



# TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

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

A total of 52 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during November 1950--9 less than in November 1949. Florida led with 13 vessels, followed by California with 10, and Louisiana with 8 vessels, the Bureau of Customs reports.

During the first eleven months of 1950, a total of 768 vessels were documented, compared with 939 during the same period in 1949.

Of the vessels receiving their first documents as fishing craft during November, 34 were built during 1949 and 1950. The remainder were built prior to 1949.

Section	November		11 mos. ending with Nov.		Total 1949
	1950	1949	1950	1949	
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England .....	1	2	36	32	35
Middle Atlantic .....	3	1	45	42	44
Chesapeake Bay .....	7	13	77	75	87
South Atlantic and Gulf .....	30	27	299	336	369
Pacific Coast .....	11	10	217	318	327
Great Lakes .....	-	3	11	38	38
Alaska .....	-	4	80	92	96
Hawaii .....	-	1	3	5	5
Unknown .....	-	-	-	1	1
Total .....	52	61	768	939	1,002

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



## Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY: November 1950: For military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, the Army Quartermaster Corps purchased during November 1950 a total of 2,112,669 pounds of fresh and frozen fishery products (see table). Compared with the previous month, November purchases dropped 18.5 percent in quantity and 16.9 percent in value; but compared with the corresponding month the previous year, November 1950 purchases were greater by 47.8 percent in quantity and 64.5 percent in value.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army (November and the First 11 Months, 1950 and 1949)							
Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
November		January-November		November		January-November	
1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,112,669	1,429,585	16,516,351	16,042,742	872,885	530,647	6,820,841	5,366,264

A comparison of purchases for the first 11 months in 1949 and 1950 shows that in the latter year there was an increase of 2.9 percent in quantity and 27.1 percent in value. This indicates that the Quartermaster Corps was probably paying more for its fresh and frozen fishery products and also buying more expensive varieties during 1950.

December 1950: Fresh and frozen fishery products purchased by the Army Quartermaster Corps during December 1950 for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for military feeding amounted to 1,367,195 pounds (valued at \$578,321).

Compared with the previous month's purchases, December's purchases dropped 35.3 percent in quantity and 33.7 percent in value. Although December 1950 purchases were 4.5 percent lower in quantity, the value was 16.7 percent greater than in the corresponding month of 1949.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army, December 1949 and 1950			
December 1950		December 1949	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
lbs.	\$	lbs.	\$
1,367,195	578,321	1,430,900	495,747

the value was 16.7 percent greater than in the corresponding month of 1949.

1947-50: Purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products by the Army Quartermaster Corps during 1950 for the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for military feeding and a small amount for relief feeding amounted to 17,883,546 pounds, valued at \$7,399,162.

Although there has been an increase in the quantity purchased from 1947 through 1950, the rate of increase has dropped (see table). However, purchases for 1950 were 2.3 percent higher than in 1949, 8.4 percent above 1948, and 27.2 percent greater than in 1947.

The value of these purchases in 1950 was 26.2 percent greater than in 1949, 24.2 percent higher as compared with 1948, and 71 percent more than in 1947. The

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army, 1947-50							
Q U A N T I T Y				V A L U E			
1950	1949	1948	1947	1950	1949	1948	1947
..... (in pounds).....				..... (in \$).....			
17,883,546	17,473,642	16,495,000	14,058,349	7,399,162	5,862,011	5,957,000	4,327,431

average price per pound paid by the Quartermaster Corps for fresh and frozen fishery products increased from 31 cents in 1947 to 36 cents in 1948, dropped to 33½ cents in 1949, and reached a high of 41 cents in 1950. The high average price for 1950 indicates that the purchases consisted, in some instances, of higher-priced varieties.

With the contemplated increase in the Armed Services during 1951, purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products during the year no doubt will be greater than in 1950.



## Fishery Biology Notes

METHOD FOR IMPROVING OYSTER CULTCH EFFICIENCY: To test methods for improving the efficiency of oyster cultch, a 1949 shell planting in the Eastern Chesapeake Bay seed area was worked with a bagless dredge to knock off fouling organisms and clean shell surfaces for setting, according to a December 1950 report from the Service's Chesapeake Shellfish Investigations.

The following shows that the results of this technique increased efficiency:

1949 UNSCOURED SHELLS CAUGHT 80 SPAT PER BUSHEL  
 1949 SCOURED SHELLS CAUGHT 132 SPAT PER BUSHEL  
 1950 PLANTED SHELLS CAUGHT 146 SPAT PER BUSHEL

This demonstrates that shells fouled by one year's accumulation of fouling organisms and silt may be cleaned and made more efficient by working with a bagless dredge. It also shows that clean shells from the shucking houses are the best cultch when planted just before the setting period.

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SETTING OF AMERICAN OYSTER IN LONG ISLAND SOUND: Setting of the American oyster, *Ostrea virginica*, in Long Island Sound, which began July 22, ended October 9, the latter being the latest date setting was ever recorded there. As in many previous years, there were two distinct setting waves, the first peaking about July 30 and the second September 17. The 1950 season generally was the third poorest since 1937; 1943 and 1948 showing poorer sets, the Service's Shellfish Laboratory at Milford, Conn., reported in December 1950.

The Connecticut oyster industry's estimated losses of more than 5 million dollars as a result of the storm of November 25-26 greatly exceeded damages caused by the 1938 and 1944 hurricanes.

NEW OYSTER LARVAE FOOD ISOLATED: In attempts to isolate and culture sufficient colorless flagellates for oyster larvae food, the Laboratory staff has isolated a new form, tentatively identified as *Rhynchobodo agilis*, and will soon try it as larvae food. In two experiments they found larvae of early stages used some colorless flagellates. In one experiment larvae fed colorless flagellates were significantly larger at 8 days than larvae in control cultures fed green algae.

"O. VIRGINICA" CONSISTS OF DIFFERENT RACES: The staff demonstrated experimentally for the first time the existence of physiologically different races of oysters within the general population of *O. virginica*. Three years ago they brought seed oysters to Milford from different geographical districts. Oysters from Massachusetts or Long Island, the more northern latitudes of the range in which *O. virginica* is found, spawned in Milford Harbor during the 1950 season, discharging all accumulated spawn. The majority of oysters from the warmer regions, New Jersey or Virginia, either did not spawn or discharged by the end of summer only a portion of accumulated spawn. Spawning temperature requirements of northern oysters are somewhat lower than those of southern oysters.



CULTURE OF EUROPEAN OYSTER: The young of the heavy set of European oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) obtained last summer in the experimental tanks at Milford laboratory are kept in Milford Harbor. Some individuals have reached the size of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches since setting. Some oysters, set last March in the laboratory and kept since under favorable conditions, now measure 3 inches, a size requiring several years' growth under natural conditions in England.

CULTURE OF QUAHOG, "VENUS MERCENERIA": Numerous healthy cultures of larvae were grown from spawn of clams kept in "cold storage" in Boothbay Harbor waters. A large group of these clams, brought to Milford on October 24 were kept in experimental tanks, where the water temperature was too low to induce spawning. From time to time these have been brought into the laboratory and induced to spawn. Thus a method to provide workers with clam spawn, during the period when it is not available locally, has been provided.

To determine the effect of substrata on growth rate of clam set, the staff placed clams in boxes filled with mud, sand, a mixture of mud and sand, and in gravel and kept them otherwise under identical conditions until the growing season ended. At the beginning of the experiment, the clams, which came from the population cultured from eggs under laboratory conditions, averaged 2.0 mm. in size. Remeasuring showed clams grew best in gravel, then in a mixture of mud and sand, in sand, and finally in mud alone. Survival followed the same pattern.

To determine effect of population density upon growth rate, the staff planted small clams at the rate of 200, 400, 600, and 800 individuals per square foot in a limited area and remeasured them at the end of the growing season. A report on this project will be issued after the data has been analyzed.

STARFISH: The extremely light 1950 starfish (*Asterias forbesi*) set, beginning July 11 and ending August 7, was heaviest on July 22. Like the oyster setting, the starfish set density was heaviest at the depth of 20 feet in the Bridgeport area. Results of the fall survey of distribution and occurrence of starfish on Connecticut oyster beds have shown generally the distribution remains about the same as a year ago but eradication measures have substantially decreased the starfish number.

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METHOD DEVELOPED FOR TELLING SHAD'S AGE FROM SCALES: A method has been developed for reading the total age of shad from the scales, reports the Service's Middle and South Atlantic Fishery Investigations. This is a new development, since heretofore only the spawning marks had been read and the age at maturity was not known.

An analysis of the preliminary readings indicates that male shad mature at about 3 years of age and females at 3 or 4 years.

The age distribution data made available by use of the new technique will permit much more accurate estimation of the dynamics of the shad population for use in conservation measures.

SEROLOGICAL TECHNIQUES BEING EXPLORED FOR USE IN FISHERY BIOLOGY: Since one of the factors governing the abundance of fish stocks (marine as well as fresh water) is disease, an approach to this and other baffling problems is being undertaken at the Boothbay Harbor Station in Maine through the use of serological techniques. This approach is the same as that used not only in diagnosing many diseases of warm-blooded

animals, but also in identifying protein as, for instance, distinguishing animal from human blood, according to a December report from the Service's North Atlantic Fishery Investigations. A method for quickly and positively identifying infected individuals even though no visual evidence of disease is present, may be provided by this approach. It is possible, too, that through this technique, a method of positive identification (to genus and species) of fish (even juveniles previously unidentifiable) can be made. Progress reported to date has been encouraging.

## Great Lakes Fishery Investigations

REPORT ON SEA LAMPREY INVESTIGATIONS: In an effort to control the predatory sea lamprey in the Great Lakes, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Fishery Biology, under a cooperative arrangement with the University of Michigan, is studying effects of various toxicants on larval sea lampreys. The cooperators have tested over 120 chemicals. The majority of the compounds tested kill larval sea lampreys at concentrations as low as 0.125 to 5.0 parts per million.

One of the largest manufacturers of chemicals in the United States has made several thousand chemical compounds available for these tests. Philip J. Sawyer, a Service biologist, developed a rapid method of assaying these chemicals. At present, all available chemical compounds are being screened by the Service's Great Lakes Fishery Investigations to determine those best suited for killing larval lampreys.

The next phase of this program will be to determine whether the most promising chemical compounds can be used in natural waters for controlling the sea lampreys which are causing so much havoc in the Great Lakes.

In December 1950, the Branch of Fishery Biology reported that survey parties had returned to Hammond Bay station from Lake Superior, where they had been evaluating the abundance and reproductive capacity of the sea lamprey in all watersheds of the area. Preliminary analyses of data collected in the inshore waters of Lake Huron indicate the abundance of lake trout to be still declining while lamprey scarring continues to increase. Yellow perch, formerly relatively free from lamprey depredations, now appear with as much as 50 percent of the catch scarred. Laboratory experiments on feeding habits of the sea lamprey are designed to determine frequency and duration of lamprey attacks on prey species, and to measure growth of sea lampreys under varying conditions of available food.

In Carp Lake River, the Cook Research Laboratory has installed an experimental apparatus to determine whether it is possible to electrocute young downstream migrant lampreys. Early observations indicate lampreys are much more difficult to kill at given voltage levels than any species of fish native to that area.

During the fall of 1950, the Great Lakes staff reconstructed and improved existing control devices. They placed a concrete substructure in Carp Creek, Presque Isle County, to test the feasibility of using this type of base for a portable weir which can be installed during seasons of spawning migrations. They altered the Ocqueoc River weir and traps for experiments during the coming spring with electronic control devices. They changed also the location of several other weirs to make them more suitable from either a biological or operational standpoint.

## Gulf Exploratory Fishery Program

**"OREGON" TO LOCATE GROOVED SHRIMP GROUNDS OFF FLORIDA WEST COAST (Cruise No. 6.):** Location of commercial quantities of grooved shrimp north of the present Key West shrimp fishery is the main objective of the Oregon's cruise No. 6. This exploratory fishery vessel of the Service left Pascagoula on January 8 and is scheduled to return on January 30. It will operate off the Florida coast, between Tampa Bay and Dry Tortugas.

The vessel plans to record the conditions under which grooved shrimp in the area are found. A series of 50 trawling stations is planned. Most of these stations will range between 10 and 30 fathoms.

Two types of bottomless trawls have been constructed for use in areas that can not be fished with the conventional nets. These trawls will be tested to determine their efficiency. In addition, the use of shrimp, fish, and lobster traps in unfavorable trawling areas will be continued.

For use in future tuna fishing explorations, a series of temperature stations will be made from the Mississippi coast south to about the 23rd parallel in order to determine thermocline levels in the Gulf in the winter.



## Gulf Fishery Investigations

**DRIFT CARDS BEING DISTRIBUTED IN GULF OF MEXICO:** Several thousand post cards (each sealed in a plastic container) are being dropped in the Gulf of Mexico to

trace the complex system of surface currents in the Gulf. This project is sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, the Gulf Fishery Investigations of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission, and the Department of Oceanography of Texas A. and M. College.

Also cooperating in the undertaking is the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

U. S. Navy aircraft will distribute these "drift" cards at carefully established points throughout the Gulf during this year. Each card is printed in English and Spanish.

### NOTICE TO FINDER NOTICIA A QUIEN ENCUNTRE

Interior--Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C. 20546

These cards are being used to study the currents of the Gulf of Mexico. Please remove from plastic and fill in blank spaces. Mail every card you find. No postage needed in U. S. In return you will be told the time and place of their release. Thank you.

Your name  
Su nombre

Exact location of card  
Exacta localid adada alio tarjeta

Your address  
Su direcion

Date and time found  
Fecha y hora que vd la alio'

Estas tarjetas son en conjunto con un estudio de las corrientes del Golfo de Mejico. Nos hara' un gran servicio si las soca de su cuvierta y llena en las linias, la informacion que deseamos. Pongale ura estampilla a cada tarjeta y echela al carreo. Por su gran servicio vd a de reciver pago por cada estampilla y vd recivira informacion sobre la hara y el sito del despache de cada tarjeta. Gracias.

Currents are expected to float most of the cards up on beaches, where many will be found and returned to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission at New Orleans. The Commission will route them to scientists who will deduce therefrom the sea paths which the cards must have followed.

Studying marine currents by putting drift objects in the water is an old method. Oceanographers have generally used sealed bottles with cards in them to plot the ocean currents. Winds often influence too greatly the course followed by drift bottles, a result which the use of drift cards is expected to correct.



### Once Important Florida Sponge Fishery Fading Out

Most of the Tarpon Springs sponge vessels are either tied up or engaged in tourist activities in an attempt to make expenses, according to a report from the Service's Red Tide Fishery Investigations at Sarasota, Florida. Two members of the Investigations' staff visited Tarpon Springs, Florida, in December 1950 to discuss with sponge fishermen the condition of the once-important Florida sponge fishery. They found that three companies operating six boats conduct demonstration dives; a few converted boats are used for deep-sea fishing. Some vessels operate off Key West in grounds which are difficult to fish but are reported unaffected by the blight which prevails on the grounds near Tarpon Springs. Because of the seasonal growth of "grass" and poor weather, vessels can work the grounds off of Key West only about one month in the year.

The occurrence of diseased sponges in the grounds off Tarpon Springs according to the chief of the Investigations, seems sporadic. New healthy sponges appear for a while and then suddenly become diseased. Boat owners restrict their fishing efforts to the shallower water in the hooking grounds, where they bring in a few marketable sponges, but scarcely make expenses. There are not enough healthy sponges in the deeper waters to warrant diving operations. Boat owners feel that either the State or the Federal Government should study the Florida sponge fishery.



### Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations

"JOHN R. MANNING" TO PURSE SEINE TUNA IN PHOENIX AND LINE ISLANDS AREA (Cruise No. V): For seven weeks the John R. Manning, one of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations vessels, will cruise through the Phoenix and Line Islands area in order to determine whether or not tunas may be caught in these regions with purse-seine equipment. On an earlier trip to the Phoenix Islands, the vessel encountered few fish and difficult weather. The present cruise is part of the overall plan to examine fishing possibilities at various times of the year.

A West Coast purse seine, modified by insertion of two strips of linen webbing, will be employed to determine the effectiveness of a deeper net for catching tunas in the Central Pacific Ocean, and to test the qualities of linen cordage. Experience to date has indicated that tuna schools in the area of the cruise swim more rapidly and act more erratically than do those encountered off Central America. Consequently, the best chances for success with this type of fishing seem to lie in a design which has been modified for speed and ease in handling.



Purse-line strain will be determined at various times during the actual set. Tests will be conducted also to determine the speed with which the lead line sinks and reaches the maximum depth.

Secondary objectives will include making hydrographic, biological and synoptic weather observations, and the collection of biological materials.

The vessel, which left Honolulu on or about January 11, is expected to return from this cruise between March 1-15, 1951.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE EQUATORIAL COUNTEREQUATORIAL CURRENT TO BE CONTINUED BY "HUGH M. SMITH" (Cruise No. VIII): In order to complete sections of hydrographic stations across the equatorial counterequatorial current system, the Hugh M. Smith left Honolulu on January 14 on its Cruise No. VIII. Because it now appears that the equatorial divergence is of primary importance in fertilizing surface waters, observations are needed farther southward into the adjacent south equatorial current than were made on previous trips. These will be taken on the Samoan leg of the cruise. The station pattern is also designed to give information on north-south shifts in the position of the system and the differences in intensity of the circulation from that observed on previous cruises and to investigate the possible existence of significant eddies or meanderings along the boundary of the counter-current.

This research vessel of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations will occupy a series of 26 hydrographic stations between Honolulu and  $7^{\circ}$  S. Lat. along  $158^{\circ}$  W. Long. Then the ship will return to the north equatorial belt and proceed westward along a series of diagonals across the equatorial current system to about  $165^{\circ} 30'$  W. Long., occupying stations 27 to 62; then to American Samoa, occupying stations 63 to 76 in this section. After a short lay-over the vessel will cruise north to  $21^{\circ}$  N. Lat., occupying stations 77 to 106 in this last portion of the cruise; then proceed due east to Honolulu. About 8,700 miles will be covered by the Hugh M. Smith.

At chosen depths at each station temperatures will be taken, together with water samples which will be analyzed for salinity, oxygen, and inorganic nutrients. A plankton haul will also be taken at each station. In certain localities transparency measurements and hauls with a small fish trawl will be made. These data are being collected for determination of the position and extent of the counter-equatorial current in different longitudes, the degree of upwelling along the current boundaries, and the effect thereon on the general productivity of the region.

Bathythermograph observations will be made at regular intervals throughout the cruise. A thermograph recording surface temperatures will be operated continuously.

Observations will be made en route, during daylight hours, on the occurrence of tuna schools and associated phenomena. Specimens of adult tunas, juvenile tunas, and tuna food organisms will be collected by various means, including surface trolling, night-light fishing, plankton net towing, and pelagic trawling.





## South Pacific Fishery Investigations

COOPERATIVE SARDINE RESEARCH PROGRAM NOTES FOR 1950: In investigating distribution and abundance of sardine spawning, the agencies cooperating in the Pacific Sardine Research Program have found sardine eggs to be spawned in the open sea near the surface, according to a report from the Service's South Pacific Fishery Investigations. Young sardine remain in upper layers, usually above 50 meters (164 feet). Hauling fine-meshed, silk plankton nets, vessel personnel quantitatively sampled eggs and young. At monthly intervals they collected oceanographic and biologic data, including plankton tows, in the waters from central Lower California to northern California and offshore to about 400 miles. The agencies cooperating in the program are the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the California Division of Fish and Game, and Industry (through the California Marine Research Committee). The Service's South Pacific Fishery Investigations' Black Douglas, and Scripps' Crest and Horizon, each covers a pattern of about 45 stations on each cruise.

The 1949 and 1950 investigations disclosed a compact area of intense spawning around and south of Cedros Island and a much larger area of more diffuse spawning off southern California and northern Lower California. Between these two areas spawning was meagre during both seasons and was confined to a narrow coastal strip. North of Pt. Conception during the second season it was meagre.

At the beginning of the 1950 season, spawning (at first confined to the southern portion of the surveyed area) gradually progressed northward as the season advanced. In February, the first cruise of the season, spawning was proceeding in the area around and south of Cedros Island. By March it had extended about 120 miles northward and during June extended from the Cedros area to San Francisco. Spawning was meagre over most of this range and only moderately heavy in the southern California area. July saw about the end of the spawning season.

In 1950, as in 1949, sardines spawned within a rather narrow temperature range. Of the sardine eggs sampled, 98.4 percent occurred between 12.5° and 16.0° C. (54.5-60.8° F.). The northward spawning progression in both seasons associated itself with northward progression of favorable spawning temperatures.

The two centers of heavy spawning are in areas enriched by upwelled water. Upwelling appears important because the nutrient enrichment associated with it increases food supply available to sardine larvae and upwelled water temperature is likely to favor spawning, especially in the southern part of the spawning range.

The manner in which currents in the two areas disperse the upwelled water seems to influence the extent of the two spawning centers. Currents carrying upwelled water from above and around Pt. Conception sweep in a broad arc before bending inshore off Lower California. In this area spawning extends seaward 300 miles or so. Since currents in the Cedros area are much closer to shore, spawning is concentrated within a 60 or 80-mile wide coastal strip.



## U. S. Imports of Groundfish Fillets in 1950 Highest on Record

Imports of fresh and frozen cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish (ocean perch) fillets in 1950 were the highest on record (see table 1). The 1950 im-

ports of 66,618,167 pounds were 39 percent above the 1949 total of 47,776,990 pounds, according to preliminary data released in January by the Bureau of Customs.

Canada shipped 77 percent of the fillets imported into the United States during 1950; followed by Iceland, 19 percent; and Norway, 3 percent (see table 2). Most of the remaining 1 percent was received from Denmark, Greenland, and the United Kingdom.

QUOTA FOR 1951 ESTABLISHED:<sup>1/</sup> The reduced-tariff-rate quota for the calendar year 1951 on fresh and frozen groundfish (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish) fillets is 29,239,808 pounds, the Bureau of Customs announced on January 12. The annual quota for groundfish fillets is the quantity entitled to be entered for consumption in the United States at the rate of 1-7/8 cents per pound. This annual quota is further divided into quarterly quotas. Any quantity entered over the quarterly quota during each quarter will be dutiable at 2-1/2 cents per pound.

Year	Pounds	Year	Pounds
1950 ...	<sup>1/</sup> 66,618,167	1944 ...	24,545,569
1949 ...	47,776,990	1943 ...	16,323,416
1948 ...	53,727,697	1942 ...	16,674,082
1947 ...	35,093,435	1941 ...	9,931,030
1946 ...	49,171,089	1940 ...	9,739,853
1945 ...	43,169,156	1939 ...	9,426,285

<sup>1/</sup>PRELIMINARY.

Country	1950 <sup>1/</sup>	1949	1948
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Canada .....	51,067,779	42,459,033	49,141,992
Iceland .....	12,529,576	4,859,133	4,181,204
Norway .....	2,080,376	437,979	395,109
Denmark .....	595,256	-	9,352
Greenland .....	239,100	-	-
United Kingdom .....	93,858	-	-
Netherlands .....	11,475	20,845	-
Belgium .....	520	-	-
Sweden .....	122	-	40
German Federal Republic .....	91	-	-
Union of South Africa .....	14	-	-
Total .....	66,618,167	47,776,990	53,727,697

<sup>1/</sup>PRELIMINARY.

Of the total quantity of fish (29,239,808 pounds) entitled to entry at the rate of 1-7/8 cents, not more than one-fourth shall be entered at the reduced rate under the quota during the first, second, third, and fourth quarter, respectively. The quota for the first quarter (beginning January 1 and ending March 31, 1951) is 7,309,952 pounds, and the same amount is the quota for each succeeding quarter of 1951.

The quota for 1951 is a little over 11 percent higher than the quota of 26,235,738 pounds established for 1950.

<sup>1/</sup> ALSO SEE PP. 95-6 OF THIS ISSUE.



## Wholesale and Retail Prices

**WHOLESALE PRICES, DECEMBER 1950:** Generally higher wholesale prices for edible fishery products prevailed during December 1950. This was attributed to an increase in demand early in the month and to the usual seasonal drop in production.

In spite of the slackened demand that usually takes place in the marketing of most of these products during the Christmas-New Year holiday period, wholesale fishery products prices rose, conforming to the price trend of most other foods and commodities. The edible fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) wholesale index for December was 112.9 percent of the 1947 average (see table 1)--3.4 percent higher than the previous month and 12.2 percent above December 1949, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Indexes of Fish and Shellfish, December 1950, with Comparative Data

GROUP, SUBGROUP, AND ITEM SPECIFICATION	POINT OF PRICING	UNIT	AVERAGE PRICES (\$)			INDEXES (1947 = 100)		
			Dec. 1950	Nov. 1950	Dec. 1949	Dec. 1950	Nov. 1950	Dec. 1949
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned)						112.9	109.2	106.6
Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products:						112.9	106.9	105.2
Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish:						130.2	124.7	111.7
Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh	Boston	lb.	.14	.12	.12	142.4	128.1	126.7
Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.40	.40	.31	115.3	116.0	90.3
Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen	" " "	"	.55	.55	.46	134.4	133.9	112.8
Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh	Chicago	"	.50	.48	.57	109.8	104.3	103.2
Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh	"	"	.51	.52	.47	146.0	149.6	136.2
Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound net, round, fresh	New York City	"	.61	.53	.58	137.9	120.7	130.8
Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh	" " "	"	.39	.41	.31	92.2	95.1	72.9
Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish):						95.1	86.1	95.4
Fillet, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins	Boston	lb.	.28	.25	.35	99.9	90.7	126.0
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen	New York City	"	.55	.51	.66	79.7	73.6	95.6
Oysters, shucked, standards	Norfolk area	gal.	4.88	4.31	4.00	120.0	106.2	98.5
Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish):						97.4	97.0	97.3
Fillet: Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. boxes	Boston	lb.	.35	.35	.28	113.0	113.0	90.4
Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack	"	"	.22	.23	.26	100.7	104.1	116.5
Rosefish, 10-lb. cello-pack	Gloucester	"	.26	.26	.21	131.9	130.0	105.6
Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5- to 10-lb. bxs.	Chicago	"	.53	.52	.61	75.9	74.9	88.2
Canned Fishery Products:						112.9	112.5	93.6
Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case	Seattle	case	23.64	23.64	15.76	154.1	154.1	102.7
Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 1/2 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case	Los Angeles	"	14.75	14.75	15.25	96.0	96.0	99.2
Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case	" "	"	6.25	6.25	5.63	69.9	69.9	62.9
Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 1/2 drawn (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case	New York City	"	5.50	5.25	7.25	53.9	51.5	71.1

All subgroups in the fishery products wholesale index for December 1950 indicate a general increase over the previous month and over December 1949. The only exception was the processed fresh fish and shellfish subgroup which dropped below the index for a year earlier.

Lighter landings of haddock in New England, a light supply and an increased demand for oysters, and an improvement in the demand for shrimp were the main factors responsible for the large increase in the subgroup index for fresh processed fishery products. This index jumped 10.5 percent from November to December, but was still 4.3 percent below the corresponding period a year earlier.

There was a rise of 4.4 percent from November to December in the drawn, dressed or whole fin fish subgroup due to a smaller production of nearly all items included in this category--a general seasonal occurrence. However, the December 1950 index was 16.6 percent higher than a year earlier.



With cold storage holdings at the highest point for the year, the December index for processed frozen fish and shellfish increased 0.4 percent over November, but was only 0.1 percent higher than in the last month of 1949. In this subgroup, the increases occurred mainly in frozen rosefish fillets (holdings of which are below a year earlier) and shrimp (in spite of heavy imports from Mexico). The unusual heavy catches of small scrod haddock landed at Boston towards the latter part of 1950 increased the processing of frozen small haddock fillets and consequently prices quoted for this product dropped in December.

Since canned fishery products, especially salmon, had already increased substantially a few months earlier, December's index for this subgroup was only 0.4 percent higher than the previous month, but 20.6 percent greater than in December 1949. Mainly responsible for the small climb in this subgroup during December was the increase which occurred in the prices for canned Maine sardines. Prices quoted for canned salmon, California sardines, and tuna were similar to those that prevailed in November.

**RETAIL PRICES, DECEMBER 1950:** The retail fishery products index did not increase as much as that for all foods from November 15 to December 15, 1950. However, retail fishery products prices continued to climb (see table 2). Between mid-November and mid-December 1950, retail food prices rose 2.8 percent, but fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) retail prices increased only 1.0 percent. Compared with mid-December 1949, the retail index in mid-December 1950 was higher for all foods by 9.2 percent, but for all fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) it was 13.6 percent higher. The major portion of the increase in fishery products is due to higher prices quoted for canned fish, especially canned salmon.

Fresh and frozen fishery products prices in mid-December 1950 were only 0.2 percent above those which prevailed in mid-November, but they were 7.5 percent higher than in mid-December 1949.

Canned pink salmon also continued to increase and the index on December 15, 1950, was 456.4 percent of the 1938-39 average--2.3 percent above the previous month, and 26.8 percent greater than in mid-December 1949.

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

Item	Base	INDEXES		
		Dec. 15, 1950	Nov. 15, 1950	Dec. 15, 1949
All foods .....	1935-39 = 100	215.4	209.5	197.3
All fish and shellfish (fresh, frozen, & canned) ..	do	339.8	336.5	299.0
Fresh and frozen fish .....	1938-39 = 100	287.1	286.5	267.1
Canned salmon: pink .....	do	456.4	445.9	359.8

### Economic Cooperation Administration Program Notes

**DANISH VETERINARIAN IN U. S. STUDIES BACTERIOLOGICAL METHODS OF PRESERVING AND SHIPPING FISHERY PRODUCTS:** A Danish veterinary surgeon is in this country for a three-month study of bacteriological methods of processing, canning, and shipping fishery products, the Economic Cooperation Administration announced on January 24.



Sanitary and hygienic measures to raise the quality of fish and shellfish and methods of preventing spoilage are the particular interests of Hans P. Riemann, staff member of the Research Laboratory of the Danish Ministry of Fisheries.

The study is important to the Danish fishing industry, which in 1949 exported fish valued at 192 million kroner (\$27,840,000) and which expects to increase its volume.

Riemann, whose study is sponsored by the Economic Cooperation Administration under its technical assistance program, will visit Government and private research institutions and canneries on the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts, as well as Chicago.

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INDONESIA TO USE ECA FUNDS TO RESTORE FISHING INDUSTRY: A series of U. S. aid projects have been launched by the Economic Cooperation Administration to assist the Indonesian Government in certain aspects of its efforts to restore and advance the public health services, restore the fishing industry, aid the small rubber planters, develop forest resources, stimulate agriculture, and support small industries throughout the country, ECA announced on January 26.

The program of assistance to Indonesia has been developing over the past six months, since the Congress last July authorized ECA to extend its program to the countries of Southeast Asia. Burma, Thailand, and Indo-China also are receiving U. S. technical and economic assistance.

A small American mission was sent to Djakarta, the Indonesian capital, and has been helping the Indonesian Government lay the groundwork for getting the maximum benefit from the American aid. American specialists in health and medicine, sanitation, agriculture, forestry and lumbering, fisheries, and industry are being recruited to work with the Indonesian Government officials.

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NEW SLOGAN FOR ECA SHIPMENTS: A new slogan, "Strength for the Free World-- From the United States of America," will appear on the ECA emblem which marks American-financed shipments to Europe and Southeast Asia, states a January 27 news release from ECA. It replaces the previous slogan, "For European Recovery, Supplied by the USA," which has identified goods financed under the Marshall Plan.

Adoption of the new slogan, the ECA Administrator said, is a symbol of ECA's new role in world affairs. From an assignment of promoting postwar recovery in Europe through the Marshall Plan, ECA has developed into a global operation with increasingly responsible duties in the mobilization picture. As an economic arm of the United States' foreign policy it is now operating in Southeast Asia as well as in the countries of Western Europe and their overseas dependencies.

ECA has changed gradually into its new role since the start of the Korean war last June with defense needs receiving priority over requests for recovery projects. While still responsible for providing economic aid to maintain a solid economic base for the western world's defense program, ECA is now emphasizing programs to increase military production in Western Europe. This objective will be reached by supplying direct aid in the form of raw materials and machinery as well as technical assistance to the industrial plants of the North Atlantic Treaty countries.

ECA regulations require each supplying company to clearly label European-bound goods, where practicable, with the official emblem. Regulations covering the relatively new Southeast Asia program are being revised to include this responsibility.

ECA does not supply labels or stencils, but furnishes samples which can be made up by the supplying company itself or purchased from label supply firms. Samples of the new insignia are available from the ECA Office of Information, Washington 25, D. C.



## 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 January 1951. In addition, no cancellations or decreases affecting previous authorizations for fishery products were reported. (See Commercial Fisheries Review, January 1951, p.44 for cumulative totals).

However, during January ECA announced a procurement and reimbursement authorization of \$395,000 to be used by the Indonesian Republic for purchasing fishing equipment from the Netherlands, Japan, and the United States and Possessions.



## CANADIAN POSTAGE STAMP HONORS FISHERIES

A new \$1.00 Canadian postage stamp, in recognition of the commercial fisheries of that country, was issued on February 1, 1951, by the Canadian Post Office Department, reports the November 1950 Trade News of the Department of Fisheries.

The stamp emphasizes the great wealth of the fishery resources which are accessible to Canadian fishermen off both the East and West coasts and in the inland lakes and rivers.

The central subject in the design is symbolic of Canada's hardy fisherman, showing one of them in an open boat, hauling in a net. Surrounding this subject is a wide border with a fish-net background, upon which are illustrated 16 varieties of fishery products important to Canada's economy.



The new postage stamp is green and is the same size as the current \$1.00 postage stamp, approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 1 inch.