



International

BRITISH MAY OPERATE JAPANESE VESSELS IN WEST PACIFIC

A plan is being studied by British and Japanese interests whereby a British-concessionaire may operate Japanese fishing vessels in the Western Pacific, a recent dispatch from the U. S. Embassy at London states. The London Daily Telegraph reported as follows on the plan:

"Business interests in London and Tokyo are studying a Soviet proposal that a British concessionaire, operating Japanese vessels under a British house flag, should take over the operation of the valuable West Pacific fishing grounds.

"The Kurile, Kamchatka, Okhotsk, and Bering Sea salmon and crab fishing grounds were lost by Japan at the end of the war. Official Japanese requests for the restoration of fishing rights in these areas are understood to have been rejected on the grounds that Russia is still at war with Japan.

"The new suggestion was made by Mr. Dominitsky, Russian unofficial trade representative in Tokyo. The proposal points the way to a compromise very much to the taste of trade-hungry Japan, even if fear of American opposition has prevented any official sanctioning of the project.

"Discussions on the Russian proposals are likely to be taken up in Moscow by Mr. Kazutomi Fukunaga, formerly chairman of the Fisheries Committee of the Lower House of the Diet, who is now in Stockholm on his way to the Soviet capital. It is understood that a representative of the British group is awaiting an answer to his visa application in London before flying to join in the talks."

USE OF FISH OILS IN EUROPE

In Norway polymerized fish oil is now being used only for edible purposes. The processing is carried only far enough to stabilize the fish oil and prevent it from reverting to the original fish flavor. For industrial or technical use, as practiced elsewhere, fish oils are polymerized to a much more modified state, according to information relayed by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

About 85 percent of the fish oil used in Europe is for edible purposes. The residue from refining of this fish oil amounts to about 10 percent of the total and is used either as soap stock in various low grades of soap or is distilled and used as fatty acids for various industrial purposes. The balance of 5 percent is used as a drying oil principally in paints, varnishes, printing inks, etc. Considerable research is under way on new uses for fish oils, but the unfavorable price relationship with competing fats has retarded commercial applications.

Some grades of fish oils from foreign sources are criticized by European users as being "loaded" with added fish-oil stearines. They would prefer the whole oils as rendered from the fish since the stearine portions do not "keep" as well after hardening by hydrogenation as does a "whole" oil.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

U. S. CONGRESS GIVES EFFECT TO CONVENTION: The President on August 12, 1954, signed S. 3713 (P. L. 579), a bill to give effect to the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean (United States, Canada, and Japan), which came into force June 12, 1953. The new law provides additional legislative authority for the operations of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission which was established under the terms of the Convention, an August 13 release from the U. S. Department of State points out.

The United States Section of the Commission, as appointed by the President, has the following members:

Edward W. Allen, Attorney, Seattle, Washington;

Milton E. Brooding, Director of Industry Relations, California Packing Corporation, San Francisco, California;

John L. Farley, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and

B. Frank Heintzleman, Governor of Alaska.

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission held its first meeting in Washington beginning February 1, 1954, at which time it completed its organization. Two permanent Standing Committees were established; the United States Section members selected are:

Committee on Biology and Research:

Edward W. Allen, Chairman;

W. F. Thompson, Director, Fisheries Research Institute, Seattle, Washington;

Lionel A. Walford, Chief, Branch of Fishery Biology, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Committee on Finance and Administration:

John L. Farley, Chairman;

Montgomery Phister, Vice President, Van Camp Sea Food Company, Terminal Island, California.

UNITED STATES SECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTED: In accordance with the terms of the Act, the United States Section has appointed an Advisory Committee composed of persons from the various groups participating in the fisheries covered by the Convention and from the fishery agencies of the States or Territories the representatives of which maintain a substantial fishery in the Convention Area. Members of the Advisory Committee are:

C. L. Anderson, Director, Alaska Department of Fisheries

W. C. Arnold, Managing Director, Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., Seattle, Washington

Vernon E. Brock, Director, Division of Fish and Game, Territory of Hawaii

Harold F. Cary, General Manager, American Tunaboat Association, San Diego, California

Richard S. Croker, Chief, Marine Fisheries Branch, State of California Department of Fish and Game

Larry Fitzpatrick, boat owner, Juneau, Alaska

Miller Freeman, President, Miller Freeman Publications, Seattle, Washington

M. T. Hoy, Oregon State Fisheries Director, Fish Commission of Oregon

George Johansen, Secretary-Treasurer, Alaska Fisherman's Union, Seattle, Washington

Robert C. Kallenberg, Fisherman, Dillingham, Alaska

Donald P. Loker, Vice President, Star-Kist Foods, Inc., Terminal Island, California

Harold E. Lokken, Manager, Fishing Vessel Owners Association, Seattle, Washington

T. F. Sandoz, President, Columbia River Packers Association Inc., Astoria, Oregon

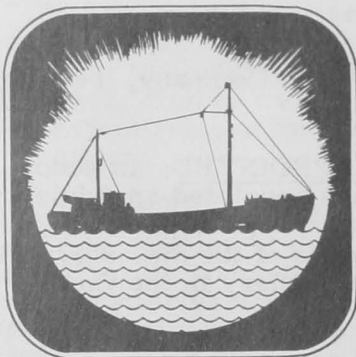
Robert J. Schoettler, Director, State of Washington, Department of Fisheries

Lowell Wakefield, President, Wakefield's Deep Sea Trawlers Inc., Seattle, Washington

James Waugh, President, Cannery Workers Union of the Pacific, Terminal Island, California.

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

ADVISERS' GROUPS TO MEET IN DECEMBER: In accordance with decisions taken at the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission Annual Meeting held in June 1954, meetings of the groups of advisers to Panels 3, 4, and 5 are called for the week of December 6, 1954. The meetings will take place at the Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrews, N. B., Canada. It is planned to start the meetings on December 6, at which time the group of advisers to Panel 5 will meet. The meetings of the two other groups will follow in the coming days of that week. It is expected that the advisers to any special group will also attend the meetings of the other groups.



Special agendas for these meetings have not been prepared. However, the main subjects that will be dealt with will be the following: (1) Results of research in connection with the mesh regulation of haddock fishery in Subarea 5 and planning of adequate further research. (2) Assessment of the need for mesh regulations in Subarea 4. (3) Consideration of research program and of the collection of statistics in Subarea 3, with special reference to a study of optimum age of first capture of cod and haddock.

Also in accordance with decisions of the June Annual Meeting, meetings of the same groups of advisers (3, 4, and 5) are planned to take place at the Newfoundland

Research Station, St. John's, Newfoundland, during the week of March 15, 1955. The subjects to be treated at these meetings will be nearly the same as those of the St. Andrews meetings.

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC SALMON FISHERIES COMMISSION

1954 CATCH OF FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE SALMON: The 1954 catch of Fraser River sockeye was well beyond the 8-million-fish mark as the Adams River run started to taper off, a September 10 news release from the International Salmon Fisheries Commission points out.

In an official announcement, the Chairman of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission stated that the season's catch in Canada is expected to equal that of the United States and may well exceed the United States total. The chairman added indications were that there were sufficient fish left in the Gulf of Georgia to provide an adequate escapement of first-quality spawners but no justification could be found for relinquishing the rigid controls in effect until after 1 to 1.5 million fish passed the fishing deadline. After the required escapement passes through the fishing areas, control regulations by the Commission will end for this season.

The Chairman stated that the status of the fishery is under continuous review by the Commission and that the regulations would be altered if the facts warrant.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES CONVENTION

UNITED STATES AND CANADA SIGN CONVENTION: A convention on Great Lakes fisheries was signed in Washington, D. C., on September 10 by representatives of the United States and Canada. Negotiations between the two Governments commenced on September 8.

The Convention provides for joint action by the United States and Canada in the field of fishery research and elimination of the predatory sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. To carry out this task, both Governments agree to establish a Great Lakes Fishery Commission of three appointees from each country.

The duties of the Commission include the formulation of research programs for the Great Lakes fisheries and the formulation and implementation of comprehensive programs for the destruction of the predatory sea lamprey. The sea lamprey has been playing havoc with some fisheries, especially whitefish and lake trout. The Commission may recommend to the Governments, on the basis of research findings, measures to make possible the maximum sustained yield of Great Lake fisheries. The Commission will have, however, no regulatory powers.

In the performance of its functions the Commission will, wherever feasible, make use of the existing state, provincial, and federal agencies in each country.

The Convention, with an initial duration of ten years, will become effective upon ratification by both countries.

The Acting Secretary of State, Walter Bedell Smith, and the Special Assistant for Fisheries to the Under Secretary of State, William C. Herrington, signed on behalf of the United States. The Canadian Ambassador in Washington, Arnold Heeney, and the Canadian Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Stewart Bates, signed on behalf of Canada. The United States delegates to the negotiations were:

Department of State: Wm. C. Herrington, Chairman; Warren F. Looney, Advisor; Sylvia E. Nilsen, Advisor.

Department of the Interior: Arnie J. Suomela, Assistant Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Vice Chairman; William M. Terry, Foreign Affairs Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Advisor; Dr. James W. Moffett, Director, Great Lakes Fishery Investigations, Advisor.

Non-Government: Dr. Charles A. Dambach, Chief, Ohio Division of Wildlife, Columbus, Ohio, Advisor; Mr. Claude Ver Duin, Mayor of Grand Haven, Michigan, Advisor.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

FISH FLOUR ACCEPTABILITY TO BE TESTED IN LATIN AMERICA: Large-scale tests of the acceptability of flavorless fish flour as a protein supplement in child feeding will be conducted in four Latin American countries in the near future, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported on August 30.

The tests, which will involve more than 400 persons in each country, will be conducted in Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru with the aid of UNICEF and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The experiment in Chile will be an extension of trials already undertaken with other types of fish flour and different food combinations.

If the tests show that fish flour is acceptable as a food supplement in these countries, the UNICEF administration may recommend an allocation of funds to establish a fish flour production plant in Latin America, which can utilize the area's abundant fish resources. At present very little fish flour is produced commercially for human consumption.

In most countries, the note observes, there is a preference for flavorless fish flour which can be included in certain dishes or foods without altering their flavor. However, in some countries, chiefly in Africa and Southeast Asia, fish flour with a flavor known and liked may be preferable.

Tests based mainly on flavored fish flour are under consideration in certain parts of Africa. No plans for large-scale acceptability tests have been developed yet for countries in the Eastern Mediterranean area and Asia.

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SECOND LATIN-AMERICAN FISHERIES TRAINING CENTER: At the invitation of the Mexican Government, the Second Latin-American Fisheries Training Center was scheduled to be held in Mexico City from October 4-December 10, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced recently.

The objectives are to give fishery administrators, technologists, biologists, and economists working in the region a general preparation and introduction to fishery science in all its fields, with special reference to the problems specific to the area. It is believed that the training offered in appraisal of resources, economic and research planning, and in technology will be useful to fishery officers who are concerned with development policy and planning, in accelerating the development of the fishery resources in their own countries, and in increasing the consumption of fish throughout the region.

This Second Center is intended to serve as a geographic complement to the first one held in Valparaiso, Chile, in 1952, by covering the area not so fully served by the Valparaiso Center, i. e. the northern Latin-American region and Caribbean area.



TRADE AGREEMENTS

JAPANESE-MEXICAN BARTER AGREEMENT INCLUDES FISHING VESSELS:

It was reported that a barter deal involving 150 Japanese-built fishing vessels in exchange for US\$5 million worth of sugar industry byproducts has been completed by two Mexican banks. The vessels will be sold to "legitimate" Mexican fishermen rather than fleet owners and payments will be made out of profits from the catches, a July 30 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Mexico City points out.

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VENEZUELAN-NICARAGUAN AGREEMENT INCLUDES CANNED SARDINES:

Negotiations have been started whereby Venezuelan corn and canned sardines will be used as partial payment for the purchase of Nicaraguan rice, the Managing Director of the Banco Agrícola y Pecuário announced. The bank director had returned from a visit to Nicaragua to dispose of some of Venezuela's surplus corn and canned fish, reports an August 2 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Caracas.



Argentina

FISH OIL PRODUCTION, 1953: Argentine fish oil production in 1953 is unofficially estimated at about 1,000 metric tons, compared with 800 tons in 1953 and 1,100 tons in 1951. This product is consumed almost entirely by the local soap industry, an April 28 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Buenos Aires reports.



Australia

EXPLORATORY TUNA FISHING: The tuna fishing resources off the Queensland eastern coast of Australia are being explored by two Australian tuna vessels under the direction of the Commonwealth Director of Fisheries. The operations are expected to last two months, and Queensland fishermen are to be given an opportunity to gain experience in tuna fishing. The tests are taking place at the request of Queensland commercial fishing interests and the Australian Professional Fishermen's Federation, reports the August 6 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical.



Canada

LARGE-MESH OTTER TRAWLS TESTED IN NORTH ATLANTIC HADDOCK FISHERY: On the Canadian Atlantic Coast otter trawlers catch large quantities of small unmarketable fish, particularly haddock, and run them out through the scuppers dead. This interferes with fishing operations by creating unnecessary work on deck, and the destruction of small, fast-growing fish reduces future landings. It is accordingly of immediate concern to fishermen and of long-term concern to the fishing industry to reduce catches of baby scrod, reports the June 1954 Trade News, a Canadian Government publication.

For more than 50 years fisheries scientists have studied this problem by testing methods of releasing small fish from otter trawls. The methods tested have in-

cluded square meshes, "windows" of large meshes, supports in the cod end, specially designed cod ends, and large meshes in various parts of the trawl. It has been clearly shown that use of large-mesh trawls is the best way to let small fish go and still keep the large marketable fish.

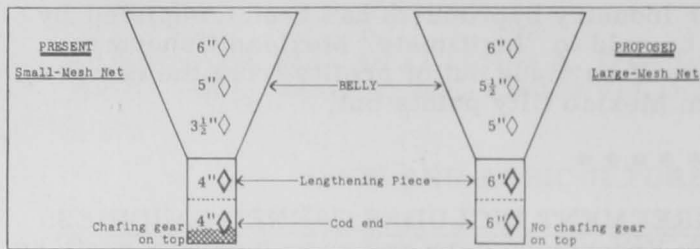


Fig. 1 - Present and proposed otter trawl nets in the Northwest Atlantic haddock fishery.

British workers have provided the most convincing demonstrations of the value of large-mesh cod ends. In the 1930's they used covers over the cod ends which could be throttled off before hauling the net, and during recent years they have produced underwater films of trawls in operation, to show that small fish escape through the wide open meshes while the net is fishing on the bottom. Studies of escapement through various parts of the trawl have shown that most fish are released through the top half of the cod end.

Canadian mesh trials have shown that small fish escape even when the catches are large. Three experimental trips on the otter trawlers Cape North and Cape LeHave during 1953 tested cod ends and lengthening pieces of different mesh sizes, from 6 to 7 inches between knot centers as purchased. Even when small fish were very numerous, as on St. Pierre Bank, large numbers of baby scrod escaped. The largest meshes used released many fish below scrod size, a few scrod, and negligible numbers of large haddock. The sizes of cod released were comparable with those of haddock. Chafing gear was not used over the top half of the cod end and the cod ends did not show serious signs of wear.

Results of Haddock Catch on Average Trip of 50,000 Pounds (20,000 Fish) During May to December, 1953					
Size of Fish	Quantity of Haddock Caught				Remarks
	Present 4" Mesh		New 6" Mesh		
	No. of Fish	Lbs.	No. of Fish	Lbs.	
Baby haddock (discarded)	20,000	-	8,000	-	Many baby scrod saved
Scrod haddock	12,000	25,000	12,000	25,000	Similar scrod catches
Large haddock	8,000	25,000	9,000	30,000	More large fish
Total	40,000	50,000	29,000	55,000	Higher landings

A careful study of the Georges Bank haddock fishery since 1931 has shown that the use of large-mesh cod ends in otter trawls may be expected to increase annual landings. The International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries accordingly recommended that governments prohibit the taking of haddock from the Georges Bank area with a trawl net which has a mesh size of less than 4½ inches (as measured with a flat gauge inserted into the mesh when the trawl is used and wet). On the basis of this action, United States trawlers are now required by regulation to use large meshes throughout the trawl with belly meshes not less than five inches single twine and with lengthening piece and cod-end meshes of about six inches double twine.

The new Georges Bank mesh regulation states that no device may be used to obstruct or diminish the mesh size, except on the underside of the cod end. The use of such chafing gear cuts down the selective action of the open meshes and reduces the efficiency of the net. Although United States trawlers have not used chafing gear on the top half of the cod end for many years, Canadian trawlers continue to do so

in order to protect the bag as it is hauled in over the side of the vessel. This chafing gear should not be used on the top half of the cod end if the industry is to take full advantage of the use of large meshes to release small fish.

In several fisheries it has been demonstrated that large meshes catch more marketable fish than small meshes. This is probably the result of elimination of small, unmarketable trash with increased flow of water and speed of gear. During the first 6 months of the Georges Bank mesh regulation, New England trawlers increased their landings by about 10 percent. This improvement, based on a comparison with a group of trawlers licensed to use the old small-mesh nets, is calculated to be worth US\$1 million per year to New England trawler fishermen.

The 1½ Icelandic trawl commonly used by Canadian trawlers has a belly of single twine which decreases from about 6-inch mesh where it joins the square to 3 or 3½ inches at the lengthening piece. The lengthening piece and cod-end meshes are about 4 inches double twine. It is proposed that the belly meshes should not decrease to less than 5 inches single twine and the lengthening piece and cod-end meshes should have 6-inch mesh, double twine manilla, as purchased (fig. 1). The best mesh size is believed to be still larger, but adoption of 6-inch mesh is a step in the right direction which would put Canadian meshes in line with those used by other countries fishing on the same fishing grounds. It is a safe step in that nothing will be lost and there is much to gain.

By using a 6-inch cod end baby scrod will be saved to be caught later; work on deck will be reduced; nets will be less costly to make and repair; and more marketable fish in catches will increase landings and earnings. The table above, based on results of actual use of large-mesh nets by New England trawlers during 1953, compares a typical catch by a standard 4-inch mesh net with that of a 6-inch mesh cod end without chafing gear on top.

This information has been released as a circular letter to the Canadian otter-trawling industry from the Atlantic Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, St. Andrews, N. B. Copies of the circular are available from the Station upon request.

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FISHERMEN SEEK TO AMEND TERRITORIAL LIMITS: The number of foreign fishing vessels operating in the Atlantic just outside the Canadian three-mile territorial limit is increasing, the annual meeting of the Fisheries Council of Canada was told. A resolution was passed asking the Federal Government to amend the present laws to permit Canadian fishing trawlers to fish within three miles of the coastline, reports the July 30 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine.

Canadian trawlers are prohibited from fishing within 12 miles of the coastline under a Federal law passed more than 20 years ago. At that time inshore fishermen complained that the trawler's nets destroyed their gear and took too many fish. Smaller trawlers, called draggers, are now permitted to the three-mile limit, but medium-sized draggers and otter trawlers have to stay outside the 12-mile limit.

The Canadian fishing industry wants the 12-mile limit observed by all countries but there are no signs yet of international agreement on the matter.

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HERRING FISHERY DEVELOPMENT IN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE PLANNED: An agreement with a newly-formed foreign-backed company has been signed by the Nova Scotia Department of Trade and Industry, "opening the way for the development of a new million dollar fishing industry in the Province," according to an Au-

gust 12 U. S. consular dispatch from Halifax. The new operation is designed to carry out for the first time on a commercial scale drifting and trawling for herring in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and other waters off the Nova Scotia coast. The objective is to boost the output of herring and herring products for local, United States, and world consumption. Operations are expected to commence this fall with temporary shore stations at Pictou and possibly Cheticamp. When volume and areas showing production have been established, more permanent shore installations will be built.

The company was initially capitalized at C\$250,000. This initial capital is "considered as nominal and the company hopes to build up to a multi-million dollar structure within a relatively short time."

Some of the capital cost and all of the working capital will be provided by private United States and British sources. Most of the capital cost, however, will be supplied by the Nova Scotia Government in the form of a loan amounting to C\$367,700 which will be secured against five vessels that have been or will be acquired by the firm. These vessels include one 154-foot refrigerated trawler, one 96-foot drift trawler, and three Yarmouth drifters (each presumed to be less than 50 feet in length).

The loan to be made by the Nova Scotia Government is among the largest ever made to a private company. The terms of the loan are not known.

The company will start by producing herring salt-packed in barrels and its principal markets will be Israel, Germany, the Mediterranean, and the United Kingdom.

The company's vessels will not arrive in Nova Scotia waters until after the herring season is over. Reports indicate that pressure undoubtedly will be brought to permit the two larger vessels to trawl for groundfish. The three Yarmouth drifters are permitted to catch any types of fish, but the refrigerated trawler and the drift trawler are licensed only for herring and mackerel fishing.

Commenting on the venture, the Director of the Fisheries Research Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada mentioned that experiments had shown that "per unit of gear and per unit of time, the herring catch is better in the Gulf of St. Lawrence than in the North Sea." He also said the firm "...will certainly catch codfish in their nets and can't be expected to throw them away."

The Fisheries Research Board of the Canadian Department of Fisheries has conducted scientific exploration of the herring population in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the past three years. The reports showed that a great deal had been learned about the herring populations and the Research Board boats also demonstrated that fat herring could be caught in quantity by drift netting or otter trawling over a four-months' summer season.

The agreement with the new company climaxed many months of work and cooperation between Federal and Provincial governments and interested parties. The



Department of Fisheries provided the reports and results of the latest Fisheries Research Board work and agreed to license the drifter trawler. The Department of Transport and the Maritime Commission agreed to permit the import of four vessels of a special type suitable for this fishery. The Provincial Department of Trade and Industry provided the coordinating effort to have all interests work together and the inducement of an industrial loan to round out the capital requirements. The sources for the balance of the capital cost, and all of the working capital, are British and American.

The Fisheries Research Board will continue their work by having observers on the vessels operated by the newly-formed company to collect and record additional data concerning area and volume of catch and any other information that will further the investigation and study of this resource. The boats and experimental fishing work of the Fisheries Research Board will be used in other places off the Nova Scotia coast to attempt to determine further areas where herring may be taken in commercial quantities for an extended season.

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FISH STICKS INTRODUCED ON WEST COAST: Fish sticks are being introduced on Canada's west coast by a British Columbia firm and the product is to be marketed in the near future in Vancouver, according to the July Trade News of the Canadian Department of Fisheries. Frozen fish blocks are cut by bandsaw into small pieces $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. These pieces of fish, still frozen, are then dipped into a prepared batter, doused in a meal preparation, placed on wire trays, immersed in a deep-well cooker, and cooked for approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. After packaging, the cooked fish sticks are stacked on trays, frozen, and then placed in cold storage.

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IMPROVED FISH INSPECTION PLANNED: More effective fish inspection through cooperation between Canadian Federal and provincial governments was discussed at a meeting in Ottawa late in June. The Deputy Minister of Fisheries described the meeting as "a significant step forward," according to the July 1954 Trade News, a Canadian Department of Fisheries publication.

The Director of the Inspection and Consumer Service of the Federal Department of Fisheries outlined to representatives of the 10 provinces the Department's proposals for the quality control of fresh and frozen fish, construction, equipment, sanitation, and operation of plants producing these products.

In cooperation with the fishing industry, the Department early this year completed a coast-to-coast survey of more than 500 plants which handle fresh, frozen, salted, and pickled fish for interprovincial or international trade. As a result of this survey the Department held discussions in March to draft minimum standards so that it will be possible to maintain peak quality from the time fish are caught until they reach the consumer. The June meeting was called so that the fullest consultation could be held with the provinces on the proposals set forth by the Department.

The provincial representatives signified the interest of their respective provinces in such measures. They will report to their governments and subsequent discussions will be held regarding the possibility of introducing provincial legislation which would complement similar regulations proposed by the Federal Department of Fisheries.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHERMEN NEED FISHING LICENSES: Members of the crews on British Columbia halibut long liners and on fishing trawlers are now required to have a fishing license, according to the July Trade News, a Canadian Department of Fisheries publication. An amendment to British Columbia's special fishery regulations states that all persons engaged on a boat used in halibut, black cod, or tuna fishing are required to obtain a license. Fishermen shipping as crewmen on trawlers also come under this category. Licenses will cost C\$1.

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MAGDALEN ISLANDS' FISHERIES REVIEW, 1953: The economy of the Magdalen Islands, Quebec, is based on fishery products, with lobster as the most valuable, states a July 30 U. S. consular dispatch from Quebec.

Fishery products production in 1953 amounted to C\$1,821,777 and the lobster catch represented C\$887,183 or nearly 50 percent of the total value. Following in order of value were herring C\$432,853, cod C\$219,589, and mackerel C\$192,240. Usually the cod catch brings the least returns to the Islands, but in 1953 the mackerel catch was poor.

Prices paid to the fishermen in 1953 were: lobster 25 to 35 Canadian cents per pound; herring 70 cents per case; mackerel 5 cents and cod 2 cents per pound. The lobster fishermen are the most prosperous--although limited by law to 300 traps, one fishermen earned nearly C\$10,000 in 1953 which represented a catch of about 40,000 pounds of lobsters.

There are 1,269 Magdalen Islands fishermen--686 fish for cod, 477 for herring, 630 for lobster, and 810 fish for mackerel. Most men fish for 2 or 3 species during the season. There is a drier for cod belonging to the Provincial Government which has a capacity of 2 million pounds annually. There are 5 refrigeration plants having a capacity for 950,000 pounds. There are 9 smokehouses for herring--3 belonging to cooperatives and 6 privately owned. Their capacity exceeds 100,000 cases.



Iceland

NORDIC COUNCIL REPORTS ON ICELAND'S TERRITORIAL WATERS REGULATIONS: Qualified support was given to Iceland by the Nordic Council in the international dispute resulting from Icelandic territorial waters regulations, a U. S. Embassy dispatch (August 20) from Oslo states. In a carefully phrased resolution the Council recognized that it is a matter of interest to all countries engaged in fishing off the Icelandic coast that fish conservation measures be enforced. Since the legality of the measures adopted by Iceland is a matter of international dispute, the Council concluded that the subject should be referred to the International Court at The Hague and should not be discussed in either the Nordic Council or the Council for Europe.

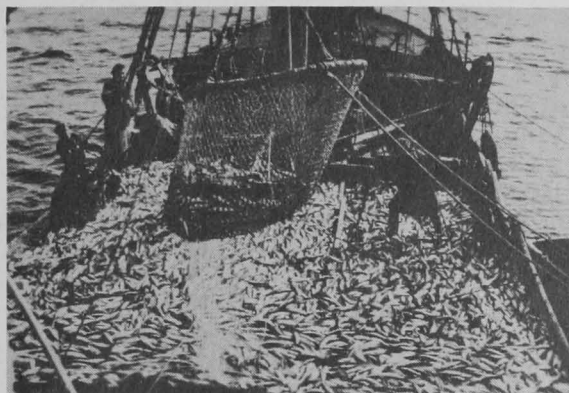
The Icelandic proposal to the Nordic Council for support on the fisheries boundary dispute was referred to the Economic Committee of the Council for consideration. After limited discussion, the Swedish members of the Committee drew up a draft resolution. Only minor changes were made by the committee as a whole prior to reporting out the draft. At the plenary session on August 17 the committee's recommendations were unanimously approved by the Council. The text of the resolution follows:

"The Nordic Council recognizes that it is of interest to all countries engaged in fishing outside the Icelandic coast and of vital interest to Iceland that precautions be taken to protect the fish population in these waters.

"To the extent the legality of precautions already adopted is the object of dispute between Iceland and another country the Nordic Council is not qualified to make any statement. The right forum for an international law interpretation of the dispute is The Hague Court, not the Nordic Council or Council for Europe."

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HERRING PRODUCTION, 1954: The total catch of the Icelandic herring fisheries off the north coast during the 1954 summer season was 51,000 barrels of salted herring, about one-fourth of the quantity sold under the various trade agreements concluded this spring. This is the ninth summer in succession that Iceland has had a poor herring catch, the August 27 issue of the International Financial News Survey reports.



Icelandic Fishing Vessel Brailing Herring

The Norwegian fishermen, who were also taking part in the herring fisheries off the Icelandic coast, are reported to have made a total catch of nearly 200,000 barrels, which is about the same as last year. Since sales by Norwegian exporters before the season started were equal to the catch, there will be little for Norwegian domestic consumption.



India

NORWAY SUPPLIES FISHING BOATS: Three specially designed fishing boats, built near the west Norway port of Bergen, were scheduled to sail for India in September, the Norwegian Information Service announced on September 9. Equipped with 5-hp. auxiliary motors, the 22-foot flat-bottomed open craft have been contracted by the 24-million-kroner (US\$3.4 million) Norwegian India Aid Fund. The vessels will be manned by Norwegian fishermen who have volunteered to instruct Indian fishermen in modern techniques. In cooperation with Indian authorities, the Fund is aiding the development of a community comprising some 12,000 fishermen in Travancore-Cochin.

The Norwegian organization recently built an up-to-date boatyard in Travancore-Cochin. Here the first of a series of motorized fishing vessels, adapted to local conditions, is well under way. An adjoining mechanical workshop will take care of maintenance and repairs. It will also serve as training school for apprentice mechanics.

Working under supervision of Norwegian specialists, local fishermen have for the past year been experimenting with various types of fishing gear, including the purse seine. In another experiment, the perishable nets traditionally used by the Indian fishermen are being tanned and impregnated to stand longer immersion. In both cases, the objective is to increase the catch.

The Travancore-Cochin project plans also call for introduction of better fish-curing methods; building breakwaters and ice plants; furnishing insulated vans and motorcraft for fish transportation; aiding the development of fishermen's cooperatives; supplying safe drinking water; and establishment of a maternity and health center. A major part of the work is far advanced.

Note: See Commercial Fisheries Review, March 1954, p. 45; February 1954, p. 42.



Iran

CAVIAR EXPORTS, 1953: Iranian caviar exports amounted to 102.7 metric tons for the first 11 months of the Iranian year beginning March 21, 1953, according to preliminary figures. During the first 8 months only 28.3 tons were exported; therefore, the greatest quantity (74.4 tons) was exported during the three-months' period November 21, 1953-February 19, 1954.

The U.S.S.R. received 81 tons, or 78.9 percent of the total exports. France who is the next largest buyer received only 17 tons, or 17 percent. Except for shipments to Germany (2 tons) and the United States (1 ton), those to other countries were mostly of a token nature. Russia took delivery by boat at Bandar Pahlavi on the Caspian Sea, an April 16 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tehran states. Shipments to all other countries were effected by air.

Since the exportation of Iranian caviar has been a Russian monopoly for some thirty years, it will be necessary for Iran to develop its own markets and outlets. During the first year under Iranian control, little has been done in that respect. The Iranian National Fisheries last year simply offered various lots of caviar at auction. These were purchased by local merchant-exporters, who in turn, sold the caviar to foreign buyers. There have been reports that some of the European buyers were dissatisfied with the quality and packaging of the Iranian product. Obviously, these shortcomings will have to be remedied and a distribution system developed before Iran can expect to market its caviar abroad in any sizable quantities.

Caviar production is probably not much greater than the exports because domestic consumption is very limited. The price of caviar on the Tehran market before the fisheries reverted to Iranian control was around 450 rials per kilogram (US\$26 per pound); the price has since been raised to around 1600 rials per kilogram (US\$81 per pound).

CASPIAN FISHERIES: Recent newspaper reports stated that the Iranian indebtedness to the U.S.S.R. had been liquidated. This indebtedness resulted from the return to Iran of the Caspian Fisheries at the expiration of the Russian concession on January 31, 1953. Latest estimates are that Iran may still owe Russia the equivalent of some US\$45,000-46,000 on that account.

The Caspian fisheries reverted to Iran when the concession granted some 30 years ago to the U.S.S.R. was allowed to expire on January 31, 1953. Iran then acquired, under the terms of the concession agreement, the Russian interest therein (50 percent). The value of the Russian share in the fisheries was to be paid in fishery products, including caviar.

Certain areas in the Caspian Sea are reserved for fishing only by the Iranian National Fisheries Company. Other areas are unrestricted and independent fishermen are free to fish there. In consequence, the Tehran market is supplied by the two competing sources of supply. The Government installation at Pahlavi has freezing facilities and is, therefore, able to supply the Tehran and other markets so long as frozen fish do not spoil under truck transport conditions. The market for the in-

dependent fishermen, who deal only in fresh fish, is limited to the winter months and since the highways over the Elborz Mountains between the Caspian and Tehran are oftentimes blocked with snow, deliveries are difficult and uncertain. Some of the private fishing activities on the Eastern Caspian are not too far removed from the railroad but this means of transportation cannot be depended upon as there are few railway refrigerator cars. All domestic and foreign shipments out of Pahlavi, the principal fishing center, except to the U.S.S.R., must be made by truck and there are no refrigerator trucks. Hence fish transport up to the present is confined to the winter months. The two American concerns which made the experimental shipments of sturgeon to New York last winter and which are interested in developing the caviar business as well, foresaw the necessity of supplying refrigerator trucks to make the long haul to the seaport of Khorramshahr, if the business were ever to be developed, and are planning to do so.

The third report of the National Fisheries Company covering the period August 21, 1953 to November 21, 1953, and published on December 6, 1953, gives the following prices for various fisheries products:

	Smoked	Salted	Frozen	Fresh
 (U. S. dollars per metric ton)			
1. <u>Non-scale fish</u>				
Sturgeon	1,076.50	-	336.45	-
2. <u>Scale fish</u>				
Bream	329.40	-	259.30	-
Sea pike	-	-	130.60	-
Chub	414.80	-	214.40	-
Carp	-	84.30	160.30	-
Herring	505.30	264.40	-	-
Salmon	-	1,644.00	919.00	966.20

The Iranian National Fisheries Company has set the following prices (net weight) for these various grades of caviar, according to quantities, as follows:

	Up to 100 kilos	Up to 500 kilos	Up to 999 kilos	1,000 kilos and over
 (U. S. dollars per kilo)			
Grain caviar, Osietre and Blouga, extra, Grade I	20.50	19.00	18.50	18.00 plus 25 Rials
Grain caviar, Osietre and Blouga, Grade II	10.30	9.60	9.30	9.00 plus 25 Rials
Grain caviar Sevroga, Grade I	14.30	13.30	13.00	12.60 plus 25 Rials
Grain caviar Sevroga, Grade II	7.20	6.70	6.60	6.30 plus 25 Rials
Other varieties of caviar:				
Pressed Sevroga, Grade I	7.21	-	-	-
Pressed Sevroga, Grade II	5.40	-	-	-
Tamise (Balech)	1.40	-	-	-



Japan

1954 CATCH OF NORTH PACIFIC SALMON FLEETS: The seven Japanese North Pacific offshore salmon and salmon-trout fleets closed their season recently, reports an August 20 American Embassy dispatch from Tokyo. The total catch

this season was 17,611,088 fish as compared to 7,700,176 fish for the 1953 season when only three fleets operated. The fleets this year consisted of 160 catchers and 34 survey vessels.

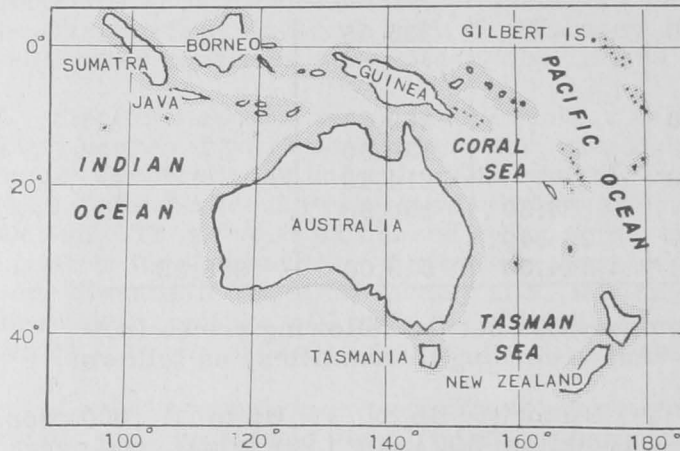
No information is available as to the respective quantities which were canned, salted, and frozen.

In addition, the coastal fleets based at Nemuro and operating in the waters east of the Kuriles closed their season on August 5 and reported a catch of 25,420,000 pounds of fish as compared to 20,920,000 pounds in 1953.

1954 Catch of North Pacific Salmon
Fleets by Species

Species	Number of Fish
Sockeye	3,542,301
Chum	8,780,355
Pink	4,590,651
Other	697,781
Total	17,611,088

LARGE TUNA CATCHES IN TASMAN SEA OFF AUSTRALIA: Japanese tuna-long-liners, fishing off Australia's eastern coast, have been getting large catches, including albacore, taken in the Tasman Sea midway between Australia and New Zealand. This was told by a visiting executive of a United States canning company.



The visitor identified from photographs the Japanese vessels recently sighted off northwest Australia. He said they were modern long liners capable of up to 18 knots, according to the June 1954 Fisheries Newsletter, an Australian trade magazine.

Within the past year the Japanese have extended their tuna fishing in the Pacific east to the Gilbert Islands, south to the Tasman Sea, and west around northern Australia into the Indian Ocean. Long lining is the method used mainly. The Japanese work their boats in pairs, using one to haul and the other to bait. They relay the lines about every 10 to 12 hours, and work 24 hours a day.

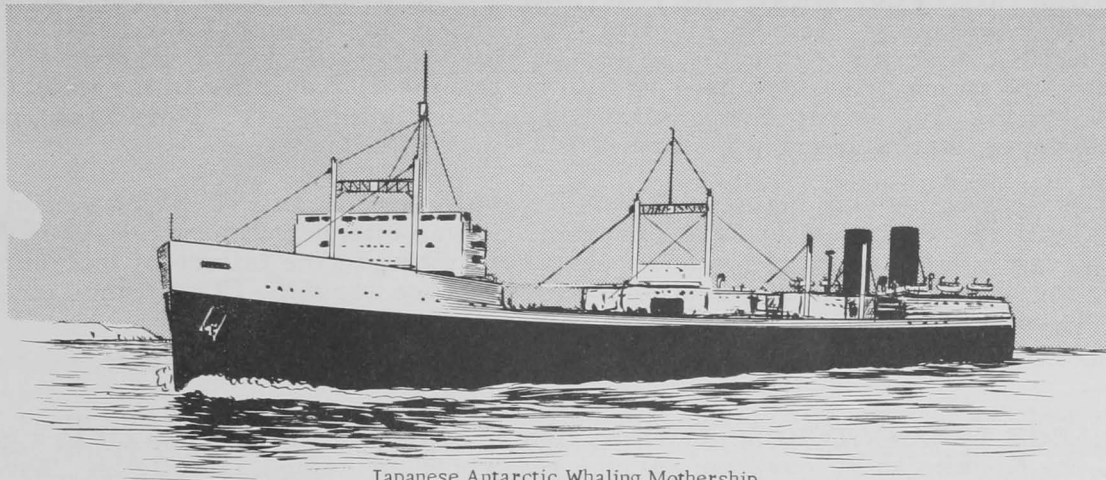
BRISTOL BAY CRAB MEAT PRODUCTION, 1954: The Japanese crab fishing expedition to Bristol Bay terminated activities on July 10 and total production amounted to 59,850 cases of crab meat from a catch of 1,060,109 crabs, a July 30 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports. In 1953 the expedition caught 1,276,360 crabs and produced 58,240 cases of crab meat. The 1953 expedition did not reach its production goal until August 15.

In numbers of crabs the 1954 catch was down 17 percent, but the production of canned crab meat was up 3 percent, indicating that larger crabs were caught in 1954

FISH AND WHALE OIL PRODUCTION OUTLOOK: The Japanese production of fish oil for the 1954 fiscal year ending next March 31 will amount to about 19,800 metric tons, compared with a production of about 17,000 tons in the fiscal year 1953

and 19,829 tons in 1952, according to preliminary estimates of the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The production of whale oil is also expected to increase in fiscal year 1954. Current estimates are for a production of 58,000 tons of fin and sperm oils, compared with a production of 53,238 tons for the fiscal year 1953 and 42,900 tons for 1952.



Japanese Antarctic Whaling Mothership

It is anticipated by the Japanese Government that about one-half of the 1954 fiscal year's production of fish oil and about 24,300 metric tons of the whale oil will be exported. Europe was the principal export market for these oils last year, according to a recent Bulletin from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT



Mexico

SHRIMP EXPORT DUTY CUT: The Mexican export duty on frozen shrimp (Mexican tariff classification 11-15) was cut to 0.30 peso for 100 net kilograms and 5 percent ad valorem by a decree effective August 2. The former duty was 0.30 peso per 100 net kilograms and 10 percent ad valorem.



Norway

HERRING MEAL AND OIL PRODUCTION, 1954: Approximately 200,000 metric tons of herring meal and 90,000 tons of herring oil were produced in Norway during the 1954 season (January 1 to May 1), according to a spokesman for the Norwegian herring industry. This entire production was reported to have been sold for domestic consumption, exported, or reserved for export by the middle of May. The total value of 1954 herring meal and oil is estimated at 350 million kroner (US\$49 million), of which 240 million kroner (US\$34 million) is represented by foreign exchange from exports.

About 30 percent of the herring meal produced in Norway is sold for domestic use, and the rest is exported. Small quantities of raw herring oil are exported directly. Most of the herring oil is refined in Norway; small quantities are then used in the canning of sardines and the manufacture of fats, but most of the refined oil is exported.

Between January 1 and June 12, according to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 103,969 metric tons of herring meal were exported, about 30 percent to the United States. During the same period, 5,323 tons of raw herring oil were exported, a U. S. Embassy dispatch (July 16) reports.

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FIRM BUYS FISH-MEAL FACTORYSHIP FROM ICELAND: A Norwegian concern has purchased Iceland's only floating herring factoryship for £100,000 (US\$280,000), according to the International Financial News Survey, August 20. This factoryship, which processes herring into oil and meal, can move to the waters where herring are caught, thus minimizing transportation costs. Norway is operating several floating herring factories.

The floating herring factoryship was bought by Iceland in 1947 and financed partly by U. S. aid under the ECA program. It was intended to process the winter herring catch in the south of Iceland. However, owing to the failure of the herring catch, the plant has been in operation during only one season--1950. Since then the ship has been idle.

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LARGE TUNA CATCHES: The tuna fishing season in Norway was off to a good start, the Norwegian Information Service reports in an August 12 bulletin. The season normally lasts until the end of October. The fisheries began a week earlier than usual, and the first fortnight some 3,000 metric tons were landed, compared with 6,700 for the entire 1953 season. Averaging 360 pounds each, the tuna are especially plentiful on the banks off Helgeland in North Norway. Catches off the western district of Hordaland, however, have been rather disappointing so far. These waters usually offer good tuna fishing.

Most of the fish is shipped to Italy, where importers have contracted for 4,300 metric tons of frozen tuna. Up to July 26 a total of 74 refrigerated carloads of tuna had left Bergen bound for various destinations in Europe. Some of the fish was shipped fresh from the North Norway port of Mosjoen.

Virtually all of the tuna is caught in specially designed nets, costing between Kr. 30,000-40,000 (US\$4,200 to 5,600) each. Formerly the large fish were hooked with hand line or shot, but such methods proved to be very uneconomical and yielded much smaller catches. Using tuna nets, North Norway fishermen recently landed about 8,000 tuna weighing 1,500 to 2,000 metric tons in one day.

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SARDINES AND SALTED COD EXPORTS: Canned Brisling Sardines: A total of 17,787 metric tons of canned brisling sardines had been exported from Norway in 1954 up to July 3, compared with 11,445 tons in the corresponding period of 1953. The United States was the leading importer, a U. S. Embassy dispatch (August 13) from Oslo reports. Up to July 17, however, only 375,000 cases of brisling had been packed by Norwegian canneries, compared with 410,000 cases last year. Increased exports indicate an appreciable reduction in stocks from the 1953 brisling fishing season, the most successful on record.

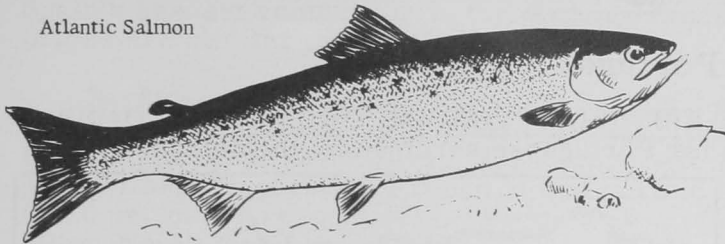
Dried Salted Cod: Norwegian exports of dried salted cod (klipfish) for the first seven months of 1954 were over 20,000 metric tons. This is only 2,500 tons more than the poor export total for the corresponding period of last year. The total 1954 exports of dried salted cod are not expected to exceed 37,000 tons, or about 18,000 tons below normal, and little more than half the 1954 National Budget estimate of 67,000 tons.

The relatively low exports of dried salted cod is the direct result of the disappointing spring Lofoten cod catch, the poorest on record. There was a bright outlook however, from the report by the Norwegian Minister to Argentina, who declared that Argentina is interested in taking more Norwegian dried salted cod under the proposed new trade agreement next year. Increased exports, however, would depend on larger catches in the future.

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SALMON LADDER: Work on a 1,575-foot salmon ladder, believed to be the longest in the world, will be started in the fall of 1954 in the Rana River, North

Atlantic Salmon



Norway, according to a bulletin (August 19) from the Norwegian Information Service. Running through a 7-foot diameter tunnel to be blasted out of solid rock, the ladder will enable the salmon to reach the 37-mile stretch of the Rana River above the 90-foot high Ranfossen waterfall. Sponsors hope

that the ambitious scheme will increase the salmon stock by 75-80 metric tons.

Light and ventilation shafts in the 1,100-foot tunnel will be used as observation posts, where tourists may watch the salmon climb the ladder. The tunnel-ladder will also be equipped with a photo-electric counting device to check the upriver flow of salmon.

Total cost of the project is estimated at 316,000 kroner (US\$44,000), of which 180,000 kroner (US\$25,000) will be paid by the State. Assuming that the salmon actually will go on up to the upper reaches of the Rana River, it is estimated that the increased yield should pay off the cost in a few years.



Republic of the Philippines

DELEGATION FOR U.S. - PHILIPPINE TRADE AGREEMENT TALKS LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES: Senator Jose P. Laurel, who has been appointed by Philippine President Raymon Magsaysay to head the Philippine Delegation to consult with an American Delegation concerning revision of the Philippine-United States Trade Agreement, was expected to arrive in San Francisco on September 9 and in Washington about September 13.

Accompanying Senator Laurel will be three other members of the Philippine Delegation, Senator Gil J. Puyat, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Governor M. Cuaderno, Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines, and Congressman Diosdado Macapagal, together with members of the Delegation's technical staff, a September 8 U. S. Department of State news release points out.

The Philippine Government last year requested reexamination and readjustment of the 1946 Agreement on trade and related matters. President Eisenhower replied that the United States was ready to give sympathetic consideration to any specific proposals for revision which the Philippine Government might advance. On July 6 the White House announced the designation by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles of James M. Langley, New Hampshire publisher, as Chairman of the United States Delegation which will meet with the Philippine Delegation to consider possible modification of the Trade Agreement.

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CANNED FISH PRICE CONTROLS REINSTITUTED: Price controls for a number of commodities, including canned fish (sardines, squid, mackerel, herring, and salmon), were reinstated in the Philippines on June 18 by Republic Act No. 1168. Previous controls expired on December 31, 1953, according to the August 2 Foreign Commerce Weekly, a U. S. Department of Commerce publication.

The maximum prices of these commodities may not exceed ceilings in effect on December 31, 1953, and are to remain in effect until February 15, 1955, the terminal date of the new law.



Portugal

SARDINE INDUSTRY AIDED BY BRITISH LIFTING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: The reopening of the British market for Portuguese sardines by the release of the

British sardine import trade from government controls had the effect of cleaning out the accumulated stocks held by Portuguese canners. Notwithstanding this, the export price for sardines has been even lower than a year ago, averaging 15.80 escudos per kilo (24.8 U. S. cents per pound) against 16.00 escudos per kilo (25.1 U. S. cents per pound). The total Portuguese sardine exports in the first six months of 1954 amounted to 16,968 metric tons as compared with 12,989 metric tons during the first six months of 1953.

Sardines had been somewhat more abundant during the latter part of the last fishing season but are again scarce. There have been reports in the press of complaints by fishermen that catches have recently been limited to undersized sardines which must by law be returned to the sea even if dead. Prices for fresh fish have averaged 78.00 escudos (US\$2.72) per basket, the highest price since 1949. As a consequence, high prices for raw material, plus poor export prices, make hard sledding for sardine canners, a July 28 U. S. Embassy dispatch from Lisbon states.



Spain

OUTLOOK FOR CANNED FISH EXPORTS: The depressed Spanish fishing industry hopes to improve its position by increasing exports, but certain problems have to be faced first. A recent article in a well-known Spanish trade journal discusses these problems and possible solutions.

Spanish exports of tuna to most markets have gradually diminished. However, there are opportunities for expanding sales of the white-meat variety to the United

States market, provided Spanish prices can be brought closer in line with those of Japan and Peru, the principal foreign suppliers to the United States.

The anchovy catch is an important source of revenue for Spanish fishermen, particularly in Galicia, where the best-quality anchovies are packed for export. The United States is the only market capable of absorbing the Galician production and Galician exports of anchovies to the United States have increased from 430 metric tons in 1950 to 960 metric tons in 1952. Anchovies caught in the Cantabrian region are salted and packed in bulk in barrels or tins, and 70 to 80 percent of the production is exported. The principal market is Italy, where the fish are filleted and reexported to compete in some measure with the Galician anchovies. Portugal is Spain's keenest competitor in the anchovy export markets, even though Portuguese prices are similar or a little higher.

Sardines have been scarce along Spain's northern coasts during the past few years, and this has meant the loss of the United States market to Portuguese and French Moroccan producers. Spanish exporters are now quoting \$14 to \$15 per case of 100 tins; comparative French Moroccan and Portuguese prices are \$9.25 and \$9.10 per case, respectively. Good catches of sardines are still being brought in along Spain's southern coasts.

Unfortunately, Spanish sardine canning plants are situated along the north coasts and it is necessary to transport the sardines by truck nearly 1,000 miles. This results in Spanish canners paying more than twice as much for their sardines as the Portuguese canners and the quality deteriorates during the long trip. Before 1936 exports of sardines averaged 14,000 metric tons a year, but in recent years have averaged no more than 5,400 tons. This points up the decline in Spain's sardine canning industry, reports the August 21 Foreign Trade, a Canadian Government publication.

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VIGO FISH CANNING TRENDS, JULY 1954: Fish canneries in the Vigo area of Spain purchased 2.3 million pounds of fish, mainly albacore, in July as compared with 548,000 pounds in June and 2.0 million pounds in July 1953. The increased catch in July was due to the seasonal albacore runs along the coast. Sardines continued to be scarce.

Canners revealed that although the industry was active practically all during July, the future is still gloomy as the Government has not as yet taken any steps to liberalize existing export rates. The canners feel that with reduced production, raw material shortages, and increased labor costs, competition in foreign markets is impossible. The industry's major problem continues to be shortage of liquid capital to finance operations, an August 14 U. S. consular dispatch from Vigo points out.



Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

REPORT ON THE FISHERIES: Some of the past year's developments in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands were presented by Frank E. Midkiff, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, in the U. N. Trusteeship Council on July 7 (Midkiff was special U. S. representative to the Council). That part of the statement that pertains to fisheries follows:

During the past fiscal year (July 1, 1953-June 30, 1954) the trust territory has explored possibilities for developing

commercial fisheries in Micronesia along lines that will insure maximum participation of, and accrual of direct benefits to, the Micronesians.

Much first-rate advice was obtained through consultation with members of the Tuna Industry Advisory Committee (advisory to the Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service), which met at Honolulu in February of this year. Partly as a result of such counsel, and also on the strength of advice received at frequent intervals from officials of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations (another activity of the Fish and Wildlife Service), first attention is being given to encouragement of local fisheries in the districts, for the purposes of increasing the supplies of fish protein needed for local consumption, as well as to enable exports to neighboring districts and to Guam. Efforts are being put forth further to develop the program instituted at Ponape in early 1952 whereby Kapingamarangi and Moki men residing there market the fish catches obtained off the main channel entrance. Since inception of the plan, surpluses have been shipped regularly to Truk for use there in the hospital and central dining room, with some going on to Guam.

A plan to store and raise fish in fish pens for export sale has been broached at Ponape but has been discounted as a likely commercial venture by fisheries experts. The fish pens, however, long successfully used on Mokil Atoll, may have future value in connection with local subsistence fishing activities elsewhere.

The government of the trust territory is observing closely the new--and for American fishing interests, radical--experimental expeditions to the central Pacific area by the United States fishing groups. Activities and participation by Micronesians are objectives in all such planning.

Conversations are proceeding with Hawaiian and West Coast (United States) commercial firms toward the development of improved fishing facilities for the Micronesians. It

is not planned to set up canneries or byproducts plants, but it is anticipated that the islanders will be taught ways to improve their fishing intake.

The Japanese military, in order to further their security program, destroyed all but 80 of the Micronesians' 1,500 canoes. This literally wiped out the native subsistence fishing on many islands except for reef wading and fishing. Since each canoe requires a mature breadfruit tree to manufacture, and since there are no surplus breadfruit trees on most islands, it will take a considerable time to replace the canoes. The Micronesians are now occupied in remodeling and repairing surplus whaleboats and motor launches to meet the need. In a few instances, they are constructing cabin launches which use an outboard motor or engine, permitting wider cruising range.

The trochus industry yielded \$18,439 to the Micronesians in 1953. At present we are spreading the trochus beds and extending the period of the harvest season annually, thus increasing this source of income.

In another statement to the Council on July 13, the High Commissioner states: "I share the hope expressed by several members that it will be possible to open a fishing program in the Territory. Commercial fishing is as yet a relatively undeveloped activity in the Territory. The reasons for this are the lack of both the capital and the specialized knowledge required for the operation. It is my hope that we shall be able to make an arrangement which will bring in to the Territory the capital and knowledge and which will also provide training and participation by the Micronesians. We are working with the Federal Pacific Ocean Fisheries Investigation Organization on this problem."



Union of South Africa

U. S. FIRM INVESTS IN CANNED PILCHARDS AND JACK MACKEREL FISHERIES: The biggest single purchasing arrangement in the history of the South African fishing industry is embodied in a deal between a group of South African fish canners and a California fish canner.

In terms of this association the United States company is marketing under its own labels in dollar areas the canned pilchards and canned jack mackerel (maasbankers) produced by the South African group of companies.

The agreement, which has been operating since January 1, 1954, and which has already resulted in the export to the United States of nearly 200,000 cases of jack mackerel (maasbanker) produced by the group, is in process of being given legal form to make this joining of hands permanent. The agreement envisages the United States company taking a minority interest in the South African Corporation--this will be the first entry of United States capital into the South African fishing industry.

The United States company began purchasing operations in the Union in 1953, buying about 220,000 cases of canned pilchards from a number of sources. As a result, however, of a visit by the company's president and sales manager, it was decided to form the association with the group of companies.

One remarkable result of this United States interest in the South African fish canning industry is that the maasbanker, which has not hitherto been canned on any-

thing like the scale of the pilchard, is bringing in the United States a substantially higher price than the canned pilchard.

In 1953 the South African group packed only 60,000 cases of maasbanker. In the first five months of 1954 the group packed about 205,000 cases (48 1-lb. cans) of this fish--practically the whole pack was exported to the United States.

Following the successful maasbanker season of the first months of this year, the South African industry is now engaged in pilchard fishing, but no accurate indication is available of what the season will bring. The South African group, however, hopes to pack at least several hundred thousand cases of pilchards, not only to meet its United States commitments but also to maintain its sales in the sterling area, as well as in the Union itself.

The California firm looked to South Africa because it was apparent that the Union was the only country in the world with sufficient resources of pilchards and jack mackerel to sustain a substantial export trade. The decision followed the virtually complete collapse of the Californian pilchard industry, which, starting in 1914, grew so rapidly that by the 1936-37 season no less than 791,000 tons of pilchards were harvested for the canning and reduction plants. This rate of catching was apparently far too great for after that peak season the catch fell off rapidly, so much so that the 1953/54 season ended with 2,620 tons caught, 63,384 cases packed.

It is this great vacuum in the United States market which the South African industry now has the opportunity of at least partially filling. The South African Government has taken early and drastic powers to prevent overfishing.

Last year United States importers bought about 400,000 cases of canned fish from the Union and South-West Africa. This year the figure may well be trebled, with the group providing the biggest single contribution, reports the July South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review.

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CANNED FISH PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 1952/53: The total production of canned fish in the Union of South Africa and South-West Africa during the period November 1, 1952, to October 31, 1953, amounted to 86.8 million pounds, according to an August 20 U. S. consular dispatch from Cape Town (see table 1). Pilchards

Species	Nov. 1, 1952 to Oct. 31, 1953	Nov. -Dec. 1953
	Quantity	Quantity
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Albacore	97,905	102,696
Maasbankers (jack mackerel).....	23,251,700	9,072
Mackerel.....	800,392	-
Pilchards (1/2-lb. pack).....	8,284,101	280,296
Pilchards (1-lb. pack).....	54,034,002	472,032
Snoek.....	358,464	-
Miscellaneous	16,512	-
Total	86,843,076	864,096

(62.3 million pounds) comprised the bulk of the pack, followed by maasbankers or jack mackerel (23.3 million pounds). Canned fish production during November-December 1953 totaled .9 million pounds, mostly pilchards and maasbankers or jack mackerel.

Canned fish inventories on December 31, 1953, totaled 21.6 million pounds, almost entirely pilchards and maasbankers or jack mackerel.

Table 2 - South-West Africa and Union of South Africa Canned Fish Inventories, Nov. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1953

Species	Nov. 1, 1953	Dec. 31, 1953
	Quantity	Quantity
	Lbs.	Lbs.
Albacore.....	25,929	102,312
Maasbankers (jack mackerel)	8,356,062	3,613,636
Mackerel	56,574	1,698
Pilchards (½-lb pack)	2,661,381	1,595,484
Pilchards (1-lb pack)	21,198,818	16,189,872
Snoek	166,188	85,920
Stockfish	34,032	7,752
Miscellaneous	5,568	5,472
Total.....	32,504,552	21,602,146

Practically all of the production of pilchards and maasbankers recorded for the last two months of 1954 was during November in South-West Africa. For pilchards and maasbankers the Union of South Africa had a closed season during November-December, while in South-West Africa the closed season began on November 15. There was no closed season for albacore.

Pilchards and maasbankers are not quite so plentiful this year in the Union of South Africa and the industry is approximately 40,000 metric tons short of the maximum of 250,000 tons which may be caught. Representations have been made to the Division of Fisheries that fishing be stopped immediately and the season closed until October 31 at which time fishing would again be permitted. This has been agreed to. This year the season closed on August 13 and will reopen again on November 1 for one month during which time any amount of fish may be caught. It is felt that there will be more fish available during this month, and the industry will take the full quota. Fish are quite scarce now and little chance existed of the quota being filled before the season was to close on September 1.

It should be noted that this does not apply to South-West Africa where fishing has been good and the closed season begins on November 15.



United Kingdom

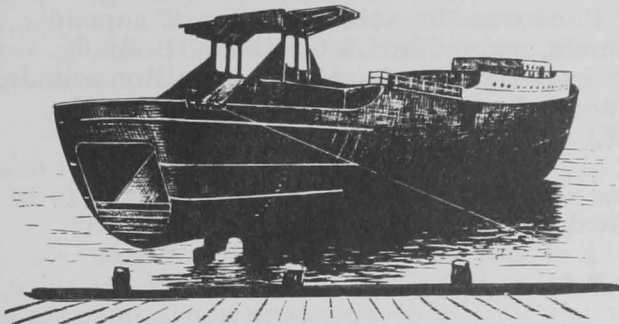
FACTORY TRAWLER "FAIRTRY" LANDS FIRST CATCH FROM GRAND BANKS: The British freezing-at-sea factory trawler Fairtry landed at Immingham on July 28 with a catch of 400-500 tons of fish, 86 tons of fish meal, and about 4,200 gallons of liver oils. The Fairtry was on her maiden voyage and fished on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and off Greenland, the trip lasting three months. Most of the fish consisted of frozen fillets of cod and haddock, according to the July 31 Fish Trades Gazette, a British fishery magazine.

All of the fish landed from the Fairtry went into cold storage at Grimsby for eventual domestic and export trade.

One of the vessel's owners commented, "Everything has gone more or less according to plan and we are very satisfied. It will take more than one voyage before the success of the venture from the economic point of view can be ascertained."

... "For a maiden voyage she has run very well indeed and I think we have proved to our own satisfaction that we can produce a good quality quick-frozen article at sea. We had to prove that it could be done at sea. The question is whether we can produce sufficient fish at the right price to make the ship a thoroughly paying proposition; time alone will show that. We shall continue to run her and with reasonable confidence. I think it has been a satisfactory maiden voyage and I am not disappointed, though I should have liked to have seen a bigger catch."

The Captain of the Fairtry said: "She is a wonderful fishing ship and has caught a lot of fish. We averaged 400 kits of fish a day for 60 days' fishing off Greenland and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. We had very fine weather, with calm seas, but a lot of fog."



Stern view of Fairtry. Note chute for trawl net and unusual athwartship galleys.

The stern trawl meant a winch and a fish room astern as well.

In his view, ships of the type of the Fairtry cannot make a living at Iceland, Bear Island, or the White Sea fishing grounds. "To make a ship like this a paying proposition, we have to catch a lot of fish," he said. "We have to have big quantities to keep the filleters going, and that means we have to go to distant grounds like Greenland and Newfoundland." He did not think that a ship of the Fairtry type would supersede conventional trawlers. In his opinion there would always be a place for the normal type of ship, with factoryships proving an addition to the normal fishing fleet.

The Fairtry was due to sail from Immingham about mid-August. Most of the crew remained with the ship, and the owners received a number of applications for berths on this novel type of vessel.

The only mechanical trouble suffered on the maiden voyage was with the gearing of the electric winch but this was soon put right in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Asked if the owners intended to build more ships like the Fairtry, a representative of the owners said they were first going to make the Fairtry a thorough success.

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IMPORT CONTROLS ON CANNED SALMON AND CRAB MEAT LIFTED: Canned salmon and crab meat will be freed from controls in Great Britain on October 1, when private imports will be resumed, the Ministry of Food announced on June 16. The remaining stocks held by the Ministry are expected to be distributed to the trade in September.

Arrangements have been made for limited imports of canned salmon from North America, Japan, and Soviet Russia, under specific license, starting October

1, 1954. Also from the same date, canned crab meat can be imported without restriction from Western Europe, and certain Commonwealth and other countries, a July 23 U. S. Embassy dispatch from London reports.

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CANNED SALMON IMPORTS EXPECTED TO INCREASE: When trade in canned salmon in the United Kingdom is returned to private hands on October 1, the trade expects that import quotas to the end of June 1955 will total almost £5.3 million (US\$14.8 million). Canada and the United States are expected to ship canned salmon valued at £2.5 million (US\$7 million); Japan, £2.0 million (US\$5.6 million); and Russia, £0.8 million (US\$2.2 million).

During last year when the Ministry of Food was the sole importer of canned salmon, purchases totaled 12.1 million pounds, valued at £2.0 million (US\$5.6 million). During the first half of this year imports also totaled 12.1 million pounds, but were valued at £2.2 (US\$6.2 million), according to the August 6 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical.

Import licensing for canned salmon and other canned fish in New Zealand is to be abolished immediately, a report from Wellington states.

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FILLET SKINNING MACHINE: A new fillet skinning machine has been patented in the United Kingdom, according to the June Trade News, a Canadian Government publication. The machine operates by drawing the fillet past the knife. The knife is first moved to cut perpendicularly through the meat close to the skin and is then intruded to cut between the skin and the meat. The end of the fillet is cut between a small and large roller, and the knife maintained at a constant distance from the larger roller. The fillet is drawn between the rollers. The method is said to be applicable to skinning flatfish, such as plaice, before filleting.

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CASUAL FILLET CUTTERS REFUSE NEW WAGE TERMS: Casual fillet cutters at Hull, England, refused to accept new wage terms offered by leading fish firms and walked out, reports the July 24 Fish Trades Gazette, a British fishery magazine. The new terms provide the payment of 4 s. (56 U. S. cents) per hour for hours actually worked in all circumstances.

The casual filleters had been receiving as much as £2 (US\$5.60) per day, irrespective of the starting time, which often was as late as 10 a. m. The normal finishing time is 5:00 p. m., after which overtime was claimed. The new rate for casual labor was the equivalent of £8 (US\$22.40) for a 5-day week, which was considered to be a fair one in the trade.

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SEINE NET FILM AVAILABLE: The motion picture Fish and The Seine Net produced by the Scottish Home Office is now available on loan or sale from the British Information Service. This film shows the underwater action of a Danish seine which is similar to the otter trawl, and also how the fish react when overtaken by the net. The photography was done by "frogmen" with special underwater cameras. For further information, write to the British Information Service, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has three prints of this film and has shown them in many fishing communities, especially where trawling is carried on.

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TRAWLER ON TV: Late in July a television cameraman took moving pictures of a British trawler to be shown on a Children's Hour program, reports the July 30 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery magazine.

The program will tell the story of the adoption of the trawler, the 21st to be adopted by a school, and show how the fish is landed and placed on rail for transportation inland. Other shots will show the arrival of the fish in Oxford and its journey to the dinner table.

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INCREASED SUBSIDIES FOR FISHING VESSELS SOUGHT: Increases in subsidy payments to whitefish vessels (between 70 feet and 140 feet in length) fishing inshore, near, and middle waters were laid before Parliament in July by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Secretary for Scotland. If confirmed by Parliament, they would come into operation on August 1 and last until July 31, 1955.

The new subsidy will amount to £1 (US\$2.80) per day for the smaller vessels, and more for the larger vessels.

The changes proposed are: increases in the maximum subsidy payable for motor and steam vessels of 100 feet to 140 feet, and increases in the maximum gross proceeds up to which subsidy is payable for these vessels; increases in the maximum gross proceeds up to which subsidy is payable for steam vessels of 70 feet to 99 feet.

The scheme also provides that if any structural alterations are made to a vessel to increase its length with the result that it moves into a higher subsidy class, grants may nevertheless continue to be paid at the rate appropriate to the vessel's length before the change unless the appropriate Minister has agreed in writing to pay at a higher rate.



ALUMINUM FRESH FISH CONTAINERS IN GRIMSBY

A new method of transporting fresh fish in lightweight containers is being used in Grimsby, England. The containers are made of Duralumin and lined with another special anticorrosive aluminum alloy. The containers are stated to be unaffected by brine, are easily cleaned, and do not become impregnated with the smell of fish. Drainage channels are formed in the aluminum alloy bottom. The containers measure 13 ft. 10 in. x 6 ft. 10 in. x 5 ft. 9 in.

--World Fish Trade, July 1953.