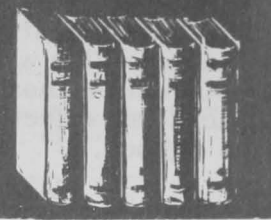




FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of the Interior

FUR-SEAL CONVENTION RATIFICATION URGED:

Affirmative action on the interim Convention for the Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals was urged on July 16 upon the United States Senate by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Convention, now before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, sets forth the fundamental principles which will be followed in the management of the North Pacific fur-seal herd. The Convention was signed by representatives of Japan, Canada, Soviet Russia, and the United States on February 9, 1957, after discussions which began November 28, 1955.

In a letter to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Secretary Seaton declared: "We consider this Convention an important step in the continued preservation of one of our great natural resources." He expressed the hope that the Senate would ratify the Convention this session since a resolution passed at the negotiating conference "stipulated that the Governments would again consult on this matter if ratifications were not deposited by January 1, 1958."

Secretary Seaton stated that two Nations, Canada and Japan, have already ratified the Convention and that Russia reportedly is waiting action by the United States.

Besides stating that seal harvesting shall be done by the United States on the Pribilof Islands and by Russia on the Asiatic Islands, the Convention provides:

1. The establishment of a North Pacific Fur Seal Commission of four members, one from each signatory nation.

2. A six-year cooperative research program.

3. The prohibition of pelagic sealing, except to the extent specified for research purposes.

4. Boarding and search of vessels at sea in suspicious circumstances and arrest of vessels and crews upon reasonable belief of seal hunting, with trial in the country of the flag of the vessel.

5. The enactment and enforcement by the signatories and the application of such measures as may be necessary to guarantee the observance of the Convention.

6. A sharing of the land kill, with Canada and Japan each receiving annually 15 percent of the seal skins taken by the United States and by Russia.



Interstate Commerce

Commission

EXPRESS RATE INCREASE ON FISH AND SHELLFISH IN EASTERN TERRITORY DENIED:

On August 21, 1956, the Railway Express Agency petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission for a 15-percent increase in less-than-carload (l.c.l.) charges on shipments moving within Eastern Territory except on l.c.l. charges for shipments of milk and cream, newspapers, and human remains. Eastern Territory is that general area lying north of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers and east of the Mississippi River and a line drawn through Peoria and Chicago, Ill.

This request was reviewed under the Commission's docket No. 32035. Late

in 1956 an emergency increase of 4 percent in l. c. l. charges was authorized, including such charges on shipments of fish and shellfish within Eastern Territory. This authorization was promptly placed into effect by the Railway Express Agency.

On May 31, 1957, the Interstate Commerce Commission authorized a further 11-percent increase in Eastern Territory l. c. l. charges, but after hearings (in which members of the industry and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel testified) it specifically exempted fish and shellfish from this increase. It indicated that the higher rates proposed on those commodities might force eastern producers to abandon markets in which they presently compete with southern producers. It is estimated that the eastern producers and distributors of fish and shellfish products by this decision will save about \$250,000 annually, which amount, otherwise, would have increased their costs of transportation.



Department of State

U. S. FISHERY ITEMS UNAFFECTED BY SUPPLEMENTARY TRADE AGREEMENT WITH UNITED KINGDOM AND THE BENELUX COUNTRIES:

The United States Government announced on June 27 that it had completed the compensatory tariff negotiations with the United Kingdom and Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg) held in connection with the proposed increase in the United States rate of duty on certain linen toweling. The formal announcement of the intention to enter into the limited trade negotiations with these countries was made on March 18, 1957. Included among the items listed for consideration of possible reduction in United States import duty at the negotiations were sodium alginate, spermaceti wax, and sperm oil, refined or otherwise processed.

None of these fishery items were on the list of items on which the United States granted tariff concessions in these compensatory agreements. Therefore, no change will be made in their current rates of duty.



Treasury Department

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

RULES THAT "COMPANY FISHERMEN" ARE EMPLOYEES:

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that "company fishermen," who are furnished boats and gear by the organization to which they supply fish, are employees for purposes of the Federal unemployment tax; and "independent fishermen" are not.

The ruling (Revenue Ruling 57-168) involved an agreement between a packer and a fishermen's union. Under the agreement the "company fishermen" must be acceptable to the employer. The company furnishes the fishing vessel, all the necessary marine and fishing gear and maintenance, fuel and supplies, mess-hall services ashore, and licenses.

Under these conditions and certain others described in the Revenue Ruling, the Internal Revenue Service found that the "company fishermen" are employees within the meaning of section 3121 (d) of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA).

With respect to the "independent fishermen," the ruling states that fishermen who furnish their own boats and gear, pay their own operating expenses, and deliver fish to the cannery of their choice are not employees for purposes of the FICA.



White House

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION:

The White House on June 13 announced the appointment of Ross L. Leffler, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, as Commissioner of the United States section of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, vice John L. Farley who recently resigned this post.



Eighty-Fifth Congress (First Session)

Public bills and resolutions which directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries are reported upon. Introduction, referral to committees, pertinent legislative actions, hearings, and other chamber actions by the House and the Senate, as well as signature into law or other final disposition, are covered.



ALASKA TIDAL WATERS: S. 2536 (Barrett), introduced in the Senate on July 12, a bill to grant the Territory of Alaska title to certain lands beneath tidal waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The term "natural resources" includes oil, gas, and all other minerals, but does not include fish, shrimp, oysters, clams, crabs, lobsters, sponges, kelp, and other marine animal and plant life, or water power, or the use of water for the production of power.

BOAT REGULATION: H. R. 8474 (Bonner), introduced in the House on July 1, a bill to promote boating safety on the navigable waters of the United States; to provide coordination and cooperation with the states in the interest of uniformity of boating laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. This bill could set up a system of registration for undocumented boats or vessels, propelled in any way.

CHEMICAL ADDITIVES IN FOOD: H. R. 8629 (Wolverton), introduced in the House on July 10, a bill to protect the public health by amending the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the use in food of additives which have not been adequately tested to establish their safety; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce similar in language to H. R. 8112 (Miller, Nebraska) and in purpose to six or more bills previously introduced, but different in wording.

H. Res. 311 (Farbstein), introduced in the House on July 11, a resolution that a select committee be appointed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the use of chemicals and other additives in food, medicine, and beverages with a view to ascertaining what deleterious effects such chemicals have on human life and health; to the Committee on Rules. (See *Commercial Fisheries Review*, February 1957, p. 63, May 1957, p. 71, June 1957, p. 69, and July 1957, p. 45.)

COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF FISH AND RICE LANDS: Research for Commercial Production of Fish on Flooded Rice Acreage (Hearing before a Subcommittee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, United States Senate, Eighty-Fifth Congress, First Session, on S. 1552, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program for the purpose of carrying on certain research and experimentation to develop methods for the commercial production of fish on flooded rice acreage in rotation with rice field crops,

and for other purposes), July 8, 1957, 47 pp., illus., printed. Contains statements submitted during the hearings by the public and Government agencies, reports from the General Accounting Office, and Interior and Justice Departments, and illustrations of game and food fish generally raised at Federal hatcheries. (See *Commercial Fisheries Review*, April 1957, p. 65.)

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES ACT: S. 2212 (Magnuson), a bill to amend the North Pacific Act of 1954. Passed by the House on July 15 in lieu of H. R. 7974 (Tollefson) and cleared for the signature of the President. This bill was signed by the President on July 24 (P.L. 85-114). This bill provides that the North Pacific Fisheries Act of 1954 (68 Stat. 698) is amended as follows:

In section 12 strike out the words "contiguous to the territorial waters of Alaska" and substitute therefor the words "north of the parallel of north latitude of 48 degrees and 30 minutes: And provided further, that no such regulation shall apply in the convention area south of the 49 parallel of north latitude with respect to sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) or pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)." (See *Commercial Fisheries Review*, June 1957, p. 69 and July 1957, p. 46.)

House Report No. 704, Amending the North Pacific Fisheries Act of 1954, to accompany H. R. 7974, 7 pp., printed, July 8, 1957, 85th Congress, 1st Session. Presents favorable reports by the Acting Secretary of State, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, and a draft of the bill. Also discusses the purpose of the bill.

PACIFIC MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION: The Chairman of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission submitted the Ninth Annual Report of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission for the year 1956 (pursuant to Public Law 232, 80th Congress) on July 1, to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENT: S. 2504 (Clark), introduced in the Senate on July 9, a bill to amend and extend the Small Business Act of 1953, as amended, was placed on the calendar. This new bill replaces other Senate bills on this subject and H. R. 7963 (Spence) which was passed by the House on June 25. S. 2504 was reported on July 9 by the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency (S. Rept. No. 597). This bill extends the authority of the Small Business Administration one year and increases the authorization for business loans by \$75 million. The House Bill (H. R. 7963) would make the Small Business Administration a permanent agency. (See *Commercial Fisheries Review*, February 1957, pp. 66-67, April 1957, p. 66, May 1957, p. 72, June 1957, pp. 69-70, and July 1957, p. 47.)

House Report No. 555, Small Business Act, to accompany H. R. 7963, 46 pp., printed, June 13, 1957, 85th Congress, 1st Session. Summarizes in some detail results of the deliberations of the House Committee on Banking and Currency and includes a comparison of the existing law (1953) and the provisions of the law as it would be amended by H. R. 7963. Discusses the purpose of the bill.

SOCKEYE SALMON FISHERY ACT: S. 1806 (Magnuson and Jackson), a bill to amend the Sockeye

Salmon Act of 1947. Signed by the President on July 11, 1957 (Public Law No. 85-102). The public law follows:

To amend the Sockeye Salmon Fishery Act of 1947.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 2 (a) of the Sockeye Salmon Fishery Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 511) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) Convention: The word 'convention' means the convention between the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada for the protection, preservation, and extension of the sockeye salmon fisheries of the Fraser River system, signed at Washington on the 26th day of May 1930, as amended by the protocol to the convention, signed at Ottawa on the 28th day of December 1956."

Sec. 2. Section 2 (e) of such Act is amended to read as follows: "(e) Sockeye salmon and pink salmon: The term 'sockeye salmon' means that species of salmon known by the scientific name *Oncorhynchus nerka*, and the term 'pink salmon' means that species of salmon known by the scientific name *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*."

Sec. 3. Such Act is further amended by striking out "sockeye salmon" wherever used in such Act, except in subsections (a) and (e) of section 2, and inserting in lieu thereof "sockeye salmon or pink salmon".

Sec. 4. Section 7 (a) of such Act is amended by striking out "fishery" and inserting in lieu thereof "fisheries".

Sec. 5. The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of entry into force of the protocol, signed at Ottawa on December 28, 1956, between the United States of America and Canada to the convention for the protection, preservation and extension of the sockeye salmon fisheries of the Fraser River system, signed at Washington on May 26, 1930.

House Report No. 557, Amending the Sockeye Salmon Fishery Act of 1947, to accompany H. R. 6587, 5 pp., printed, June 13, 1957, 85th Congress, 1st Session. Summarizes changes in existing law (61 Stat. 511) and presents reports by the Assistant Secretary of State and the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.



"MARICULTURE" IF WORLD POPULATION OUTFRONS FOOD SUPPLY?

There is reason for genuine concern that the earth's human population may outrun the food supply at some seemingly inevitable future date--unless something is done to change the picture.

One possible solution lies in the more effective use of the foods already being produced by the world's green plants--the ultimate source of all food. It has been estimated that some 500 billion tons of solid plant matter are made each year by green plants through photosynthesis. Man uses only a minute fraction of this amount. Only one-tenth of this photosynthesized food is produced by hand plants. Ninety percent of the world's food is made by marine and fresh-water algae, mostly marine.

If we are alarmed that the productivity of the land will not keep pace with the demands of our growing population, perhaps we should look to the resources of the sea for more of our food--that almost untouched 90 percent of the earth's photosynthesized material.

Many marine scientists are taking this look.

They see that on land nearly all food production is based on agriculture, in which the materials furnished by nature are controlled, improved, and cultivated by scientific methods. On the other hand, they see that the meager amount of food we take from the sea today is hunted from the wilderness of the oceans. As one scientist said compared with agriculture, our marine fisheries "are still in the stone age."

So a new concept has recently appeared, "mariculture," the utilization of the food resources of the sea using the techniques worked out and employed so successfully in modern scientific agriculture.

Some marine laboratories are beginning to take on the look of young agricultural experiment stations now. Animal breeders, accustomed to working with cattle and poultry, are investigating the chances of creating better strains of fish, shellfish, and shrimp. The Rockefeller Foundation is sponsoring such a preliminary study on marine animal breeding. Biochemists are starting work on nutritional requirements of marine animals for possible use in cultivation.

The field is a pioneer one. Keep your eyes on mariculture.

--Horace Loftin,
Science News Letter, June 8, 1957