	11,779	115,540
Alaska (1)	74	18.65	1,380	202	3.00	607	276	1,987
Total hard clams	29,085	9.45	274,907	840,059	6.37	5,354,951	869,144	5,629,858
Grand total (43)	173,194	11.72	2,029,484	1,006,580	6.26	6,300,155	1,179,774	8,329,639

1/Includes the pack of surf clams in New York.
 Note: "Standard cases" represent the various-sized cases converted to the equivalent of 48 No. 1 cans, each can of whole and minced clams containing 5 ounces of meat; drained weight; and each can of chowder, juice, broth, and nectar, 10 ounces, net weight.

The pack of whole and minced clams amounted to 173,194 standard cases (2,597,910 pounds, drained weight, of clam meats), valued at \$2,029,484, while the production of clam chowder, juice, broth, and nectar totaled 1,006,580 standard cases (30,197,400 pounds net weight), valued at \$6,300,155.

The production of canned whole clams totaled 61,850 standard cases, valued at \$760,126; minced clams, 111,344 standard cases, valued at \$1,269,358; clam chowder, 983,584 standard cases, valued at \$6,219,480; and canned clam juice, broth, and nectar, 22,996 standard cases, valued at \$80,675.

Table 2 - Pack of Canned Clams & Clam Products, By Type of Product, 1939-48
(Quantity & Total Value to Cannery)

Year	Whole and Minced			Chowder, Juice, Broth, and Nectar	Total	
	Soft Clams ^{1/}	Hard Clams	Razor Clams		Std. Cases	Value
1948	107,177	29,085 ^{2/}	36,932	1,006,580	1,179,774	\$ 8,329,639
1947	33,968	24,863	47,407	1,151,424	1,257,662	8,642,235
1946	167,987	108,638	79,394	1,171,770	1,527,789	11,145,047
1945	64,425	238,475	63,703	533,429	900,032	7,391,098
1944	72,434	71,771	40,450	363,041	547,696	3,820,612
1943	47,746	28,344	40,340	348,364	464,794	2,802,420
1942	72,499	30,515	40,104	639,484	782,602	3,791,058
1941	97,460	32,303	40,192	757,388	927,343	3,711,029
1940	124,697	38,851	74,565	689,515	927,628	3,778,363
1939	117,602	42,056	76,315	699,174	935,147	3,798,319

1/ The production of canned surf clams in Maine has been included with the pack of soft clams.

2/ Includes pack of surf clams in New York.



U.S. Pack of Canned Crab Meat, 1948

The 1948 pack of canned crab meat amounted to 220,802 standard cases, valued at \$4,846,494 to the canner, an increase of 58 percent in volume and 79 percent in value compared with the previous year. The 1948 pack was the largest in history, exceeding the previous record (established in 1946) by nearly 22,000 cases. The increase in production occurred on the Pacific Coast where the pack totaled 187,420 cases, a gain of over 81,000 cases compared with the previous year. Crab meat for canning was obtained from three species of crabs in 1948--

Table 1 - Pack of Canned Crab Meat, By State & Species, 1948
(Quantity & Value to Cannery)

State	Species of Crab Used	Std. Cases	Avg. Price Per Case	Total Value
Md., N. & S. Carolina, Ga., Ala., & Miss.	Blue	18,862	\$19.15	\$ 361,200
Louisiana	Blue	14,520	15.20	220,672
Washington	Dungeness	104,362	22.00	2,295,905
Ore. & Calif.	Dungeness	56,982	23.49	1,338,349
Alaska	Dungeness	8,454	22.04	186,368
	King	17,622	25.20	444,000
Total		220,802	21.95	4,846,494

Note: "Standard cases" represent the various-sized cases converted to the equivalent of 48 cans to the case, each can containing 6½ ounces of crab meat.

Table 2 - Pack of Canned Crab Meat, By Size of Can & Container, 1948
(Quantity & Value to Cannery)

Can. & Case Size	Actual Cases	Avg. Price Per Case	Total Value
6½ ounces (48 cans) ..	188,429	\$22.52	\$4,243,071
6½ ounces (24 cans) ..	1/61,234	9.08	1,556,072
1½ ounces (24 cans) ..	1,079	24.00	25,896
3½ ounces (48 cans) ..	1,355	15.83	21,455
Total	252,097	-	4,846,494

1/ Includes a small pack of 5-ounce cans, packed 24 to the case.

Pacific Coast Dungeness crabs (169,798 cases), Atlantic Coast blue crabs (33,382 cases), and Alaska king crabs (17,622 cases).

Crab meat was canned in 6 plants in Louisiana, 21 in Washington, 9 in Oregon, 10 in Alaska and 1 plant each in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and California.

Table 3 - Pack of Canned Crab Meat, 1939-48 (Quantity & Value to Cannery)

Year	Atlantic Coast and Gulf States			Pacific Coast States and Alaska			T o t a l		
	Std. Cases	Avg. Price Per Case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Avg. Price Per Case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Avg. Price Per Case	Total Value
1948	33,383	\$17.43	\$581,872	187,420	\$22.75	\$4,264,622	220,802	\$21.95	\$4,845,494
1947	33,696	19.81	667,487	106,120	19.20	2,037,904	139,816	19.35	2,705,391
1946	120,150	21.11	2,536,405	78,928	27.67	2,183,714	199,078	23.71	4,720,119
1945	29,788	16.28	484,869	25,726	15.51	398,898	55,514	15.92	883,767
1944	36,386	15.41	560,735	50,556	15.84	800,723	86,942	15.66	1,361,458
1943	26,716	15.43	412,310	48,592	16.10	782,173	75,308	15.86	1,194,483
1942	29,656	13.41	397,772	84,892	15.99	1,357,293	114,548	15.32	1,755,065
1941	22,494	10.48	235,745	37,704	8.27	311,872	60,198	9.10	547,617
1940	13,486	9.70	130,869	25,254	7.05	178,021	38,740	7.97	308,890
1939	9,728	7.76	75,502	23,100	7.98	184,254	32,828	7.91	259,756



U.S. Pack of Canned Salmon, 1948

The 1948 pack of canned salmon in the Pacific Coast States and Alaska amounted to 4,824,966 standard cases, valued at \$120,537,196 to the cannery. Compared with

Table 1 - Pack of Canned Salmon, 1948, by Species and Area (Quantity & Value to Cannery)

Species	A l a s k a			Pacific Coast States			T o t a l		
	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value
Chinook or king ...	53,959	\$28.92	\$1,560,674	285,266	\$35.75	\$10,197,153	339,225	\$34.66	\$11,757,827
Chum or keta	781,888	20.33	15,896,244	276,158	19.26	5,319,477	1,058,046	20.05	21,215,721
Pink	1,304,480	22.65	29,541,982	4,480	26.04	116,651	1,308,960	22.66	29,658,633
Red or sockeye	1,639,902	26.55	43,533,904	97,907	41.70	4,082,685	1,737,809	27.40	47,616,589
Silver or coho	234,313	25.55	5,987,786	125,647	28.81	3,620,257	359,960	26.69	9,608,043
Steelhead	349	23.32	8,140	20,617	32.61	672,243	20,966	32.45	680,383
Total	4,014,891	24.04	96,528,730	810,075	29.64	24,008,466	4,824,966	24.98	120,537,196

Note: "Standard cases" represent the various-sized cases converted to the equivalent of 48 one-pound cans (each can containing 16 ounces).

1947, this was a decline of 14 percent in volume, and 0.1 percent in value. Alaska accounted for 84 percent of the 1948 pack; Puget Sound, 9 percent; the Columbia River districts of Washington and Oregon, 7 percent; and the coast areas of the Pacific Coast States, 1 percent.

Table 2 - Pack of Canned Salmon, 1939-48 (Quantity & Value to Cannery)

Year	A l a s k a			Pacific Coast States			T o t a l		
	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value	Std. Cases	Avg. Price per case	Total Value
1948	4,014,891	\$24.04	\$96,528,730	810,075	\$29.64	\$24,008,466	4,824,966	\$24.98	\$120,537,196
1947	4,312,286	20.56	88,669,542	1,329,226	24.05	31,969,134	5,641,512	21.38	120,638,676
1946	3,949,878	13.46	53,157,194	560,289	30.35	17,003,459	4,510,167	15.56	70,160,653
1945	4,350,471	10.26	44,644,303	557,769	14.24	7,942,102	4,908,240	10.71	52,586,405
1944	4,893,059	10.46	51,196,140	245,588	21.12	5,187,136	5,138,647	10.97	56,383,276
1943	5,428,318	10.65	57,824,267	275,889	18.53	5,110,847	5,704,207	11.03	62,935,114
1942	5,075,974	9.52	48,300,209	759,032	18.02	13,673,968	5,835,006	10.62	61,974,177
1941	6,932,040	8.11	56,217,601	899,589	12.45	11,199,317	7,831,629	8.61	67,416,918
1940	5,069,343	6.21	31,474,492	535,663	12.27	6,575,176	5,605,006	6.79	38,049,668
1939	5,263,161	6.54	34,441,122	728,943	10.07	7,339,727	5,992,104	6.97	41,780,849

Salmon were canned in 35 plants in Washington, 14 in Oregon, 4 in California, and 123 in Alaska.



WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES

The wholesale index for all foods, which for the past two months had risen slightly, again started to decline and on August 16 was 161 percent of the 1926 average--1.9 percent less than on July 19 this year and 15.7 percent below August 17, 1948, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

Wholesale and Retail Prices				
Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		Aug. 16, 1949	July 19, 1949	Aug. 17, 1948
Wholesale: (1926 = 100)				
All commodities	Index No.	151.9	-1.6	-10.6
Foods	do	161.0	-1.9	-15.7
Fish:				
Canned salmon, Seattle:		<u>Aug. 1949</u>	<u>July 1949</u>	<u>Aug. 1948</u>
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	4.802	+5.4	-13.7
Red, No. 1, Tall	do	6.008	+6.1	-9.0
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.				
	\$ per 100 lbs.	15.500	0	+6.9
Retail: (1935-39 = 100)				
All foods	Index No.	202.6	+0.4	-6.5
Fish:				
Fresh, frozen and canned	do	308.9	+0.4	+1.5
Fresh and frozen	do	254.4	+1.3	0
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per lb. can	56.9	-1.2	+4.0

Canned salmon wholesale prices increased substantially in August. Canned pink salmon prices were 5.4 percent higher in August than in July this year, but were still 13.7 percent below August 1948. Canned red salmon prices were 6.1 percent over July this year, but were still 9 percent below August a year ago.

Average retail food prices increased slightly and were 0.4 percent higher on August 15 this year compared with the previous month, but 6.5 percent below August 15, 1948. The retail fresh and frozen fish index increased 1.3 percent over mid-July this year and was equal to mid-August 1948. The combined fresh, frozen and canned fish index was 0.4 percent above mid-July 1949 and 1.5 percent higher than in mid-August 1948.

~~WASHER~~