

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels


First documents as fishing craft were received by 69 vessels of 5 net tons and over during September 1950—8 less than in September 1949. Louisiana and Florida led with 11 vessels each, followed by California and Texas with 8 vessels each.

A total of 671 vessels were documented during the first 9 months of 1950, compared with 804 during the same period in 1949.

Of the vessels receiving their first documents as fishing craft during September, 48 were built during 1949 and 1950, and the remainder prior to 1948.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, September 1950					
Section	September		Nine mos. ending with Sept.		Total
	1950	1949	1950	1949	1949
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England	6	2	28	27	35
Middle Atlantic	3	1	39	39	44
Chesapeake Bay	3	6	63	55	87
South Atlantic and Gulf	38	30	252	273	369
Pacific Coast	13	31	200	293	327
Great Lakes	1	2	10	33	38
Alaska	5	5	76	80	96
Hawaii	-	-	3	3	5
Unknown	-	-	-	1	1
Total	69	77	671	804	1,002

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



Alaska Herring Fishery Outlook Gloomy

Reading of the scales collected from the Alaska herring fishery during the 1950 season has shown that older fish are dominating the catch in both Prince William Sound and Southeastern areas, according to biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In both areas, the six-year-old class was most abundant with the 2-, 3-, and 4-year olds contributing much lesser amounts. In the Southern area, 2-year fish were almost completely absent. This scarcity of young fish in both areas points to a rather gloomy outlook for the Alaska herring catch in the next couple of years.



Alaska Fisheries--1949^{1/}

Of all the industries in the Territory of Alaska, the fishing industry has been developed to the greatest extent. The total value of the 1949 fisheries production in the Territory amounted to \$107 million, according to the annual report of the United States to FAO. Salmon canning constitutes the principal activity in the fishing industry and almost 4,500,000 cases, valued at \$94 million, were packed during 1949. Mild-cured, fresh, and frozen salmon production amounted to 15,000,000 pounds, worth \$3,750,000. Almost 23,000,000 pounds of halibut, valued at \$5,500,000, was landed at Alaska ports during the past year. Herring production of 30,000,000 pounds was worth \$950 thousand. All others, including clams, crabs, shrimp, meal, oil, etc., had a total value of \$2,500,000. Considerable opportunity exists for further expansion of the industry in the byproducts field and utilization of species not now being fished.



SALMON PURSE SEINER DOCKED AT KODIAK, ALASKA. PURSE SEINE NET IS STORED IN THE STERN OF THE BOAT. FISHING FLEET DOCKS CAN BE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND.

^{1/}ABSTRACTED FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (SEPTEMBER 1950).



Army Quartermaster Specifications to be Available From Three Sources

As an added service to manufacturers, processors, and venders wishing to bid on Army Quartermaster Corps supplies, copies of specifications covering Quartermaster items will be available to prospective bidders after November 1 from any of three Quartermaster procurement agencies, the Department of the Army announced on October 27, 1950.

Specifications have been available only from the agency calling for bids on a particular article. The increased number of prospective bidders from all parts of the country has necessitated a broader service in supplying specifications.

Regardless of which procurement agency issues the invitation hereafter, prospective bidders may request and receive specifications (including those for fishery products) from any of the agencies. This is expected to speed procurement procedures and facilitate preparation of bids.

Quartermaster procurement agencies which will supply specifications upon request are: Quartermaster Procurement Agency, 111 East 16th Street, New York 3, New York; Chicago Quartermaster Depot, 1819 West Pershing Road, Chicago 9, Illinois; and Oakland Quartermaster Procurement Agency, Oakland Army Base, Oakland 3, California.



Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, September 1950: A total of 1,171,779 pounds (valued at \$485,069) of fresh and frozen fishery products were purchased during September this year by the Army Quartermaster Corps for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for military feeding (see table). September purchases declined 60.2 percent in quantity and 59.3 percent in value as compared with the previous month; and were down 37.4 percent in quantity and 24.1 percent in value as compared with September 1949.

Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
September		January-September		September		January-September	
1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,171,779	1,872,844	11,810,436	12,962,832	485,069	639,460	4,897,322	4,276,365

Purchases for the first nine months this year were 8.9 percent lower in quantity, but 14.5 percent higher in value than for the corresponding period in 1949.



Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

"OREGON" TO LOCATE GROOVED SHRIMP AND TEST SHRIMP TRAWLS: Location of new grooved-shrimp grounds and the testing of shrimp trawls and shrimp and fish traps are the primary objectives of the Oregon's Cruise No. 5. The Service's Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program vessel left Pascagoula on November 14 and is scheduled to return on December 20. It will operate off the Gulf Coast between Aransas Pass, Texas, and Cameron, Louisiana, chiefly in depths greater than 20 fathoms.

Objectives of Cruise: The primary objective will be to locate commercial concentrations of grooved (brown) shrimp and to record conditions under which concentrations are found to exist, for comparison with similar data from other areas. A series of 75 trawling stations are planned for work in depths from 10 to 250 fathoms, but the largest proportion of these will probably center around the 30- to 50-fathom range.

A secondary objective on this cruise will be to test under various conditions the comparative efficiency of three types of shrimp trawls now commonly used in the Gulf of Mexico.

Another related activity planned for this cruise will be the testing of several types of shrimp and fish traps, particularly in areas where the bottom is not suited to trawling. It is not expected that catches of shrimp from traps will be large enough to be of commercial value. This use of traps by the Oregon is essentially an attempt to get information that may fill in gaps in the knowledge of the movements of some of the commercially-important species from one good fishing spot to another.

Operations During November 1950: The Oregon headed west after making a few drags off the mouth of the Mississippi River for comparison with September and July results. Indications of substantial numbers (150 pounds per hour) of 8-count grooved shrimp were found about 75 miles southeast of Freeport, Texas, during the vessel's operations in November. Work to delineate the present range of this population of shrimp is being continued.



Hawaiian Fisheries--1949^{1/}

Hawaiian fisheries production has continued its upward postwar trend. The catch landed in the calendar year 1949 was greater than in 1948, according to the annual report of the United States to FAO. This was due entirely to the continued increase in the tuna taken for canning purposes. The 1949 tuna catch was 18 percent larger than in 1948, and 75 percent larger than in 1946. The catch taken for consumption as fresh fish remains more or less static, although it was slightly less in 1949 than the previous year. The total of all fish landed during the calendar year 1949 was 8,057 tons. Of this, 4,922 tons was tuna used for canning purposes and 3,135 tons for sale as fresh fish to the local population. A portion of the canned tuna was exported.

The Pacific Ocean Fisheries Exploratory Research program under the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior was fully underway by the end of the calendar year. Employment in the fisheries field will increase as new areas and methods are discovered for economically harvesting the first crop.

^{1/} ABSTRACTED FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (SEPTEMBER 1950).

Michigan's Mussel-Shell Industry Fades Out in 1950

The business of dredging fresh-water mussels from Michigan's streams for pearl-shell buttons finally has skidded into oblivion, the Michigan Department of Conservation reported in November. This industry, prior to 1930, was worth \$500,000 annually.

More buttons are being made of plastics and ocean shells. Also, mussel dredgers have found little encouragement to keep the industry alive because of the availability of more stable employment opportunities.

The Conservation Department, which licensed only four dredgers to operate in 1949, reports that not even one license request was received in 1950. As recently as 1946, the Department issued 312 licenses; and in 1930 the State had 2,460 persons in the business.

The mussel season was closed by the Commission during 1944 and 1945 due to a shell scarcity. When open, the season normally runs from July 1 to September 30.



Missouri's Commercial Fisheries Production, 1949

Commercial fishing in the State of Missouri is permitted in the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and that part of the St. Francis River which forms the boundary between Arkansas and Missouri, the Missouri Conservation Commission reported in September 1950. In 1949, commercial fishing permits were purchased by 1,407 Missouri residents--277 below the 1948 total. About 544 permit holders fished in the Mississippi River, 802 in the Missouri River, and 61 in the St. Francis River.

According to monthly reports, a total of 846,102 pounds of fish was taken by commercial fishermen in these waters--12 percent less than that reported in 1948. In 1949, a catch of 549,199 pounds of fish was reported for the Missouri River; 354,960 pounds for the Mississippi; and 31,943 pounds for the St. Francis.

Carp composed 43.8 percent of the Mississippi River catch, 64.2 percent of the Missouri River production, and 50.5 percent of the St. Francis River take. Buffalo-fish ranked second, while flathead catfish (mud catfish) ranked third in the Missouri and St. Francis, and fourth in the Mississippi. Drum (fresh-water sheepshead) ranked third in the Mississippi and fourth for the Missouri and St. Francis.



North Pacific Exploratory Fishery Program

"JOHN N. COBB" EXPLORES FOR SHRIMP AND CRABS IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA (November 1950): Using beam trawls, otter trawls, and a New Bedford-type scallop dredge, the Service's exploratory fishing vessel John N. Cobb during November explored the possibilities of an "off-season" fishery for shrimp, crabs, scallops, and other bottom fish. Shrimp and crab traps are also being used on grounds where trawls are not practical.

The vessel, on Cruise No. 5, stopped at Ketchikan, Alaska, en route to the fishing grounds and picked up technologists from the Fishery Products Laboratory in that city, who are conducting studies on shrimp processing and packaging aboard the vessel.

Fishing in Tenakee Inlet and parts of Chatham Straits resulted in poor catches of shrimp. Although shrimp seemed widely distributed throughout the area, they were not found in commercial concentrations. Scallop fishing trials gave the same results.

In Peril Straits, large "spot" shrimp were taken by traps in rocky bottom in depths of 60 to 75 fathoms. Possibilities may exist for a small-scale commercial fishery for this variety. However, the vessel reported good catches of pink shrimp, exceeding 200 pounds per hour's fishing in the region near Sitka. Work in this area will be continued in order to obtain more information as to the extent of this shrimp population.



Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

PURSE-SEINE TUNA EXPLORATIONS TO BE CONTINUED BY "JOHN R. MANNING" (Cruise No. IV): Experimental purse-seine tuna-fishing operations will be continued by the John R. Manning on Cruise No. IV. The vessel, one of three research vessels of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, left Honolulu on October 26 and is expected to complete the cruise on December 7, 1950. The waters adjacent to the Line Islands from Kingman Reef to Christmas Island will be explored by the vessel.

In order to achieve the primary purpose of the cruise, a standard West Coast purse seine will be employed to ascertain its effectiveness for catching tuna in the central Pacific Ocean, and to determine what modifications may be needed in the standard gear to take advantage of differences in behavior of the tunas in this region from those off the American west coast.

Secondary objectives will be experimental fishing by live bait, together with obtaining hydrographic and synoptic weather observations, and the collection of biological materials.



Puerto Rican Fisheries ^{1/}

Environmental conditions limit the intensity of fishery operations in Puerto Rico. Improvements for the preservation of the fishery products are being made and freezing units are being installed in groceries and markets, according to the annual report of the United States to FAO.

The production of fish in 1945 was estimated at 3,276,000 pounds (valued at \$458,640 to the fishermen). The estimated fresh fish production for 1947-48 has averaged 4,000,000 pounds, with an estimated total value of \$600,000. This does not include live spiny lobsters which had a value of approximately \$32,000.

^{1/} ABSTRACTED FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (SEPTEMBER 1950).

Limited refrigeration facilities in distribution channels have greatly hindered the growth of the fresh fish trade in Puerto Rico. Both dealers and consumers have suffered from the lack of this convenience. In recent years great progress has been made in providing better refrigeration facilities; freezing plants have been established in San Juan, Ponce, Mayaguez, and Fajardo. Two freezing plants are owned and operated by the Government of Puerto Rico--one in San Juan and another in Fajardo.

The distribution of fresh fishery products in Puerto Rico is carried on by wholesalers, retailers, and peddlers and restricted generally to coastal areas. Very little fresh fish finds its way to the inland areas.

There are only a few wholesale dealers in Puerto Rico and their purchases of fresh fish are made directly from the primary producer. In some cases, wholesalers have entered the production end of the business in order to assure a constant supply. Wholesalers in the industry are reported to produce about 55 percent of the volume handled, and obtain the balance by purchasing from primary producers. The entrance of the wholesaler in the field of production has helped to improve handling methods.

The retail trade in fresh fishery products is handled by a few market stalls in the San Juan, Ponce, and Mayaguez areas. In addition, other combination stores and grocery stores are engaged in the trade in a very small scale to comply with their customers' request for fresh fish. Only five specialized seafood stores in San Juan are engaged in the retailing of fish to restaurants, hotels, and grocery stores, and these constitute one of the main outlets in the wholesale business.

Peddling is one of the most common methods for marketing fresh fishery products in Puerto Rico. Peddling is most common in those coastal communities where the distribution of fish is not well organized due to the absence of refrigeration or transportation facilities for the quick disposal of the catch. Due to the perishability of the product, fishermen are forced to peddle a large part of the catch by either hiring peddlers on a commission basis or peddling themselves. It is estimated that no less than 25 percent of the total catch is being peddled at present.



Recommendations for the Regulation of Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fisheries

A set of recommendations for the regulation of the shrimp fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission held on October 19-20, 1950, in New Orleans. These recommendations were developed by the Commission's Committee to Correlate Research and Exploratory Data, in cooperation with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives, and were submitted for consideration of the Commission; but no action was taken by the Commission at this meeting. The recommendations, as submitted, were as follows:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SHRIMP FISHERY OF THE GULF OF MEXICO SUBMITTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

The recommendations that follow are based upon present knowledge of the shrimp and the shrimp fishery. Future developments may require revision of these recommendations. The purpose of the recommendations is to obtain the maximum poundage of shrimp from each year's crop without unduly hampering the industry.

We base these recommendations on the knowledge that it is not necessary to protect the spawning stock and we assume that it is advantageous to protect the small shrimp.

While most of our knowledge is based upon research on the common shrimp, *Penaeus setiferus*, we have no reason to believe at this time that suggested regulations will not apply equally well to the grooved shrimp, *Penaeus aztecus* and *Penaeus duorarum*.

The following facts concerning the life history of the common shrimp we consider to be fundamental for the framing of regulations of the fishery:

1. Spawning occurs approximately from March through September in the offshore waters. The eggs are laid directly into the water and are not carried by the female. A female shrimp will lay between 500,000 and 1,000,000 eggs at a spawning.

2. The eggs hatch within a few hours and the young shrimp are carried by currents to the bays and estuaries which are the nursery grounds.
3. On the nursery grounds during the summer the young shrimp grow very rapidly, generally more than doubling their weight each month.
4. As they increase in size they move to waters of higher salinity. In Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the west coast of Florida the young appear in abundance on the inside fishing grounds by mid-June; in Texas by mid-July.
5. Shortly after appearing in abundance on the inside fishing grounds the larger shrimp begin to move to the outside waters. Thereafter there is a constant movement of these larger shrimp from the inside to the outside waters.
6. With the approach of winter and the resultant lowering of water temperature this movement is speeded up. The result is that the larger shrimp have moved to the outside waters leaving the smaller shrimp in the inside waters. At the same time the growth rate of the shrimp is appreciably decreased due to these lower temperatures.
7. With the approach of spring and the resultant warming of the waters the small shrimp which wintered over in the inside waters assume a very rapid rate of growth and soon catch up in size with the earlier spawned individuals. Concurrently they move from the inside to the outside waters. In these outside waters spawning takes place. At spawning these shrimp are approximately one year old. Few if any survive to spawn a second year. Therefore for all practical purposes the common shrimp is an annual.

We define inside waters to be all waters landward of the three-fathom line in the Gulf of Mexico. Outside waters are all waters seaward from the three-fathom line in the Gulf of Mexico.

Closed Seasons

Inside waters:

The first closed season for inside waters should be, for the area east of the Louisiana-Texas boundary, to and including St. Marks, Florida, from June 15 to August 31. The closed season for the inside waters of Texas should be from July 15 to September 15.

The second closed season for inside waters in all states should be from December 15 of one year to March 31 of the following year.

The first closed season is suggested to protect the small shrimp during the period of their most rapid growth. The different season suggested for Texas waters results from the fact pointed out above that the young shrimp appear later in the inside waters of this area.

The second closed season is suggested for the purpose of protecting the small shrimp that are wintering over in the inside waters. These shrimp produce the spring run.

Outside waters:

The outside waters should remain open to fishing in all states throughout the entire year.

There is at present no indication of a relationship between the number of spawners and the resulting crop. At no season of the year do small individuals predominate in the shrimp population in outside waters.

Size Limits

We recommend no size limits and that those now in effect be abolished.

When a size limit is imposed the basic purpose of the regulation is defeated by culling. Shrimp smaller than the legal size which have been killed in the fishing operation are discarded. The closed seasons recommended above if strictly enforced should provide adequate controls. While of no biological significance it is a fact that size limits are difficult to enforce which further detracts from their usefulness.

Night Fishing

Night fishing should be permitted in all waters during open seasons.

Whether a shrimp is caught during the day or during the night the effect on the population is the same.

A ban on night fishing would almost eliminate the grooved shrimp fishery which has become of great importance and has promise of considerable development.

Gear

No limitations are suggested on size of trawls or mesh.

We have no evidence that trawling is harmful or beneficial to the bottoms. The criticism that large trawls take an undue quantity of shrimp from the inside waters is not sound since it makes no difference to the shrimp population whether or not the shrimp are caught by a large or a small trawl. Competition between units of the fleet is an economic rather than a biological problem. Again we believe that the recommended closed seasons properly enforced should suffice for adequate control.

The size of mesh used in a trawl does not control to any marked degree the size of shrimp caught. In any case, we have already stated that the size of shrimp caught during open seasons does not need to be controlled.

The data we have shows that no significant quantities of important commercial or sport fishes are taken in shrimp trawling operations. In order to permit the escape of the small numbers of important fish which are caught it would be necessary to increase the size of the mesh to an extent which would seriously decrease the ability of the trawl to catch shrimp. The value of the shrimp caught by trawling operations is so vastly greater than the value of the fish incidentally caught that to curtail shrimping in order to prevent the capture of these fish would be unjustified.

Heading of Shrimp on the Grounds

There is no necessity for prohibiting the heading of shrimp on the fishing grounds.

Shrimp are cannibalistic, they will eat their fellows dead or alive. It is highly unlikely that the presence of shrimp heads on the bottom will cause live

shrimp to avoid that area. Returning shrimp heads to the sea is replacing a portion of nutrient removed.

Bait Fishing

It is suggested that the shrimp bait fishery regulations be seriously reconsidered since there is much evidence of the abuse of this privilege.



Texas Shrimp Fisheries--Trends and Conditions, 1950

The Texas shrimp fisheries continued to expand during 1950 according to a report from the Service's Fishery Marketing Specialist conducting the annual statistical fisheries survey of the Gulf States.

The brown shrimp fishery of Texas, which began in 1947, expanded greatly during this year. With the recent discovery of pink shrimp off the northern coast of Yucatan in the vicinity of the Campeche Snapper Banks, the fishery for brown and pink shrimp spread completely around the Gulf. One boat started fishing in the new area about mid-May, and by mid-August other vessels were operating in the same area. It is necessary for the vessels to hire additional men to "head" the shrimp aboard the vessels operating off Yucatan. The vessels usually return to port after fishing about three nights. The discovery of this new fishery has resulted in a concentration of the larger trawlers in the vicinity of Brownsville.

Elsewhere along the Texas coast the catches of shrimp have been fairly good. The run of white shrimp in the vicinity of Galveston, Freeport, and Sabine was better during May and June than in many years. More shrimp (mostly white) were landed at these ports in 1950 than at any time during the past five years. However, the fall run of white shrimp has been disappointing. When the bays were opened to shrimp fishing on September 1, 1950, the shrimp taken were mostly 21 to 30 count, an unusually large shrimp for the time of the year; however, the catches were poor.

With production at an all-time high during the summer months, the freezers were filled to capacity. By the time the fall season got well under way, most freezers could not handle any more shrimp and dealers were forced to market considerable quantities on the fresh market. This created a glut, consequently new ex-vessel prices were announced by the Texas Fishermen's Association effective August 25. The new ex-vessel prices were 2 cents per pound lower.

Even these lower prices did not move all the shrimp being produced, and on August 31 these prices were again reduced another two cents for all types and sizes to the following:

Size	Type of Shrimp	
	White	Grooved, Brown, and Pink
No. of heads-off shrimp per pound	(cents per pound)	
15-20	26	24
21-25	24	22
26-30	21	19
31-42	19	15

On July 9, the Texas, Game, Fish and Oyster Commission increased the number of shrimp licenses from 1,550 to 2,325.

U. S. Tuna Pack in 1950 Expected to Break All-Time Record

A record-breaking tuna pack of 9,000,000 standard cases for 1950 is in sight if production continues at the present rate. Even if production should decline during the next two months, the 1950 pack will probably exceed that of last year by a million cases, Fish and Wildlife Service statisticians assert. In 1949,^{1/} 7,290,000 standard cases of tuna were packed.

This will be the sixth successive year that a record has been established by the tuna industry. The average pack for the record-breaking years of 1944 to 1949 was 5,500,000 cases. During the war, tuna production dropped—reaching a low of 2,500,000 cases in 1942. While 1940 had a record pack of 4,188,000 cases, the 1935-39 average was less than 3,000,000 cases.

Increased tuna production in 1950 will only partially offset the loss in the production of canned salmon. The 1950 salmon pack, which was the smallest since 1921, was 75,000,000 pounds less than in the previous season, while the increase in tuna is estimated at about 25,000,000 pounds.

Imports of canned tuna will also provide additional supply with nearly five times as much tuna imported in 1950 as in 1949. Foreign producers are shipping their packs to the United States before the tariff of 22-1/2 percent ad valorem on tuna is increased to 45 percent on January 1.

^{1/} SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, JUNE 1950, PP. 28-9.

NOTE: CASES REPRESENT "STANDARD CASES" OF 48 NO. 1/2 TUNA CANS TO THE CASE, EACH CAN CONTAINING 7 OUNCES NET WEIGHT OF SOLID-PACKED MEAT OR 6 OUNCES NET WEIGHT OF FLAKES OR GRATED MEAT.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, OCTOBER 1950: Wholesale prices for fishery products during October this year were somewhat uneven, but were generally lower than in September. The edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) wholesale index for October was 110.8 percent of the 1947 average (see table 1)—1.5 percent below the previous month, but still 12.8 percent above October 1949, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor. Heavy production in all areas and substantial cold storage stocks probably accounted for the general decline.

Of the four subgroup indexes that make up the fishery products wholesale index, the canned fishery products subgroup index was the only one that increased in October. Higher prices quoted for canned salmon during October raised this subgroup index to 113.2 percent of the 1947 average—1.7 percent higher than the previous month and 19.8 percent above October a year ago. On the other hand, increased packing of canned tuna in California and the Pacific Northwest has resulted in a record pack to date and prices for this product showed signs of weakening. October canned tuna prices were slightly lower than a month ago and were lower than in October 1949. Prices of canned Maine sardines and California sardines during October remained steady in spite of larger packs, with the former selling at higher prices and the latter at lower prices than in the corresponding month a year ago.

All other subgroups in the fishery products wholesale index showed a general decline during October as compared with September this year. The biggest drop oc-

curred in the fresh processed fish and shellfish subgroup. In this subgroup, there was a decline of 6.0 percent from September to October, and this year's October index was 1.0 percent below the corresponding month the previous year. The biggest price decline occurred in shrimp—due to the unusually heavy production on the Gulf Coast, increased imports, and large cold storage holdings. Prices of small haddock fillets also declined because of the heavy production of scrod haddock in New England this year, and a scarcity of large haddock. Shucked oysters during October also were quoted at lower prices.

There was a general decline of 3.1 percent from September to October in the drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup. However, this year's October prices for items under this subgroup were still 15.4 percent higher than in October 1949. All fresh-water fish prices listed in this subgroup dropped substantially as compared with the previous month. However, the higher prices which prevailed in September were due to the Hebraic holidays which occurred during that month. Although the halibut prices quoted during October were higher than in September, large cold storage stocks of halibut may weaken the market, but prices were still substantially higher than in October 1949. Fresh drawn haddock and dressed fresh or frozen salmon prices dropped slightly from September to October this year, but they were still substantially higher than those prevailing in October 1949.

GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION	POINT OF ORIGIN	UNIT	AVERAGE PRICES (\$)			INDEXES (1947 = 100)		
			Oct. 1950	Sept. 1950	Oct. 1949	Oct. 1950	Sept. 1950	Oct. 1949
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)						110.8	112.5	98.2
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:						109.1	113.3	100.6
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:						125.2	129.2	108.6
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.12	.13	.11	129.4	130.7	117.1
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.40	.40	.32	116.1	115.3	92.3
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	"	.56	.56	.48	136.8	138.0	117.8
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.43	.47	.48	95.1	103.8	103.2
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	"	"	.45	.51	.40	130.0	147.1	115.3
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.53	.79	.44	120.5	179.4	99.9
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	" " "	"	.40	.58	.35	93.9	135.5	81.5
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):						89.3	95.0	90.2
Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.27	.27	.33	95.4	97.7	118.4
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.54	.59	.54	77.2	85.3	77.6
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	4.40	4.50	4.22	108.3	110.8	103.8
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):						102.6	103.5	99.0
Fillets: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. boxes	Boston	lb.	.35	.35	.32	113.0	113.0	103.9
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.24	.26	.24	109.7	115.4	109.7
Rosefish, 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.26	.24	.22	129.8	122.2	108.0
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5- to 10-lb. boxes	Chicago	"	.59	.61	.62	84.6	88.2	89.7
Canned Fishery Products:						113.2	111.3	94.5
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	23.64	22.90	15.76	154.1	149.3	102.7
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 2 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.75	14.81	15.25	96.0	96.4	99.2
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	"	"	6.25	6.25	5.85	69.9	69.9	65.4
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 1 drawn (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	5.75	5.75	7.70	56.4	56.4	75.5

October prices for the frozen processed fish and shellfish subgroup were only 0.9 percent below September and 3.6 percent higher than in October a year earlier. The drop in this subgroup was due mainly to lower prices for frozen haddock fillets and frozen shrimp. In October this year, haddock fillets sold at the same level as in the corresponding month a year ago, but shrimp were quoted at prices which were lower. Among the items in this subgroup, the only increase during October occurred in the frozen rosefish fillet prices, which were substantially higher than the previous month and still higher than in October 1949. October prices for frozen flounder fillets remained steady, but they continued at a higher level than in the corresponding month a year ago.

RETAIL PRICES, OCTOBER 1950: In direct contrast to the decline which occurred in the wholesale prices of fishery products during October, prices of fish and shellfish at retail rose substantially mainly due to the big increase in the retail prices of canned pink salmon.

Between September 15 and October 15, 1950, retail food prices rose only 0.2 percent and on October 15 they were still 4.2 percent higher than on the same date a year earlier (table 2). Fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) retail prices, on the other hand, rose 5.6 percent from September 15 to October 15 and on the latter date they were 7.2 percent higher than on October 15, 1949.

Table 2 - Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Fishery Products, October 15, 1950, with Comparative Data

Item	Base	I n d e x e s		
		Oct. 15, 1950	Sept. 15, 1950	Oct. 15, 1949
All foods	1935-39 = 100	209.0	208.5	200.6
All fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, & canned)	do	328.8	311.4	306.8
Fresh and frozen fish ...	1938-39 = 100	285.2	283.4	268.4
Canned salmon: pink	do	420.6	359.8	385.7

Since the increase in the prices of fresh and frozen fishery products on October 15 was only 0.6 percent as compared with those that prevailed in mid-September, the general increase in the retail fishery products index was directly attributable to the big jump in the retail prices of canned salmon. From September 15 to October 15, canned pink salmon prices jumped 16.9 percent and on the latter date were 9.0 percent higher than in mid-October 1949.



Economic Cooperation Administration Program Notes

AID TO SPAIN: United States loan aid for Spain will get underway immediately, with the Export-Import Bank of Washington acting as the operating agency, the Economic Cooperation Administration announced in November. Individual loans will be made for specific Spanish projects having prospects of making substantial contributions to the Spanish economy. The loans will be used to purchase commodities, equipment, and services for each project requiring dollar financing. There will be no bilateral agreement governing the loan aid, but all loans extended will be subject to guarantee by the Spanish Government.

AID TO THE PHILIPPINES: A "new Philippine era of progress and plenty" is stated as the goal of a United States supported aid program for the Government of the Philippines in an agreement signed in Baguio by President Truman's special representative, the Administrator of the Economic Cooperation, and Philippine President Elpidio Quirino. However, legislative action is necessary in the United States and the Philippines to put the aid program into actual operation.

The Agreement specifies that the Economic Cooperation Administration will be the agency of the United States Government to collaborate with the Philippine Council for United States aid and that the operation of ECA in the program in the Phil-



ippines will be along general lines already established by ECA in its relationships with other sovereign states.

Among other things, the Agreement states that the President of the United States intends to recommend to the United States Congress the appropriation of the necessary funds that will be required for a social, economic, and technical assistance program which will require several consecutive years of substantial aid, envisioned in the report of the Economic Survey Mission^{1/} at \$250 million.

A bilateral agreement is to be negotiated between the two governments to give force and effect to the pertinent sections of the Agreement.

^{1/} SEE PP. 52-4 OF THIS ISSUE.



ECA Procurement Authorizations for Fishery Products

No procurement and reimbursement authorizations for fishery products (edible and inedible) were announced by the Economic Cooperation Administration during November 1950. In addition, no cancellations or decreases affecting previous authorizations for fishery products were reported.

ECA procurement authorizations for fishery products from April 1, 1948, through November 30, 1950, amounted to \$29,111,000 (\$16,442,000 for edible fishery products, \$11,129,000 for fish and whale oils, and \$1,540,000 for fish meal).

During November there was an authorization for a product which is not generally included among the procurement authorizations for fishery products--\$100,000 to be used by the Federal Republic of Germany to purchase pearl essence and sheep guts from the United States and Possessions.



ERRATUM FOR OCTOBER 1950 ISSUE

In the October 1950 issue of Commercial Fisheries Review, p. 30, in the news item "Limit of Expansion for East Coast Rosefish Fishery Reached," the last sentence in the first paragraph should have read: "From a small beginning in the mid-30's, the catch has exceeded 237 million pounds for the past two years." The catch was incorrectly given as 327 million pounds.