



International

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

NORTH PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS FOR 1956: No changes in the 1956 North Pacific halibut fishery regulations which would alter either the amount or the disposition of fishing during 1956 is the recommendation of the International Pacific Halibut Commission after its annual meeting in Seattle during the latter part of January.

The Commission, whose treaty function is the development of the stocks of halibut to levels that will permit the maximum sustained yield, bases its decisions regarding regulation upon the findings of its scientific staff. It reviewed at length the scientific evidence submitted during the sessions, as well as the recommendations of the entire Pacific Coast industry. Due to the abnormal fishing conditions that prevailed during the 1955 season, the scientific investigations had not provided the necessary confirmation of the effects of the multiple seasons inaugurated in 1954. Consequently, the Commission decided against any change in 1956, a January 27 news release from the Commission points out.

A large section of the industry proposed a further splitting of the seasons. After most thorough study, the Commission was of the opinion that the need for such a change at this time had not been established by investigations, as is specifically required by the 1953 convention. Accordingly the Commission decided against providing any additional seasons in 1956.

The Commission is recommending to the United States and Canada the following fishing regulations for the 1956 season.

- (1) The fishing areas shall be the same as in 1955.
- (2) There shall be no change in the catch limit of 26.5 million pounds for the first season in Area 2.
- (3) There shall be no change in the 28-million-pound catch limit for the first season in Area 3A.
- (4) The opening date for the first halibut fishing season in all areas shall be May 12.
- (5) In addition to the above seasons, based upon attainment of catch limits, further fishing seasons shall be allowed as follows:
 - (a) Areas 2 and 1B shall be reopened on August 10 for a period of at least seven days.
 - (b) Areas 3A and 3B shall be reopened on August 10 for a period of at least nine days.

- (c) In the event there is a significant deficiency in the catch limit taken during the first season in Area 2 or Area 3A, the Commission may increase the length of the aforesaid 7- and 9-day second seasons by announcement prior to their second opening.
- (d) Area 3B, which includes the grounds west of Shumagin Islands and in Bering Sea, will be opened for a third fishing season 12 days after the end of the second season in that area for a period of 23 days. Area 1A, which opens on May 12, shall close with the final closure of Area 3B.

The Commission provided that there would be at least 14 days between the closure of the first season and the commencement of the second season in Area 3A. All openings and closures shall take place at 6:00 a.m. Pacific standard time.

The Commission during its sessions met with the scientific staff, with representatives of the vessel owners, dealers and fishermen's organizations of the Pacific Coast, and with a newly-established nine-man Industry Advisory Group.

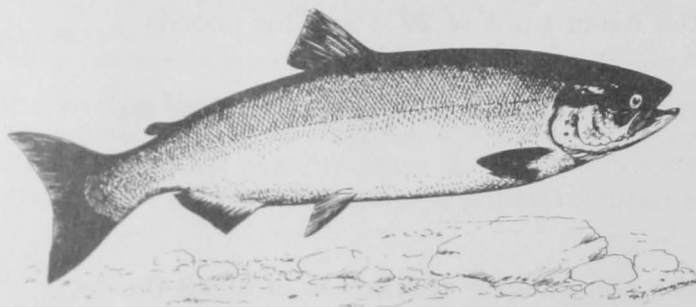
The Commission is responsible to Canada and the United States for the investigation and regulation of the North Pacific halibut fishery, which now produces nearly 75 percent of the world's halibut catch. When regulations began 24 years ago, the Pacific Coast catch totaled only 44 million pounds and required a 9-month season to make the catch. Under the Commission's management there has been a progressive improvement of the stocks. The annual catch during the past two years has averaged over 65 million pounds, and it has been caught in only $2\frac{1}{2}$ months of fishing.

Seton H. Thompson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was elected Chairman, and S. V. Ozere of the Department of Fisheries of Canada, Vice-Chairman for 1956. Other members of the Commission are Harold Helland and Richard Nelson, representing Canada, and Mattias Madsen and J. W. Mendenhall, representing the United States.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, February 1955, p. 44.

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC SALMON FISHERIES COMMISSION

SOCKEYE SALMON REGULATIONS FOR 1956: Recommendations for regulatory control of sockeye salmon fishing during 1956 in Convention waters have been officially approved by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission and have been submitted to the governments concerned.



Sockeye (red) salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)

The approved reduction in fishing area in both United States and Canadian Convention waters is considered necessary to provide adequate racial escapements from the relatively small sockeye salmon runs expected in 1956.

Recommendations for Regulatory Control of Sockeye Fishing in Convention Waters as Approved by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission in Official Session January 21, 1956, in Seattle, Wash.

United States Convention Waters lying easterly and inside of the Bonilla Point-Tatoosh Island Line.

1. That there shall be a weekly closure of 72 hours duration including Friday, Saturday and Sunday of each week

in all United States Convention waters from June 28 to August 13; provided that the waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca lying within the territorial limits of the United States bounded on the west by a straight line drawn from Bonilla

Point, Vancouver Island, to the lighthouse on Tatoosh Island, Washington thence to the nearest point of Cape Flattery and bounded on the east by a straight line extending due north from Angeles Point to the International Boundary, shall be closed to the taking of sockeye from June 28 to August 5 inclusive.

2. That there shall be a closure of 48 hours duration including Friday and Saturday in all United States Convention waters from August 13 to September 3.

3. That the Commission shall relinquish regulatory control of sockeye fishing in all United States Convention waters on September 3.

4. That in the waters of the United States of America embraced in Article I of the said Convention it shall be unlawful for anyone to buy, sell, or have in his possession sockeye salmon taken during the times when fishing for or taking sockeye salmon is prohibited therein.

5. That nothing contained in any rules or regulations relating to fishing for or taking sockeye salmon shall apply to the taking of sockeye salmon within the waters of the United States of America embraced in Article I of the said Convention by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission or its servants or agents acting pursuant to its directions for the purpose of exercising its objects under the said Convention.

6. That the Commission further recommends that the Director of Fisheries for the State of Washington consistent with authority in him vested implement recommendations which may be made by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, through its Chairman, respecting closed periods for fishing for sockeye salmon in those waters of the United States of America embraced in Article I of the said Convention.

Canadian Convention Waters lying easterly and inside of the Bonilla Point-Tatoosh Island Line.

1. That there shall be a complete closure to all salmon net fishing in Canadian Convention waters known as Areas 19 and 20 from June 28 to August 5 inclusive. Commission controls in these areas will be relinquished on August 6.

2. That there shall be a weekly closure of 78 hours duration including Friday, Saturday and Sunday of each week in the waters of Areas 17 and 18 and District No. 1 from June 28 to August 7.

3. That there shall be a weekly closure of 120 hours duration including Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of each week in the waters of Areas 17 and 18 and District No. 1 from August 8 to Sept 19.

(a) That in that part of District No. 1 above Pattullo Bridge the weekly closure shall cease 4 hours later than in that part below Pattullo Bridge

irrespective of the length of any of the above specified closures.

4. That the opening and closing hours in all areas of Canadian Convention waters shall be substantially the same as those in effect during the 1955 fishing season. The Commission shall relinquish regulatory control of sockeye in Areas 17 and 18 and District No. 1 on September 19.

5. That no one shall buy, sell, or have in his possession any sockeye salmon taken in the waters of the Dominion of Canada embraced in Article I of the said Convention during the time fishing for such salmon is prohibited therein.

6. That the Chief Supervisor of Fisheries for British Columbia, consistent with authority vested in him, be empowered to implement recommendations which may be made by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission respecting close times for fishing for sockeye salmon in the waters of the Dominion of Canada embraced in Article I of the said Convention, by posting a notice of any change of close time so recommended on the cannery or canneries adjacent to the area or areas thereby to be affected at least twenty-four hours before the commencement of such change in close time.

7. Nothing contained in any Regulations made pursuant to the Fisheries Act shall apply to the taking of sockeye salmon in the waters of Canada embraced in Article I of the said Convention by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission or its servants or duly authorized agents acting pursuant to its directions for the purpose of exercising its objects under the said Convention.

Convention Waters westerly and outside of the Bonilla Point-Tatoosh Island Line.

Under the authority of the Convention hereinafter mentioned, the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission at its meeting in Seattle, Wash., on the twenty-first day of January, 1956, hereby makes and adopts the following order and regulation, namely:

"Taking sockeye salmon on the high seas and territorial waters described in paragraph numbered 1 of Article I of the Convention between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada for the protection, preservation, and extension of the Sockeye Salmon Fisheries in the Fraser River System, signed at Washington on the 26th day of May 1930, shall be permitted by trolling gear only from June 28th to August 5th inclusive, for the year 1956, after which date the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission shall relinquish regulatory control of sockeye salmon fishing within the aforementioned waters; provided that this Order and Regulation shall apply only to nationals and inhabitants and vessels and boats of the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada."

TRADE AGREEMENTS

REVISION OF THE UNITED STATES-PHILIPPINE TRADE AGREEMENT OF 1946 BECOMES EFFECTIVE: The revised United States-Philippine trade agreement, signed on September 6, 1955 came into force on January 1, 1956.

After a half century of free trade, duties are now being levied on Philippine goods imported into the United States at 5 percent of regular tariff rates, and on United States goods imported into the Philippines at 25 percent of regular tariff rates.

Some of the principal changes made in the revised agreement from the original agreement of 1946 are:

A less rapid imposition of United States duties on imports from the Philippines and an acceleration of application of Philippine duties on imports from the United States.

More specific provisions for national treatment of American business activities in the Philippines and reciprocity in treatment for Philippine business activities in the United States.

Elimination of the Philippine exchange tax by substitution of a special import tax to be progressively reduced and eliminated.

Facilitation of reciprocal entry of traders and investors of the two countries.

Yielding to the Philippines control over the exchange rate of its currency and over exchange restrictions.

Elimination of the prohibition against imposition of Philippine export taxes.

Elimination of most absolute quotas on Philippine articles entering the United States.

Under the 1946 agreement, import duties were to be applied by both countries beginning July 4, 1954 at the rate of 5 percent of the basic rate each year for 20 years until full rates were reached after January 4, 1974. The new agreement proposes, with certain exceptions for articles under quota provisions, ordinary custom duties to be collected on articles entered or withdrawn from warehouse at the following percentages of the respective duties:

Years	Philippine Rate on United States Articles (Percent of basic import duty)	United States Rate on Philippine Articles	The agreement also proposes to delete, among other items, buttons of pearl or shell from the application of the absolute quota provisions and to provide for diminishing duty-free quota. It eliminates most absolute quotas on Philippine
1956-58	25	5	
1959-61	50	10	
1962-64	75	20	
1965-67	90	40	
1968-70	90	60	
1971-73	90	80	
1974-	100	100	

articles entering the United States and increases duty-free quotas on certain Philippine articles subject to declining duty-free quotas in the United States.

The agreement provides for the mutualization of rights either party accords to the other in the disposition, exploitation, development, and utilization of natural resources. Each party has reserved the right to limit the extent to which aliens may engage in fishing.

The protocol of the Agreement has been amended to provide additional description of the terms "United States article" and "Philippine article."

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, September 1955, p. 116; February 1955, p. 48

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UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ECUADOR EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS: The bilateral trade agreement entered into by the United States and Ecuador on August 6, 1938, and subject to termination on January 18, 1956, was extended by a United States Presidential proclamation until July 18, 1956. The termination of the agreement had been previously postponed in order to arrange a mutually satisfactory commercial arrangement in lieu of the trade agreement.

According to an announcement by the Department of State, the United States now has bilateral trade agreements with eight countries, namely Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Iceland, Iran, Paraguay, and Venezuela. In 1947, some 27 of these bilateral agreements negotiated under the Trade Agreements Act of 1934 were in effect. Many of these have been terminated by mutual consent or as the countries became associated by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, September 1955, p. 90; April 1955, p. 57.

FAO-CARIBBEAN COMMISSION TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON COOPERATIVES

The second conference of the joint Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)-Caribbean Commission Technical Conference on Cooperatives was held in Georgetown, British Guiana, from January 23-31. The conference covered, among other things, questions relating to cooperatives for the supply of fishing requisites and for the marketing of fish.

Walter H. Stolting, Assistant Chief, Economics and Cooperative Marketing Section of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries was the U. S. Department of Interior's delegate to the conference. Also on the delegation were representatives from the U. S. Departments of Agriculture and Labor.

According to a U. S. State Department press release dated January 19, 1956, this will be the second such conference of the FAO and the Caribbean Commission. Its purpose is to assist in the development of rural cooperatives as a means of removing or reducing the disadvantages under which rural people suffer, enabling rural people to participate in government programs for increasing the production of food; raising nutritional levels, and improving the distribution of agricultural and other commodities; and stimulating the economic and social betterment of people in underdeveloped areas. The First Conference was held at Trinidad in January 1951.



In addition to Member Governments of the Caribbean Commission (France, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States) and the 14 associated local administrations, the following Governments, agencies, and institutions have been invited to send observers to the Conference: Cuba; the Dominican Republic; Haiti; the United Nations; UN Economic Commission for Latin America; International Labor Organization; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the Pan American Union; and the Holy See.



Australia

SHRIMP FISHERY: The Australian shrimp fishery is relatively small and the fishing grounds are scattered over wide areas. The catch is used almost entirely for the local market, states a December 21, 1955, dispatch from the United States Consul at Sydney. Negotiations are in progress for the export of shrimp to the United States, and if a number of technical difficulties can be overcome there appear to be substantial trade opportunities. Although there is some evidence that substantial unexploited shrimp resources exist, this would involve additions to the fleet and new packing facilities.

Total production of shrimp during the period July 1, 1954, to June 30, 1955, was 6.6 million lbs., valued at ex-vessel at about US\$2 million. The production for 1953/54 was 4.3 million pounds and for 1952/53 3.3 million pounds.

Shrimp exports are understood to be insignificant. Small quantities have gone to New Zealand and various Pacific islands, and recently samples were sent to the United States and to the United Kingdom.

The shrimp fisheries in Australia are chiefly confined to waters along the north coast of New South Wales and Southern Queensland, although a few are found on the coasts of Southern New South Wales and Victoria. The ocean fishery is still in its early stages of development, but estuarine shrimping, by small boats, has been carried on for many years taking mainly "greasy-back" and "school" shrimp. The shrimp season is principally from June to September. Shrimp fishing is done almost entirely by individual boat owners who have formed themselves into cooperatives for the purpose of packing and marketing their product.

There are no shrimp canneries in Australia, but the fishermen's cooperatives have facilities for freezing shrimp and, in addition, the Queensland Fish Board has freezing equipment. Otter-trawl gear is used and fishing is done by day in inshore waters at depths of less than 30 fathoms.



El Salvador

NEW FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LAW: Further details concerning the Salvadoran Fisheries Development Law, Decree No. 1961 of October 25, 1955, were made available by the United States Embassy at San Salvador in a dispatch dated December 21, 1955. The law in addition to granting incentives for the development of the fishing industry through tax and duty exemptions, specifies that waters within a 12-mile limit may be fished only by Salvadoran nationals or companies formed in El Salvador with a minimum of 50-percent Salvadoran capital.

In addition to the two fishing boats already operated by the Cooperative Pesquera de Tamarindo, a total of five other fishing boats are expected to start fishing in Salvadoran waters as soon as licenses are granted.



French West Africa

TUNA FISHING OFF FRENCH WEST AFRICA TRIED: Six tuna boats have arrived at Dakar from France and will try tuna fishing on a regular commercial scale off of West Africa. These boats are from the French fishing fleet normally based at St. Jean de Luz. They are newly-constructed and are said to be capable of

remaining at sea for a period of up to 15 days with refrigeration facilities for preserving their catch during that time.

Although fishing off the coast of French West Africa has always been an important source of food for the coastal tribes of the area, it is only within the last few years that consideration has been given to commercial fishing for export. For some time, small quantities of spiny lobsters have been sent to France by air and there has been talk of trials at various other kinds of fishing. However, it is only during the present cool season that an attempt has been made on a large enough scale to indicate whether or not a real expansion of the industry is feasible, states a December 28, 1955, dispatch from the United States Consulate at Dakar.

This season's tuna fishing is the first trial, but the companies behind the venture believe that the boats will be able to pay expenses and also make sufficient profit to justify continuing the operations in the future. A representative from one of the large fish cannery firms in Brest, France, is in Dakar to oversee the operations and to buy the catch.

The large refrigeration plant built by the Government in the port area of Dakar as part of the "Development Plan" for French West Africa is being put to good use in this fishing operation. This refrigeration plant was built as much for possible need in case of an international emergency as it was for present local use. It is much larger than Dakar or the military establishment based on Dakar can possibly use and it has been largely idle since its completion more than two years ago.

The tuna fishing season in this area is not expected to last more than three months and only at the end of that time will it be possible to estimate whether or not continuing operations in future seasons will be profitable.



German Federal Republic

FIRST TURBINE FISHING TRAWLER BUILT: The first turbine-driven fishing vessel in the world is now being tested in West Germany, according to The Fishing News (December 2, 1955), a British fishery periodical. The Braunschweig, built by a Cuxhaven shipyard, was placed in service at that port by a German fishery firm. A sistership, Hof, is lying in the fitting-out yards, and the Frankfurt Am Main, another sistership, is already on the stocks. The Braunschweig and Frankfurt Am Main will be stationed at Bremerhaven and the Hof at Cuxhaven.

Profit considerations have, in the first place, led to the building of a turbine-operated trawler. Apart from this, the unit requires less space.

The water-tube boiler has been designed for a steam pressure of 30 atmospheres with 420-degrees overheating. There is a geared air prewarmer and also a semi-automatic burner for oil-firing. The single housing turbine develops, at its highest point, 1,000 hp. allowing a speed of approximately 13.5 knots.

On the double reduction-drive, a 105 kw. rotary current generator has been geared. Apart from this, there is an auxiliary turbine, with a d.c. generator for the net-winch (155 kw.) and a rotary current generator (105 kw.) for the 220/380 w. ship's current. In addition, there is a reserve air-cooled Diesel engine of 72 kw.

All pumps are electrically-driven. A low-pressure steam installation for distillation of seawater is also built in. The turbine permits usage of a variable-pitch propeller.

The chief dimensions are as follows: length over-all 193 feet, length at water-line 184 feet, width 30 feet, height (at sides) 16 feet. The weight of the Braunschweig is measured at 652 gross registered tons and 243 net registered tons. The capacity of the fish hold is approximately 5,000 baskets. The hold construction is newly developed, and shows only smooth bulkheads.

For the so-called "active insulation" of its cover, a new tube system has also been developed. The necessary refrigerating plant is accommodated under the fore-castle. A hatch in front of the mast and three large modern hatches aft lead to the hold itself. The latter have a three-piece cover and complete insulation. Their extended length permits two discharging gangs to work simultaneously at the same hatch. Unloading requires less time.

The Braunschweig has an action radius of 35 days. The 24-man crew is accommodated aft. A long gangway passes through the superstructure. A hospital is also accommodated here.

Under the bridge stands a vacuum liver-cooker, and the electric motor for driving the usual net winch. The vessel is equipped with all the latest electronic equipment.

The radar apparatus is electro-hydraulically operated and all equipment in the gally, including the stove, is run by electricity.

The fishing installation is on the starboard side only.



Iran

EXPORTS OF CAVIAR AND FISH, 1953/54 and 1954/55: The Iranian National Fisheries Co. exported 237,000 pounds of caviar from March 20, 1954-March 20, 1955, according to a December 20, 1955, dispatch from the United States Embassy at Tehran. This represents an increase of 7,000 pounds over the 230,000 pounds

Table 1 - Iranian Exports of Caviar, 1953/54-1954/55

Country	Year Ending March 20, 1955	Year Ending March 20, 1954	Country	Year Ending March 20, 1955	Year Ending March 20, 1954
 (Pounds).....		 (Pounds).....	
Morocco	167	22	France	52,155	30,967
Germany	6,162	2,422	Switzerland	6,765	55
U. S. A.	9,739	5,621	Lebanon	224	515
U. K.	1,456	431	Holland	20	9,313
Italy	1,767	488	Spain	62	11
Sweden	6,248	1,764	Belgium	238	20
U.S.S.R. 1/	151,998	178,308	Norway	-	11
Iraq	-	174	Denmark	37	55
(Continued in opposite column)			Total	237,038	230,177
1/ 199,212 pounds of miscellaneous fish eggs exported to Soviet Russia not included.					

exported March 21, 1953-March 20, 1954. The bulk of the caviar exports went to Soviet Russia (64.1 percent in 1954/55 and 77.5 percent in 1953/54). France received 22 percent in 1954/55 and 13.5 percent in 1953/54. The United States share increased from 1.1 percent (5,600 pounds) in 1953/54 to 4.1 percent (9,700 pounds) in 1954/55. The balance of the exports (9.2 percent) in 1954/55 are shipped to all other countries. The value of the caviar exports to the United States was about US\$8.21 a pound.

Iranian exports of fishery products other than caviar totaled 73,000 pounds of which 64,000 pounds were reported as exports to the United States. It is probable that the exports to the United States were practically all sturgeon.

Japan

TUNA AND CRAB EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES, JAN. -SEPT. 1955: The improvement in the Japanese export trade during the third quarter of 1955 was general, except for frozen tuna which declined to an export value of US\$4.4 million in the third quarter as compared with US\$5.0 million in the second quarter and US\$5.3

Japanese Canned Fishery Products and Marine-Oil Exports to United States, Territories, and Possessions, Jan.-Sept. 1955

Product	Quantity				Value			
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Total Jan.-Sept.	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Total Jan.-Sept.
	(Million Pounds)				(Million US\$)			
Tuna, frozen	32.5	35.4	33.6	101.5	5.3	5.0	4.4	14.7
Tuna, canned	3.2	5.6	5.9	14.7	1.5	2.4	2.5	6.4
Crab meat, canned	0.4	1.0	2.0	3.4	0.5	1.0	2.0	3.5
Other canned	2.9	3.6	6.5	13.0	1.8	1.3	2.3	5.4
Total	39.0	45.6	48.0	132.6	9.1	9.7	11.2	30.0
Fish & Marine Animal Oils	4.1	10.6	8.5	23.2	1.5	1.7	1.2	4.4

million in the first quarter. Total exports of frozen tuna, canned tuna, canned crab meat, and other canned fish for the third quarter of 1955 actually exceeded the second quarter total by 5.3 percent and the first quarter by 12.3 percent. The export price of frozen tuna declined from 16.3 U. S. cents a pound in the first quarter to 13.1 cents a pound in the third quarter; and for canned tuna from 47.0 U. S. cents a pound to 42.3 cents a pound, a November 15 United States Embassy dispatch from Tokyo reports.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT



Republic of Korea

UNKRA HELPS FISHING INDUSTRY IN 1955: Included among the numerous operations undertaken in the Republic of Korea in 1955 by the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency were loans and UNKRA-imported materials and engines for the construction of fishing boats. Fishing boats (1-25 tons) completed in 1955 numbered 208. At the end of the year 12 boats were under construction and enough lumber and engines were on hand to build up to 200 more vessels and repair about 500 others, states a January 5 United Nations news release.

In addition to the construction of fishing vessels, UNKRA aided in rehabilitating and modernizing three canneries. One in Pusan was reported to have tripled its production with the aid of UNKRA-imported machinery.



Mexico

WEST COAST SHRIMP FISHERY GOOD: Following several years of declining catches, the 1955/56 shrimp fishery on the west coast of Mexico is very good, according to a January 1956 dispatch from the United States consul at Nogales. Freezing plants are working at capacity and the boats dock alongside the wharf 4-6 days waiting to unload catches of 5-8 tons per boat. In the Mazatlan area some of the freezing plants unable to freeze the catches, re-ice their boats and send them out again for several more days. The boats have been returning with an additional ton or two of shrimp picked up practically outside the harbor.

At the present time there are 14 freezing and packing plants operating in the Nogales area, distributed as shown on the following page.

Shrimp Freezing and Packing Plants in Nogales Area	
Location	No. of Plants
Sinaloa:	
Mazatlan.....	4
Escuinapa	1
Culiacan.....	1
Topolobampo.....	1
Reforma.....	1
Sonora:	
Guaymas	4
Puerto Padasco (Mexicali District).	2

The only shortage in the shrimp industry of the Nogales area is enough labor to operate the plants. The companies are sending out agents to bring girls from the farms and outlying villages to supplement the local labor.

During the 1954/55 season one of the Mazatlan packing plants experimented with peeling and deveining the shrimp before freezing. The product has met with such success in the United States markets that it is now estimated that within three years approximately 70 percent of all shrimp exported from Mexico will be peeled and deveined.

The prices of shrimp delivered to United States wholesalers have remained fairly steady. Small sizes (up to 50 count per pound) were bringing 43 U. S. cents a pound; the extra large sizes (10-15 count) were bringing up to 85 U. S. cents a pound. The official shrimp closed season in 1956 will be from March 15 to April 15, instead of the usual July 15 to August 15.



Netherlands

PRODUCT AND MARKETING BOARD FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS PROPOSED:

A draft bill has been submitted to the Second Chamber of Parliament to provide for the establishment of a Product and Marketing Board for Fish and Fish Products. The bill provides at the same time for the termination of the present Industrial Board for Fish Products, states a December 1, 1955, dispatch from the United States Embassy at The Hague.

The Product and Marketing Board would include all enterprises of the fishing industry such as: production, processing, and domestic trade in fish and fish products. The Board would concern itself with matters pertaining to the relationships between the various stages of production and sale, including the fixing of prices and registration of enterprises. The Board would have no jurisdiction over the establishment, extension, and closing of enterprises, auction transactions, imports and exports, triangular trade, and the sale of surpluses not destined for human consumption.

The managing committee of the Board would consist of 28 members divided equally among employees' and employers' organizations in the production, processing, retail, and wholesale sectors. In the present Industrial Board, the employees have only one representative. For matters pertaining to foreign fish products (canned), a special committee of ten members will be created.



New Hebrides

TUNA CANNERY PLANS ABANDONED: The plans for a new tuna cannery in the New Hebrides (see Commercial Fisheries Review for September 1955, page 103) have been abandoned, according to the November 1955 issue of Pacific Islands Monthly. The original plan was to base the cannery at Santo and utilize skilled Japanese fishermen and equipment procured in Japan.

It is believed that objections by the British residents of the New Hebrides were instrumental in forcing the abandonment of the plan which originally was to provide an alternative industry for the New Hebrides.



Norway

WINTER HERRING PRICE AGREEMENT REACHED: The negotiations concerning the 1956 winter herring price between an advisory committee, named by the Norwegian Wage and Price Department, and representatives of the herring fishermen's sales and buyers' organizations resulted in an agreement on the average price to be paid by the Norwegian Herring Marketing Cooperative. The average price for large herring will be close to US\$31.55 per long ton and spring herring US\$27.04 per long ton. These new herring prices represent an increase of US\$1.88 per long ton over the 1955 price.

Selling prices to the various herring buying groups were increased proportionally. Prices for fat herring and small herring were increased similarly based on the oil content.

In recent years the herring marketing cooperative has assessed the fishermen 20 percent of the cost of loading, transporting, and unloading herring at distant meal and oil plants. According to the December 7, 1955 Fiskaren, a Norwegian trade paper, this assessment has been reduced to 10 percent in the 1956 agreement.

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NORWAY'S MOST MODERN FISHING VESSEL LANDS HALIBUT IN ENGLAND: Norway's most modern fishing vessel, the 400-ton Senior, early in December 1955 docked at Grimsby, England, with a catch of 70 tons of line-caught halibut from Greenland. Owned by a Bergen firm, the vessel was originally built in England as a whaler in 1936, but because the company wanted a ship with an exceptionally strong hull, she was preferred to a brand new vessel. The work of converting her cost US\$238,000 and was completed in October 1955. She is now the most modern and best equipped fishing vessel in Norway. The vessel was primarily designed for the prolific Norwegian herring fishing, but is able to operate in the halibut fishery off Greenland during the herring off-season, the December 9 issue of The Fishing News reports.

The Senior carries a crew of about 25 men when fishing. She is equipped with every possible navigational and fish-finding device and is the only Norwegian fishing vessel to be fitted with the German Aktif rudder, which consists of an auxiliary propeller built into the ship's rudder and coupled to an 80 hp. motor. A similar device is fitted to the German research vessel Anton Dohrn. This device enables the vessel to be manoeuvred easily while fishing and docking and completely eliminates the use of tugs when entering and leaving port.

The Senior carries two dories for herring fishing, using the purse-seining method, or Norwegian "Snurp" nets. At the height of the herring fishery she is capable of landing 300 metric tons of fish an hour, and carries a processing plant aboard for freezing herring and manufacturing meal.

Powered by a 1,200 hp. Diesel engine, the Senior is capable of a top speed of about 15 knots, though normally she does not exceed 12.

The dories are carried on a boat deck aft and also on this deck is sited the main winch and auxiliaries for handling the lines while fishing for halibut.

In addition to the Aktif rudder, the vessel has a special hydraulic steering gear, radar, and echo-sounder, fish finder, and Asdic. The bridge also has an autopilot enabling the skipper to set a course which is automatically kept to a great degree of accuracy.

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NEW FACTORY TRAWLER STARTS FISHING: The new Norwegian factoryship Havkvern (the first of its type) departed on its first trip to the North Sea for herring in early December 1955, according to the December 7, 1955 Fiskaren, a Norwegian fishery periodical. The 165-foot vessel was built in Germany and has a reduction capacity of 50 tons of raw herring per 24 hours. This new experimental ship will operate both as a trawler and a floating reduction plant for fish meal and fish oil and the production will be sold in England.

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COST STUDIES MADE ON TWELVE TRAWLERS: A profit and loss study on the operations of 12 Norwegian trawlers was completed by the Directorate of Fisheries from data supplied by the shipowners. The average value of the catch of the 12 trawlers fishing continuously in the year 1954 was about 1.2 million kroner (US\$167,997). The proceeds from the gross earnings per vessel was divided approximately 56.6 percent to the shipowners and 43.4 percent to the crews of the fishing vessels. The crew's share of the average annual value amounted to 525,000 kroner (US\$73,499) or an annual income per man of 18,000 kroner (US\$2,520), according to the October 13, 1955, issue of Fiskets Gang, a Norwegian fishery periodical.

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WHALE OIL PRICES FOR 1955/56 HIGHER: The sale of Norwegian 1955/56 season whale oil started about January 16, 1956, according to a dispatch (January 20) from the United States Embassy in Oslo. Starting prices were about US\$245 a metric ton, compared with about US\$210.00-212.80 for the 1954/55 season.

The poor catch to date is believed to be the principal factor in the improved prices. Norwegian production of sperm oil between November 1955 and the opening of the baleen whaling season on January 7, 1956, totaled 102,000 bbls., compared with 137,000 bbls. in the same period of the 1954/55 season.

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SALT HERRING NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIA HALTED: Trade negotiations between the Norwegians and the Soviet Union for the sale of Norwegian salt herring broke down about the middle of January 1956. The Soviets were reported as being unwilling to pay the higher prices asked by Norwegian exporters to offset increased production costs. It is expected that negotiations will be resumed in the near future, according to a report (January 20) from the United States Embassy in Oslo.

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NO CANNED WINTER BRISLING WILL BE PACKED IN 1956: The Norwegian Cannery Association states that no winter brisling will be canned this year. Most of the winter pack of 1955 (about 40,000 cases) is still in the warehouses. The pack in 1955 was an experiment with the low-grade winter brisling. Reports indicate that the Norwegian catches of winter brisling may be exported to Sweden to be packed for outlets in Eastern Germany, because a trade agreement makes it possible for Sweden to sell large quantities of low-grade canned brisling in a market not open to Norwegians.

Peru

LONG-LINE TUNA GEAR EXPERIMENTS: The first Peruvian experiments using Japanese long-line fishing gear for tuna, bonito, shark, and swordfish took place 10 to 100 miles offshore from Callao, Peru, according to a January 12 dispatch from the United States Overseas Mission at Lima.

The results of the experiments during the month of December 1955 indicated that this type of gear would be impractical within the area investigated at depths of 20-40 fathoms because of the abundance of giant squid. The giant squid damaged and destroyed the long lines.

It was reported that the new purse-seine vessels (40-50 feet in length) operating out of Callao are adaptable to long-line fishing except for lack of insulation in the holds of the vessel. This would have to be provided for extended trips.



Spain

VIGO FISHERIES TRENDS, NOVEMBER 1955: Fishing: The landings of fish at Vigo during November 1955 were relatively good, states a December 15, 1955, dispatch from the United States Consul at Vigo. Total landings (12.4 million pounds, valued US\$1.3 ex-vessel) for the month were higher by 8 percent in quantity and 20 percent in value when compared with November 1954. Normally the catch of fish declines seasonally beginning with November and the landings when compared with October 1955 were down by 28 percent in quantity and 20 percent in value.

Weather conditions were favorable, especially for the short-range fleet, during the last 20 days of the month. Those fishing for aguja, or needlefish, used locally as a substitute for sardines, did fairly well. Sardines continued to be scarce as compared with former years but about 1.3 million pounds were caught, principally in Portuguese waters. The scarcity of sardines in Spanish waters and the relatively good price on the local market has resulted in many small Spanish vessels fishing in Portuguese waters. Average ex-vessel prices for all fish landed at Vigo in November 1955 were 9.8 U. S. cents a pound as compared with 9.6 U. S. cents for October 1955 and slightly less than 9.6 U. S. cents for November 1954.

Fish Canning: The fish canning industry was relatively active for this season of the year (but still working at far below capacity) because of the fair catches of needlefish (aguja). There were some sardines and bocarte (for fillets of anchovies) which were also purchased by the canneries and processed. In general, the canneries considered November 1955 somewhat better than the same month in 1954, although far from satisfactory from a general point of view.

During November 1955 the canneries bought 3.7 million pounds, or approximately 30 percent of the total landings at Vigo, as compared with October 1955 when 5.9 million pounds, or approximately 34 percent of the landings, were processed. In November 1954, the quantity processed was only 1.6 million pounds, or 14 percent of the total landings at Vigo.



Union of South Africa

COOKING FAT FROM FISH OIL: A South African company is packing and marketing high-grade cooking fats and cooking oils from fish oil. Two months ago, after long and careful preparations and with a well planned selling campaign, it launched a cooking fat in attractive one-pound and half-pound cartons. The fat contains fish oil and has been approved as completely kosher. It is being remarkably well received by African housewives and cake and biscuit manufacturers.

This product is prepared and packed at Dido Valley in a plant able to turn it out at the rate of 3,000 pounds an hour, the October 1955 issue of The South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review reports.

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FISHERIES TRENDS, 1955: South African trade sources state that Russian crab meat is very competitive to South African canned rock lobster in the European market, a November 21 United States consular dispatch from Cape Town points out. On the other hand, Japanese Kegani crab meat is competitive to the South African rock lobster in the United Kingdom market.

However, reports indicate that towards the latter part of 1955 the overseas demand for all South African canned fish improved and that canners' inventories in both the Union and South-West Africa were low.

Union of South African and South-West Africa fish meal, fish oil, and rock-lobster meal sold quite readily and at satisfactory prices on both the domestic and foreign market in 1955.



United Kingdom

CANNED SALMON SUPPLIES REPORTED UNEQUAL TO DEMAND: The question of the scarcity and unequal distribution of canned salmon available to British consumers was brought up in the House of Commons, according to a December 20 dispatch from the United States Embassy in London.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food remarked that the British market could absorb greater supplies of canned salmon, but imports have to be limited for balance-of-payments reasons. Quotas for the 1955/56 season have been increased to about US\$26.6 million c.i.f. and supplies should be more plentiful in the next few months.

It was brought out in the session that some evidence existed of a black market in canned salmon and that consumers preferred top grades. Also, that for balance-of-payments reasons, imports from North America and Japan are controlled and allowed to enter Great Britain only on quota.

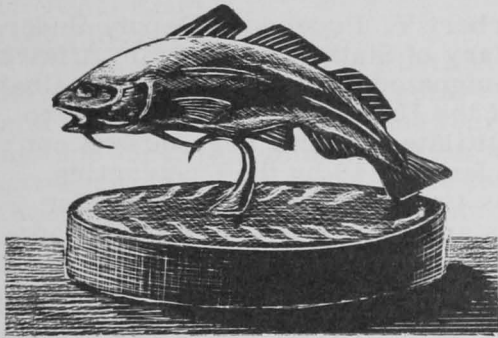
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COLORED HERRING DRIFT NET TO BE TESTED: A bright pink-colored herring drift net is to be tried by the British Herring Industry Board, reports the November 25 issue of The Fishing News, a British fishery periodical. This colored net is the first of its kind to be used in Scotland. The net is to be tried out by a herring boat fishing out of Stornoway, Scotland.

The new net, a standard-type drift net, apart from its pink color, is the result of experiments which have been carried out by the Japanese who claim to have discovered that pink is the only color invisible to fish underwater. It is thought that when a pink net is used among a fleet using ordinary dark nets, herring seeking to avoid the other nets will crowd into the "invisible" pink one.

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TRAWLERS COMPETE FOR SILVER COD TROPHY: The British distant-water trawler with the largest annual catch is to be awarded an annual challenge trophy by the British Trawlers' Federation. The trophy is a silver model of a leaping cod mounted on a mahogany stand with silver waves on which will be inscribed the names of the winning crew.



The British silver cod trophy to be presented annually to the distant-water trawler with the largest total catch for the year.

The trophy is to be presented for the first time to the Arctic Warrior of Hull which in 1954 landed 5,869,000 pounds of fish, valued at US\$343,800. It is claimed that the vessel's catch is a world record. All of the vessel's catch came from Arctic fishing grounds.

As the trawler has a crew of 20, this means that the average annual catch per man was 293,000 pounds. A total of 330 days were spent at sea, comprising 16 trips averaging 20.6 days a trip.

The trawler Lorenzo came in second with an annual catch of 5,644,000 pounds, according to The Fishing News (November 11, 1955), a British fishery periodical.



Venezuela

JAPANESE TUNA LONG-LINER LANDS FIRST TRIP: The Japanese long-liner Bozo Maru owned by a Venezuelan national that has been tuna fishing off the Venezuelan island La Blanquilla put into La Guaria January 3, 1956, with 80 tons of fish. The owner reported that the trip consisted of 15 different varieties (mostly tuna), caught in two weeks of fishing. The Japanese captain, who has been tuna fishing some 20 years, described the eastern Venezuelan tuna grounds as the richest in his experience, states a January 10 report from the United States Embassy at Caracas.



YELLOW DISCOLORATION ON INSIDE OF FROZEN FISH FILLET CARTONS

Yellow discoloration on the inner side of fish fillet cartons can be completely avoided by using sulphite board cartons instead of cartons of Duplex board.

--Arsberetning fra Fiskeriministeriets Forsegslaboratorium for 1954.