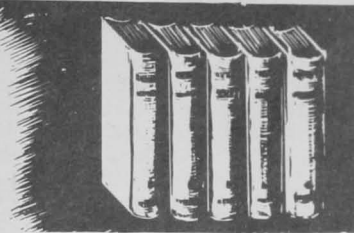




FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of State

HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON JAPAN'S APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY ACCESSION TO GATT, AND PROPOSED EXTENSION OF FIRM LIFE OF GATT TARIFF CONCESSIONS: Public views have been requested regarding two proposals scheduled to be considered at the September 17 session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to be held in Geneva, reports an August 27 release from the U. S. Department of State. The two proposals are (a) Japan's application for temporary accession to the General Agreement, and (b) extension of the date after which Article XXVIII of the Agreement may be invoked (to continue firm life of individual tariff concessions in the Agreement).

In view of the fact that full-scale tariff negotiations are not possible at the present time, Japan has asked that it be permitted to accede to the General Agreement on a temporary basis. Under such temporary accession, the United States and other contracting parties would apply to Japan, for such time as may be agreed upon, the provisions of the Agreement (including the schedules containing the tariff concessions) in return for the application to them by Japan of such provisions and for commitments with respect to Japan's tariff. Under the proposal, the accession would not involve the modification of any United States tariff rates nor the addition to the Agreement of any new articles imported into the United States.

Article XXVIII now provides that the concessions on individual products, negotiated at Geneva in 1947, at Annecy in 1949, or at Torquay in 1950 or 1951, may be modified or withdrawn on or after January 1, 1954, following consultation and negotiation with other contracting parties, without the necessity of terminating the entire agreement. To the extent that agreement is reached to extend the date, it would mean that concessions could not be modified or withdrawn by the procedure provided for in that article until such new later date. In 1951 the date was extended from January 1, 1951, to January 1, 1954. No extension of this date in Article XXVIII will affect the right of any contracting party to withdraw or modify individual concessions pursuant to Article XIX (commonly called "the escape clause") of the General Agreement.

Interested persons were invited to express views with regard to any aspect of these two proposals. Such views were to be considered before a final decision was reached as to the United States position on these proposals. Written views were to be submitted to the Committee for Reciprocity Information by September 10, 1953. Public hearings opened on September 14 in the Tariff Commission Building, Washington, D. C.

* * * * *

TOKYO FISHERY ATTACHE POST ABOLISHED: Due to a curtailment in appropriations, the State Department late in August abolished the position of Fishery Attache in the U. S. Embassy at Tokyo, Japan. Wm. C. Neville has held this position since it was first established early in 1952, and has provided the U. S. fisheries with information on current developments in the Japanese fisheries.

The State Department has advised that, in the future, current data on the Japanese fisheries will be reported by the economic staff in the Embassy at Tokyo.



Eighty-Third Congress (1st Session)

AUGUST 1953

Listed below are public bills and resolutions introduced and referred to committees or passed by the Eighty-Third Congress (First Session) and signed by the President that directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries. Public bills and resolutions are shown in this section only when introduced and, if passed, when signed by the President; but also shown are the more pertinent reports, hearings, or chamber actions on some of the bills shown in this section from month to month.

First session of the 83d Congress adjourned sine die after clearing various bills for the President.

BILL INTRODUCED:

Tuna Import Duties: Introduced in House H. R. 6816 (Utt) - a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930, so as to impose certain duties upon the importation of tuna fish, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means. Same as H. R. 6512 (see Commercial Fisheries Review, August 1953, p. 48). Revises H. R. 6348.

BILLS PASSED:

Prevention of Collisions in Inland Waters: Senate passed without amendment and cleared for President, H. R. 2234, to amend the rules for the prevention of collisions on certain inland waters of the U. S.

Presidential Authority to Enter into Trade Agreements: Committee of Conference reported to the House H. R. 5495 - a bill to extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (Rept. No. 1089). House adopted the conference report and sent the measure to the Senate. Results of the conference were: (1) the House receded in its disagreement to the Senate amendment providing that the enactment of H. R. 5495 expresses neither approval nor disapproval of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; (2) the House receded, with a clerical change, in its disagreement to the Senate provision amending section 22 (b) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act which provides for emergency action by the President without awaiting the recommendations of the Tariff Commission; (3) the conferees agreed to keep the membership of the Tariff Commission at six; and also agree that in votes as to whether investigations or hearings shall be held resulting in a tie, such proceedings shall occur; (4) the House receded with an amendment in its disagreement to the Senate provision that a quorum of the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy shall consist of 9 members, of whom at least 5 shall be Members of Congress; (5) the House receded with an amendment in its disagreement with the Senate on the provision pertaining to

the general statement of the scope of the commission's study. The amendment provides that the Commission is directed to examine, study, and report on the subjects of international trade and its enlargement consistent with a sound domestic economy, our foreign economic policy, and the trade aspects of our national security and total foreign policy; and to recommend appropriate policies, measures, and practices.

Senate adopted conference report and cleared H. R. 5495 for the President.

CHAMBER ACTION:

Food and Drug Factory Inspection: House voted to disagree to a Senate amendment to H. R. 5740, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, so as to protect the public health and welfare by providing certain authority for factory inspection and returned the bill to the Senate.

BILLS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT:

Customs Simplification: H. R. 5877 - An act to amend certain administrative provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 and related laws, and for other purposes (P. L. 243). The act modernizes the administrative and procedural provisions of the customs laws and does not change any classifications or rates of duty.

Food and Drug Factory Inspection Authority: H. R. 5740 - An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, so as to protect the public health and welfare by providing certain authority for factory inspection, and for other purposes (P. L. 217). This Law authorizes (a) officers or employees duly designated by the Secretary, upon presenting appropriate credentials and a written notice to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, any factory, warehouse, or establishment in which food, drugs, devices, or cosmetics are manufactured, processed, packed, or held, for introduction into interstate commerce or are held after such introduction, or to enter any vehicle being used to transport or hold such food, drugs, devices, or cosmetics in interstate commerce; and (2) to inspect at reasonable times and within reasonable

limits and in a reasonable manner, such factory, warehouse, establishment, or vehicle and all pertinent equipment, finished and unfinished materials, containers, and labeling therein. A separate notice shall be given for each such inspection, but a notice shall not be required for each entry made during the period covered by the inspection. Each such inspection shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness.

(b) Upon completion of any such inspection and prior to leaving the premises, the officer shall give to the owner, operator, or agent in charge a report in writing setting forth any conditions or practices observed by him which, in his judgment, indicate that any food, drug, device, or cosmetic in such establishment (1) consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance, or (2) has been prepared, packed, or held under insanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated with filth, or whereby it may have been rendered injurious to health.

(c) If the officer has obtained any sample in the course of the inspection, upon completion of the inspection and prior to leaving the premises he shall give to the owner, operator, or agent in charge a receipt describing the samples obtained.

(d) Whenever in the course of any such inspection the officer obtains a sample of any such food, and an analysis is made of such sample, a copy of the results of such analysis shall be furnished promptly to the owner, operator, or agent in charge.

Interior Appropriations: H. R. 4828, Interior (including Fish and Wildlife Service) appropriations for fiscal year 1954. Signed July 31, 1953 (P. L. 172). (While the Branch of Commercial Fisheries of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will still take a reduction of about \$29,000 from the budget estimate, it will be possible in the current fiscal year to conduct all of the regular activities of the Branch at approximately the levels originally planned.)

Northern Pacific Halibut Act Amendment: S. 2434, to amend the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1935. Makes changes in the original act to conform to the Convention between the United States of America and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, signed at Ottawa, March 2, 1953. (P. L. 228)

Outer Continental Shelf: H. R. 5134 - An act to provide for the jurisdiction of the United States over the submerged lands of the outer Continental Shelf, and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease such lands for certain purposes. (P. L. 212). This law defines the policy of the United States as that the subsoil and seabed of the outer Continental Shelf appertain to the United States and are subject to its jurisdiction, control, and power of disposition as provided in this Act. This Act shall be construed in such manner that the character as high seas of the waters above the outer Continental Shelf and the right to navigation and fishing therein shall not be affected. The Constitution and laws and civil and political jurisdiction of the United States are hereby extended to the subsoil and seabed of the outer Continental Shelf and to all artificial islands and fixed structures which may be erected thereon for the purpose of exploring

for, developing, removing, and transporting resources therefrom, to the same extent as if the outer Continental Shelf were an area of exclusive Federal jurisdiction located within a State: Provided, however, That mineral leases on the outer Continental Shelf shall be maintained or issued only under the provisions of this Act.

Prevention of Collisions in Inland Waters: H. R. 2234 - An act to amend the rules for the prevention of collisions on certain inland waters of the United States and on the western rivers. (P. L. 232).

Trade Agreement Authority: H. R. 5495 - An act to extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and for other purposes (P. L. 215). This act extends for a further period of one year from June 12, 1953, the authority of the President to enter into foreign-trade agreements under section 350 of the Tariff Act of 1930. Reduces from 1 year to 9 months the period within which the Tariff Commission must make its investigation and report on applications for relief under the escape clause. Establishes a bipartisan commission to be known as the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy.

The Commission is directed to examine, study, and report on the subjects of international trade and its enlargement consistent with a sound domestic economy, our foreign economic policy, and the trade aspects of our national security and total foreign policy; and to recommend appropriate policies, measures, and practices.

CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS:

Committee reports on bills reported in this section of interest to the fishery and allied industries available only from the committee submitting the report.

Trade Agreements Extension Bill of 1953, House Report No. 1089 (August 1, 1953, 83d Congress, 1st Session), 6 p., printed, conference report to accompany H. R. 5495. The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill, recommended the following amendments of interest to the fishing industry: that the enactment of the bill shall not be construed to determine or indicate the approval or disapproval by the Congress of the executive agreement known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; whenever, in any case calling for findings of the United States Tariff Commission in connection with any authority conferred upon the President by law to make changes in import restriction, a majority of the Commissioners are unable to agree upon findings or recommendations, the findings (and recommendations, if any) unanimously agreed upon by one-half of the number of Commissioners voting may be considered by the President as the findings and recommendations of the Commission (this amendment also provides that if the Commissioners voting are divided into two equal groups each of which is unanimously agreed upon findings, the findings of either group may be considered by the President as the findings of the Commission); whenever, in any case in which the Commission is authorized to make an investigation upon its own motion, upon complaint, or upon application of any interested

party, one-half of the number of Commissioners voting agree that the investigation should be made, such investigation shall thereupon be carried out in accordance with the statutory authority covering the matter in question, and whenever the Commission is authorized to hold hearings in the course of any investigation and one-half of the number of Commissioners voting agree that hearings should be held, such hearings shall thereupon be held in accordance with the statutory authority covering the matter in question; that a quorum of the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy (established by title III of the bill) shall consist of 4 members

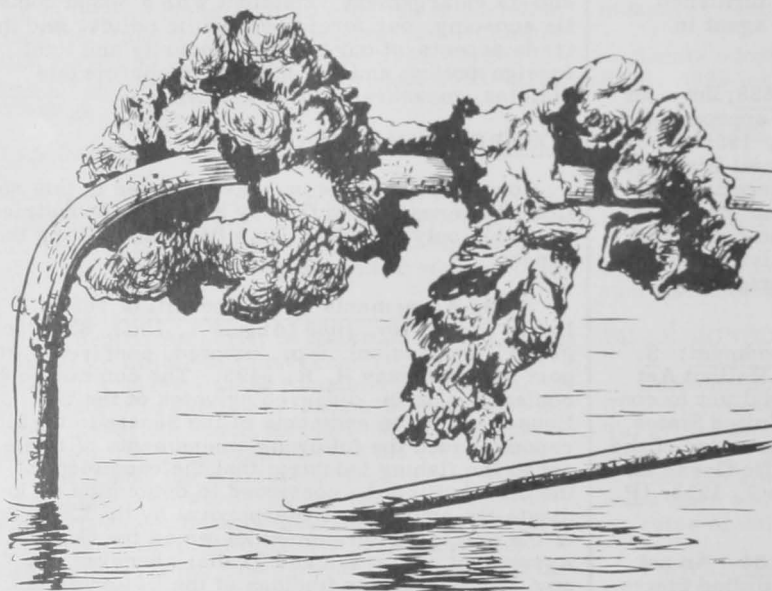
appointed by the President of the United States, 3 members appointed from the Senate by the Vice President of the United States, and 3 members from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives (any nine members of the Commission would constitute a quorum); the Commission would be directed to examine, study, and report on the subjects of international trade and its enlargement consistent with a sound domestic economy, our foreign economic policy, and the trade aspects of our national security and total foreign policy; and to recommend appropriate policies, measures, and practices.



OYSTERS THRIVE ON SCRAP IRON

Old iron may scarcely seem a fisheries subject but in one case the iron has produced a small fortune from the oysters which have grown on it, reports

the April 1953 Fisheries Newsletter, an Australian Government publication. A resident of Dunwich, Moreton Bay, in southern Queensland, struck by the remarkable catch on the iron rails used to support the Dunwich baths, and the catch on iron hulks about the Bay, set out a part of his oyster lease with iron cultch.



THREE-YEAR-OLD OYSTERS GROWING ON HORSESHOES, HUNG ON AN OLD BEDSTEAD END.

since used a number of iron materials, particularly conduit and old motorcar springs and motorbike scrap. More recently angle-iron sticks, costing about $\frac{1}{2}$ U. S. cent each, have been added to the cultch.

He purchased a number of old iron hospital beds, and these, with horseshoes and old fish-plates, formed the original cultch on his Dunwich leases. So successful were these that he has

The iron can be used for crop after crop, and the oysters are easily removed from it as a result of the inevitable surface rusting.