

TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Additions to the Fleet of U. S. Fishing Vessels

A total of 55 vessels of 5 net tons and over received their first documents as fishing craft during July 1952--30 less than in July 1951. Washington led with 11 vessels, followed by Florida East Coast with 8 vessels and Virginia with 6 vessels.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft, June and July 1952

| Section | J u l y | | 7 Mos. ending with July | | J u n e | | 6 Mos. Ending with June | | Total 1951 |
|--------------------|---------|--------|----------------------------|--------|---------|--------|----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | |
| | Number | Number | Number | Number | Number | Number | Number | Number | |
| New England | 3 | 5 | 20 | 25 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 20 | 36 |
| Middle Atlantic .. | 3 | 6 | 21 | 27 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 21 | 34 |
| Chesapeake | 7 | 8 | 40 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 33 | 11 | 36 |
| South Atlantic ... | 10 | 10 | 51 | 68 | 8 | 15 | 41 | 58 | 118 |
| Gulf | 10 | 13 | 73 | 114 | 20 | 15 | 63 | 101 | 173 |
| Pacific Coast | 19 | 35 | 178 | 226 | 50 | 49 | 159 | 191 | 284 |
| Great Lakes | 1 | - | 7 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 25 |
| Alaska | 2 | 7 | 76 | 57 | 4 | 6 | 74 | 50 | 71 |
| Hawaii | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 55 | 85 | 466 | 547 | 99 | 98 | 411 | 462 | 780 |

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

First documents as fishing craft were received by 98 vessels of 5 net tons and over during June 1952--1 more than in June 1951. Washington led with 44 vessels, followed by Louisiana with 8 vessels and Texas with 7 vessels, the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department reports.



Federal Purchases of Fishery Products

FRESH AND FROZEN FISH PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JULY 1952: The Army Quartermaster Corps this July purchased 2,279,901 pounds (valued at \$1,097,619) of fresh and frozen fishery products for the military feeding of the U. S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force (see table). Lower than the previous month's purchases by 42.8 percent in quantity and 27.0 percent in value, these purchases were also considerably below July 1951--14.8 percent in quantity and 7.4 percent in value.

Purchases of Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products by Department of the Army
(July and the First Seven Months, 1952 and 1951)

| Q U A N T I T Y | | | | V A L U E | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| July | | January-July | | July | | January-July | |
| 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 | 1952 | 1951 |
| lbs. | lbs. | lbs. | lbs. | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| 2,279,901 | 2,675,231 | 18,504,481 | 17,273,920 | 1,097,619 | 1,185,523 | 8,568,666 | 7,218,841 |

Purchases for the first seven months this year were greater by 7.1 percent in quantity and 18.7 percent in value as compared with the first seven months of 1951. Fresh and frozen fishery products were purchased by the Quartermaster Corps during the first seven months this year at an average price per pound of 46.3 cents--higher than the average of 41.8 cents paid in January-July 1951. This indicates to a certain extent that higher-priced products were purchased this year.



Fishery Products Marketing Prospects, July-September 1952

Consumption: Civilian consumption of edible fishery products in 1952 is expected to be about the same as the preceding year's rate. During the first half of this year slight reductions in consumption were indicated for all major groups--fresh, frozen, and canned--but some pick-up in civilian takings is in prospect after mid-summer.

Prices: Retail prices for the year as a whole probably will be about equal to those for 1951. Through mid-year the index of retail prices for all fishery products was almost the same as that of a year earlier.

Production: The commercial catch of fish and shellfish has totaled somewhat smaller so far this year than in the same period of 1951. However, production activity is now at its seasonal peak, and will continue high until mid-fall. Prospects for the year as a whole point to a total output about as large as that of 1951.

Freezings and Cold-Storage Holdings: The commercial freezing of fishery products in the United States and Alaska through mid-1952 has also been somewhat below a year earlier. Commercial freezing operations will be seasonally large in the next three months.

Cold-storage holdings of frozen fishery products in the United States and Alaska on July 1 totaled almost 20 percent larger than a year earlier--record holdings for that date. The quantity of fishery products in cold storage will continue to expand until late fall in order to build up supplies for distribution in the low-production months next winter. Over the past few years, domestic demand for frozen fishery products has expanded. This has been accompanied by a definite upward trend in the quantity of these products held in storage, a sharp increase in commercial freezings, and an increase in imports.

Canned Fishery Products: Trade reports indicate that civilians have taken smaller quantities of canned fishery products per person thus far this year than in the same part of 1951. Consumption of canned salmon and tuna was maintained at about the rate of a year earlier, but declines were apparent for Maine sardines and, to a lesser extent, California sardines (pilchards) and mackerel. Some seasonal increase will occur this summer, but the consumption rate per person probably will remain somewhat below that of a year earlier at least until early fall when the present year's packs will move to market in larger volume.

Production of canned fishery products in 1952 is expected to total about the same as last year. Current indications are that there will be a much larger pack of Maine sardines, but output of many of the other popular species of canned fishery products may be slightly smaller than in 1951. Domestic supplies of canned fishery products may be supplemented by sizable imports of salmon from Canada. This year the United Kingdom (the largest export market for Canadian canned salmon) has indicated that it will not purchase any of this commodity from Canada.

Foreign Trade: Imports of fishery products probably will be larger this year than in 1951, but no noticeable expansion in exports is anticipated. Receipts of frozen products from abroad, especially of groundfish (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, and cusk) and ocean perch fillets, may reach a record level in 1952. Through June, imports of groundfish and ocean perch fillets totaled 53.1 million pounds, more than 25 percent above the comparable 1951 total.

Exports of canned fishery products thus far in 1952 have been impeded by the foreign trade restrictions and by the relatively short supplies of the types of products--for example, California sardines (pilchards)--which are popular abroad. There is no indication that the situation will improve much this year.

This analysis appeared in a report prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and published in the former agency's July-September 1952 issue of The National Food Situation.



New England Tuna Explorations

TUNA SIGHTED BY "MARJORIE PARKER" (Fishing Cruise No. 3): Gill nets, trammel nets, and long lines were tried by the Marjorie Parker in an 11-day trip spent in exploring for bluefin tuna in the offshore waters from Georges Bank to Jeffreys Ledge. This vessel, which has been chartered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, left July 5 and returned to Portland on July 15.

One small school of tuna was sighted on the last day of the voyage, near Portland Light Ship. Trolling lines failed to produce any strikes although the area was thoroughly covered by the vessel.

Fishing operations were started on the first day of the trip when gill nets and trammel nets were set off Halfway Rock, Maine, where tuna had been sighted a few days previously by the small-boat fleet operating in that area. No tuna were caught in this set, although a small quantity of mackerel and herring were meshed in the nets.

From July 6 to July 9, long-line trawl sets were made in various spots on the southwestern edge of Georges Bank, South Channel grounds, and on Cashe Ledge with negative results. Later in the trip long-line sets on Stellwagen Bank, Cape Cod Bay, Ipswich Bay, and York Ledges, Maine, were also unsuccessful in producing tuna. Trammel nets were fished in Cape Cod Bay and Ipswich Bay without success, while trolling with surface lures was carried on continuously during daylight hours.

Reports from other fishing vessels cited numerous observations of tuna schools in the general vicinity of Cashe Ledge and also in spots from twenty to forty miles East by South of Cape Ann Light, but the Marjorie Parker was unable to find any fish in these areas.

A series of bathythermograph recordings were made during the trip and surface water temperatures were recorded at regular intervals. Results of these tests showed that the thermocline is comparatively shallow with a gradual cooling down to the 15-fathom mark, followed by an abrupt drop to considerably lower temperatures down to 75 fathoms.

The vessel left on July 17 for Fishing Cruise No. 4 and was scheduled to return to port on July 30.

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"MARJORIE PARKER" BRINGS IN TRIP OF BLUEFIN TUNA (Fishing Cruise No. 4): A total of 87 bluefin tuna (3,800 pounds round weight) were landed at Portland on July 26 by the Marjorie Parker after completing the fourth trip of the 1952 tuna exploration. The tuna were taken by floating Japanese long line in offshore waters 24 miles SE. x E. of Peaked Hill Bar Buoy off Chatham, Massachusetts, on July 23, 24, and 25.

A large school of tuna was sighted in the area on the afternoon of July 23. Ten baskets of long line with 70 hooks were baited with frozen squid, and a drifting surface set of four hours resulted in a catch of 32 fish, averaging 40 pounds each--a successful fishing effort of 45 percent.

A set of 20 baskets was made that evening and 51 fish were caught on the 140 hooks during a period of 10½ hours--a 36 percent successful set. A later set of 10 baskets the same day resulted in a catch of 7 tuna. An overnight set of 5 baskets caught 6 more fish the following day. Contact with the school was lost on July 25 when a set of 3 baskets produced a total of 6 fish.

While standing by the gear and using dead herring for chum, the school fish were successfully lured alongside the vessel. However, the tuna would not take the dead herring, although using frozen squid for bait two fish were caught on hand lines during this period. Live bait may have proved extremely attractive to the school, and conditions appeared favorable for live-bait fishing with jig poles.

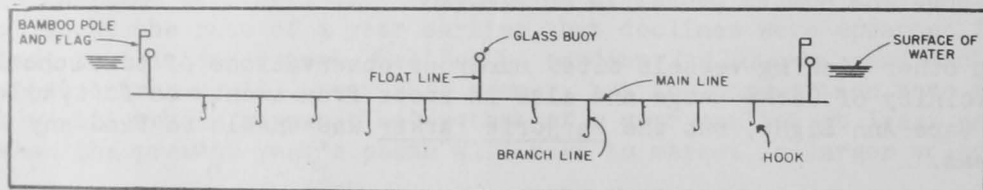
Sharks were active in the vicinity, especially during the night sets, and tuna losses were quite high. Two trammel nets were set in the area on the afternoon of July 27, but no tuna were caught by this method. Although 85 hours were spent trolling, no tuna were caught by this method.

The fish brought in by the vessel were purchased by a Portland fish company (highest bidder) at \$200 per ton.

Fishing Cruise No. 5 was started by the vessel on July 30. The vessel, which will fish in the Gulf of Maine, is expected to return to port on August 10.

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"MARJORIE PARKER" SUCCESSFULLY CATCHES BLUEFIN TUNA WITH LONG-LINE GEAR (Fishing Cruise No. 5): Catches of bluefin tuna at rates as high as 46 fish per hundred



TYPICAL JAPANESE LONG-LINE TUNA-FISHING GEAR WHICH IS BEING TESTED BY THE MARJORIE PARKER FOR BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING IN NEW ENGLAND WATERS.

hooks were made by the Marjorie Parker on Cruise No. 5 of this year's New England bluefin exploration. The trip was terminated in Portland on August 10. Total catch was 3,855 pounds of bluefin, averaging 43 pounds (round weight) per fish. As on the previous trip, all tuna were caught on floating long lines baited with frozen squid.

Fishing operations were conducted in two general areas: southeast of Cape Cod and east southeast of Cape Ann. Catches from the latter area accounted for all but five of the tuna taken. Few schools were seen, and practically all the sets were made with no surface signs of fish. Tuna were caught on 13 of the 17 sets made. A set of 8 baskets (56 hooks) on August 8 off Eastern Point resulted in a catch of 26 tuna. On August 9, a set of 20 baskets (140 hooks) caught 35, and 10 baskets produced 14 tuna. Two sets of trammel nets did not catch tuna, and surface trolling was also unproductive.

The Japanese long line used on this trip contains 900 feet of tarred cotton main line per basket with 7 short branch lines attached at regular intervals, these ending in a wire leader and baited hook. Support is provided by glass floats, 10 inches in diameter tied directly to each end and to the center of each basket of main line. Flag buoys are attached at every fifth basket. Rigged thus, the gear floats in the warm water zone near the surface. It is set from the stern while under reduced speed, and after drifting for about 4 hours it is hauled from the starboard side amidship. About 1½ hours is normal hauling time for 20 baskets. To determine the style of long line most effective for New England bluefin, various modifications of this gear are being tested, such as additional floats to keep the hooks near surface-swimming fish, shortening of branch lines to allow more hooks per basket, and different baits.

Successful bids from commercial fish companies for this catch of tuna were at \$240 and \$220 per ton.

The Marjorie Parker left Portland, Maine, on August 14 for fishing Cruise No. 6. Using long lines, surface trolls, and trammel nets the vessel will fish east of Portland in the Seguin Island-Monhegan Island areas, Jeffreys Ledge, southeast of Eastern Point, Gloucester, and Fippennies Ledge. It is expected to return to port about August 24.



Pribilof Islands Fur-Seal Take For 1952

A total of 63,870 fur-seal skins was taken this year in the Government-administered sealing operations on Alaska's Pribilof Islands, the Secretary of the Interior announced August 1. The annual sealing operations, which are conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, began on June 20 and were terminated on July 27.

The fur-seal industry on the Pribilofs is a responsibility of the United States Government, but 20 percent of the 1952 take will be delivered to the Canadian Government under the terms of the Provisional Fur-Seal Agreement of 1942 with Canada.

This year's yield was 3,181 skins greater than last year. Pelts are obtained chiefly from three-year-old males. Service officials on the Pribilofs have advised that the remaining animals in the three-year-old class and the carry-over of older males "assure ample reserve stock for the herd."



ALASKA FUR SEALS

This year, for the first time, a new beaming machine for the mechanical blubbering of the seal skins was successfully operated on the islands. Also, a new concrete paddle tank for brine-curing the skins was reported to have operated successfully. These developments are aimed at streamlining the various operations required to prepare the skins for shipment to St. Louis for dressing and dyeing by the Fouke Fur Company--Government agents in the processing and selling of the seal skins.

Approximately 80 percent of the world's fur seals come to the Fribilof Islands to breed each summer. During the winter they range southward as far as southern California. 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 these animals.



New York State Marine Fisheries Production, 1951

New York State's marine fisheries production in 1951 amounted to 339,805,489

| New York State Marine Fisheries Production, 1950-51 | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Species | 1951 | | 1950 | |
| | Quantity lbs. | Value \$ | Quantity lbs. | Value \$ |
| Fish: | | | | |
| Swellfish (blowfish) | 738,269 | 59,062 | 788,900 | 63,112 |
| Butterfish | 1,877,529 | 281,629 | 1,036,537 | 196,942 |
| Cod | 1,893,328 | 283,999 | 2,016,870 | 262,193 |
| Flounder | 918,304 | 91,830 | 2,224,210 | 222,421 |
| Fluke | 2,656,528 | 531,305 | 4,098,390 | 778,694 |
| Haddock | 13,126 | 1,969 | 809,266 | 97,112 |
| Herring | 542,520 | 10,850 | 139,100 | 4,173 |
| Menhaden | 144,374,699 | 1,443,746 | 120,281,400 | 1,202,814 |
| Scup (porgy) | 9,832,109 | 983,210 | 8,888,513 | 799,966 |
| Sea bass | 2,771,560 | 554,312 | 1,703,114 | 340,623 |
| Striped bass | 684,536 | 191,670 | 507,620 | 131,981 |
| Tilefish | 447,387 | 53,686 | 926,197 | 111,144 |
| Whiting | 681,279 | 48,690 | 661,895 | 33,095 |
| Yellowtail | 768,148 | 138,267 | 1,190,520 | 142,862 |
| Mixed for Animal Food | 135,000 | 2,700 | 3,246,000 | 32,460 |
| Unclassified | 1,886,377 | 241,012 | 2,573,170 | 342,465 |
| Total | 170,220,699 | 4,917,937 | 151,091,702 | 4,762,057 |
| Shellfish:^{1/} | | | | |
| Clams: | | | | |
| Hard | 42,836,325 | 2,327,392 | 47,635,440 | 2,530,633 |
| Surf | 26,974,240 | 674,356 | 21,226,720 | 530,668 |
| Oysters | 93,829,055 | 7,513,440 | 81,254,850 | 5,416,990 |
| Scallops: | | | | |
| Bay | 910,170 | 121,356 | 243,315 | 32,442 |
| Sea | 3,378,149 | 1,689,075 | 4,806,247 | 2,162,811 |
| Squid | 955,086 | 66,856 | 633,607 | 44,352 |
| Unclassified | 701,765 | 131,115 | 680,889 | 132,555 |
| Total | 169,584,790 | 12,523,590 | 156,481,068 | 10,850,451 |
| Grand Total | 339,805,489 | 17,441,527 | 307,572,770 | 15,612,508 |

^{1/} WEIGHT IN THE SHELL.

NOTE: ONLY MAJOR SPECIES ARE LISTED INDIVIDUALLY.

pounds (valued at \$17,441,527 to the fisherman). Compared with 1950, this was an increase of 10.5 percent in catch and 11.7 percent in value. The menhaden catch increased from 120,281,400 pounds (valued at \$1,202,814) in 1950 to 144,374,699 pounds (valued at \$1,443,746) in 1951. Hard-clam production dropped from 47,635,440 pounds (weight in the shell) in 1950 (valued at \$2,530,633) to 42,836,325 pounds (valued at \$2,327,392) in 1951. However, this drop in hard-clam production was offset by an increase in the surf-clam production from 21,226,720 pounds (weight in the shell) in 1950 (valued at \$530,668) to 26,974,240 pounds (valued at \$674,356) in 1951. Oysters also showed a substantial increase-- from 81,254,850 pounds (weight in the shell) in 1950 to 93,829,055 pounds in 1951.



Wholesale and Retail Prices

WHOLESALE PRICES, JULY 1952: Wholesale price fluctuations from June to July this year were mixed. The wholesale over-all index for edible fish and shellfish

Table 1 - Wholesale Average Prices and Revised Indexes for Edible Fish and Shellfish, July 1952 with Comparative Data

| Group, Subgroup, and Item Specification | Point of Pricing | Unit | Average Prices (\$) | | Indexes (1947-49 = 100) | | | |
|--|------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | | | July 1952 ^{1/} | June 1952 | July 1952 | June 1952 | May 1952 | July 1951 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH (Fresh, Frozen, and Canned) | | | | | 102.9 | 102.8 | 105.8 | 105.0 |
| Fresh and Frozen Fishery Products: | | | | | 107.1 | 105.1 | 108.2 | 106.0 |
| Drawn, Dressed, or Whole Finfish: | | | | | 111.6 | 107.9 | 114.8 | 108.9 |
| Haddock, large, offshore, drawn, fresh | Boston | lb. | .11 | .10 | 113.4 | 102.5 | 108.6 | 105.8 |
| Halibut, Western, 20/80 lbs., dressed, fresh or frozen | New York City | " | .35 | .35 | 108.3 | 102.2 | 106.8 | 99.1 |
| Salmon, king, lge. & med., dressed, fresh or frozen | " " " | " | .49 | .54 | 110.2 | 120.9 | 125.9 | 116.4 |
| Whitefish, mostly Lake Superior, drawn (dressed), fresh | Chicago | " | .35 | .39 | 86.7 | 96.7 | 130.1 | 106.1 |
| Whitefish, mostly Lake Erie pound or gill net, round, fresh | New York City | " | .47 | .44 | 94.0 | 88.0 | 131.4 | 109.2 |
| Lake trout, domestic, mostly No. 1, drawn (dressed), fresh | Chicago | " | .58 | .53 | 117.8 | 107.8 | 101.4 | 107.8 |
| Yellow pike, mostly Michigan (Lakes Michigan & Huron), round, fresh | New York City | " | .71 | .46 | 166.5 | 106.7 | 102.0 | 132.5 |
| Processed, Fresh (Fish and Shellfish): | | | | | 101.1 | 100.7 | 99.2 | 101.2 |
| Fillets, haddock, small, skins on, 20-lb. tins | Boston | lb. | .27 | .28 | 90.2 | 93.6 | 100.4 | 94.0 |
| Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), headless, fresh or frozen | New York City | " | .60 | .59 | 94.9 | 93.3 | 88.5 | 93.1 |
| Oysters, shucked, standards | Norfolk area | gal. | 4.50 | 4.50 | 111.3 | 111.3 | 111.3 | 112.5 |
| Processed, Frozen (Fish and Shellfish): | | | | | 102.6 | 104.0 | 102.3 | 105.4 |
| Fillets: | | | | | | | | |
| Flounder (yellowtail), skinless, 10-lb. pkg. | Boston | lb. | .36 | .37 | 124.4 | 129.7 | 129.7 | 147.2 |
| Haddock, small, 10-lb. cello-pack | " | " | .24 | .24 | 87.4 | 89.3 | 89.3 | 90.2 |
| Ocean perch (rosefish), 10-lb. cello-pack | Gloucester | " | .23 | .23 | 108.3 | 108.3 | 110.7 | 105.7 |
| Shrimp, lge. (26-30 count), 5-lb. pkg. | Chicago | " | .64 | .65 | 98.7 | 99.5 | 94.1 | 97.8 |
| Canned Fishery Products: | | | | | 96.8 | 99.4 | 102.2 | 103.3 |
| Salmon, pink, No. 1 tall (16 oz.), 48 cans per case | Seattle | case | 19.95 | 21.00 | 104.4 | 109.6 | 109.6 | 125.2 |
| Tuna, light meat, solid pack, No. 2 tuna (7 oz.), 48 cans per case | Los Angeles | " | 14.50 | 14.35 | 90.5 | 89.6 | 89.6 | 80.9 |
| Sardines (pilchards), California, tomato pack, No. 1 oval (15 oz.), 48 cans per case | " | " | 9.38 | 9.38 | 109.4 | 109.4 | 109.4 | 80.0 |
| Sardines, Maine, keyless oil, No. 1 drawn (3 1/2 oz.), 100 cans per case | New York City | " | 6.45 | 6.70 | 68.6 | 71.3 | 102.7 | 73.7 |

^{1/} REPRESENT AVERAGE PRICES FOR ONE DAY (MONDAY OR TUESDAY, IF AVAILABLE) DURING WEEK BEGINNING JULY 13. PRICES ARE NOT THE ACTUAL ONES USED TO COMPUTE THE INDEXES SINCE THE PRICES USED FOR THAT PURPOSE ARE CARRIED OUT TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES.

(fresh, frozen, and canned) for July was 102.9 percent of the 1947-49 average (see table)--0.1 percent above the previous month, but 2.0 percent lower than in July 1951, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor reports.

Although July fish landings in New England in July were as liberal as in June, increased demand raised July prices for fresh offshore drawn haddock up above June this year and July 1951. Salmon prices dropped in July. Dressed fresh or frozen halibut prices in July were substantially (6.0 percent) above those quoted in June. Drawn whitefish receipts at Chicago were fairly heavy in July and prices were substantially below the previous month and a year earlier. On the other hand, round fresh whitefish receipts at New York City in July were light and prices rose substantially over the previous month, but were lower than in the

corresponding month a year ago. Lake trout and yellow pike production in the Great Lakes was light and July prices for these fish were considerably above the previous month and the same month last year. Mainly due to higher prices for fresh haddock and halibut, the drawn, dressed, or whole finfish subgroup index this July was 3.4 percent above the previous month and 2.5 percent higher than in July 1951.

Fresh processed fish and shellfish prices from June to July rose only 0.4 percent, but these prices were 0.1 percent lower than in July last year. Heavy haddock landings in New England brought fresh haddock fillet prices in July 3.6 percent below June and 4.0 percent lower than in July 1951. Because of a drop in shrimp production in the Gulf area, fresh headless shrimp prices rose 1.7 percent from June to July this year and were 1.9 percent higher than in July a year ago.



MODERN RETAIL FISH MARKET

Frozen processed fish and shellfish prices this July dropped 1.3 percent below June and were 2.7 percent lower than in July 1951. From June to July this year, lower prices were quoted for all frozen fillets and for frozen shrimp. Compared with July 1951, prices for ocean perch fillets were 2.5 percent higher and for frozen shrimp 0.9 percent higher, while frozen flounder and haddock fillet prices were considerably lower.

Canned fishery products prices in July continued to drop due to a decline in tuna, salmon, and Maine sardines. The month's index for this subgroup was 2.6 percent lower than in June and 6.5 percent below July 1951. Compared with July last year, prices for canned salmon were 16.7 percent lower and for Maine sardines 6.9 percent lower, while prices were up for canned tuna (11.9 percent) and for canned California sardines (36.8 percent).

RETAIL PRICES, JULY 1952: While retail prices of all foods bought by moderate-income urban families have been climbing steadily beginning in April this year, prices of all finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) have steadily declined since March. The retail food index on July 15, 1952, was 234.9 percent of the 1935-39 average--1.5 percent higher than a month earlier and 3.2 percent above the same period in 1951 (see table 2). But all finfish in mid-July retailed 0.5 percent below the previous month and 3.2 percent below the same month a year earlier. Although retail prices for fishery products in general seasonally decline during the spring and summer months, the declines reported this year have been more pronounced than in 1951 and 1950.

Table 2 - Adjusted Retail Price Indexes for Foods and Finfish, July 15, 1952, with Comparative Data

| Item | Base | I N D E X E S | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | July 15, 1952 | June 15, 1952 | July 15, 1951 |
| All foods | 1935-39 = 100 | 234.9 | 231.5 | 227.7 |
| All finfish (fresh, frozen, and canned) | do. | 342.1 | 343.9 | 353.3 |
| Fresh and frozen finfish | 1938-39 = 100 | 291.8 | 293.3 | 288.1 |
| Canned salmon: pink | do. | 454.2 | 456.9 | 509.2 |

Retail prices for fresh and frozen finfish from June 15 to July 15 dropped 0.5 percent, but were still 1.3 percent above mid-July 1951. Canned pink salmon

prices, which have been steadily dropping since June 1951, went even lower and in mid-July were 0.6 percent lower than the previous month and 10.8 percent below the same period in 1951.

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices and Price Ranges of Individual Finfish Products, July 15, 1952

| Product | Unit | UNITED STATES | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | Range of Prices | Average | Average |
| | | July 15, 1952 | July 15, 1952 | June 1952 |
| | | ¢ | ¢ | ¢ |
| Frozen Finfish Fillets: | | | | |
| Ocean perch ¹ | lb. | 29-69 | 45.9 | 46.1 |
| Haddock ² | lb. | 35-75 | 50.1 | 50.5 |
| Canned Finfish: | | | | |
| Salmon, pink | 16-oz. can | 39-79 | 56.2 | 56.5 |

¹/PRICED IN 46 CITIES OUT OF 56.

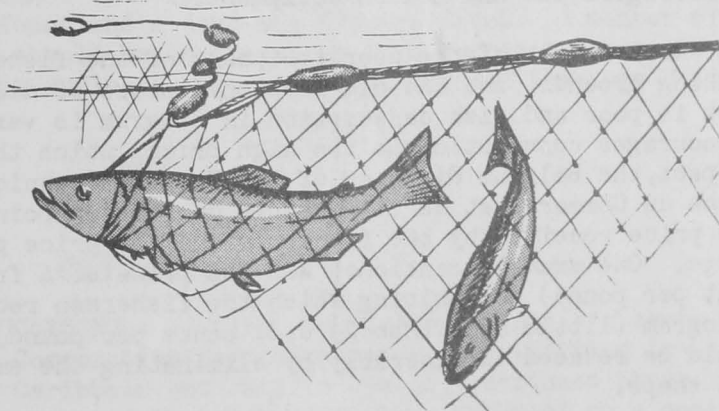
²/PRICED IN 47 CITIES OUT OF 56.

Frozen ocean perch fillets retailed at an average of 45.9 cents and frozen haddock fillets at an average of 50.1 cents per pound in mid-July this year. During the same period a year earlier, retail prices for frozen ocean perch fillets averaged 46.6 cents and frozen haddock fillets averaged 50.7 cents per pound. In mid-July canned pink salmon retailed at an average of 56.2 cents per 16-oz. can, compared with 63.0 cents per can in mid-July a year ago.



PACIFIC SALMON DRIFT GILL NETTING

A gill net is one of the oldest forms of nets used for commercial fishing. In effect, it is an upright fence of netting with an appropriate mesh to permit fish of certain size to pass only part way through. The fish is then "gilled" and can neither go forward nor back (see figure). Gill nets are versatile, for various sizes of mesh can be used and the net can be suspended at the surface or the bottom merely by controlling the size and number of floats on the top level and lead weights on the bottom, or at intermediate depths by the addition of floats and buoy lines. They may be operated as stationary or movable gear.



GILLING ACTION OF SALMON GILL NET

Drift gill nets, used extensively in the Pacific salmon fisheries, consist of a net with one end of net floating or drifting freely in the current while the other end is fastened to the boat. These nets are normally operated by one man, except in areas where large catches are made. They are employed at or near the mouths of larger rivers on the Pacific coast of the United States, British Columbia, and Alaska where the waters are dark in color or laden with silt or mud. In relatively clear waters the nets are usually fished at night for the salmon can avoid them in the daylight hours. The size of mesh used is dependent on the type of fish prevalent in a locality.