



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of the Interior

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

BUREAU OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FROZEN COD FILLETS VOLUNTARY STANDARDS PROPOSED:

Frozen cod fillet voluntary grade standards are proposed by the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. The regulations are proposed for adoption in accordance with the authority contained in Title II of the Agricultural Marketing Act of August 14, 1956, as amended. Functions under that Act pertaining to fish, shellfish, and any products thereof were transferred to the Department of the Interior by section 6(a) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of August 8, 1956. These regulations, if recommended to the Secretary of the Interior for adoption and made effective, will be the first issued by the Department prescribing voluntary grade standards for frozen cod fillets.

Prior to the final adoption of the proposed regulations as published in the November 21, 1959, issue of the Federal Register, consideration will be given to any written data, views, or arguments relating thereto which were received by the Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., before December 18, 1959.



The proposed regulations include product and grade description; factors of quality, including evaluation of flavor, odor, appearance, size, absence of defects, and character; definitions and methods

of analysis; lot certification tolerances; and score sheet.



Treasury Department

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

PROPOSED ANTIDUMPING REGULATIONS:

Proposed regulations under the Antidumping Act of 1921, as amended, were published in the October 10, 1959, Federal Register by the U. S. Bureau of Customs. The new regulations are intended to implement the 1958 amendment to the Antidumping Act in which Congress sought to provide for greater certainty, speed, and efficiency in the enforcement of the Act. The 1958 amendment also contained new definitions for determining fair market value of imported merchandise and eased the burden on domestic industry in proving injury.

The initial proposal on implementing the 1958 amendment was published by the Bureau of Customs in October 1958 and comments were invited. The Bureau incorporated a number of changes in the proposed regulations and again invited comments which were to be submitted not later than November 10, 1959. However, the Bureau of Customs announced in the November 21, 1959, Federal Register that comments would be received until December 31, 1959.

The proposed regulations cover suspected dumping; fair value of imported merchandise; determination of act or likelihood of sales at less than fair value; determination of injury; finding of dumping; action by the appraiser; release of merchandise; requirement of bond;

conversion of currencies; modification or revocation of finding; publication of findings; dumping duty; notice to importer; and method of computing dumping duty.

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FURTHER RULING ON "IN BULK" AND "IMMEDIATE CONTAINER" FOR FISH BLOCKS:

Frozen fish fillet blocks packed with a wrapping that completely covers the fish and weighing less than 15 pounds are dutiable at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ percent ad valorem, according to a December 1, 1959, ruling of the U. S. Bureau of Customs. This supplements but does not supersede previous rulings.

In November 1959 the Bureau of Customs at Washington, D. C., was asked to rule as to the duty status of fish blocks packed in their respective wrappings and tied together with rope, twine, or a strap in bundles of 4 or 5 blocks to a bundle. In the case for which a ruling was asked, reports from the field showed that the individual blocks are generally stamped with the word "cod," "hake," "haddock," or "pollock," so as to distinguish the kind of fish, as the price varies according to the kind of fish.

The fish blocks in question are classifiable under paragraph 720(b), Tariff Act of 1930, as fish, prepared, not specially provided for, following the deci-

sion in recent Customs Court decision (C. D. 2101). The question, then, was whether the fish blocks were "in bulk" or "in immediate containers weighing with their contents over 15 pounds each."

The Bureau of Customs pointed out that: "Lexicographers define the term "in bulk" as meaning in a mass; not enclosed in separate packages or divided into parts; in such a state that any desired quantities may be removed. The Bureau believes that the fish blocks in bundles described. . . are not merchandise in bulk.

"Each individual frozen fish block is contained in a lightweight tray or carton (with top) which completely covers the frozen fish block, the weight of the contents and the cardboard tray is less than 15 pounds (usually $13\frac{1}{2}$ or $13\frac{3}{4}$ pounds), and is individually marked to describe its composition. When such blocks are tied together in a bundle the Bureau considers the tray or carton around each individual frozen fish block to be the immediate container. The fish blocks are classifiable under paragraph 720(b) as fish, prepared, not specially provided for, and, because their weight together with their immediate containers is not more than 15 pounds they are dutiable at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ percent ad valorem under that paragraph, as modified."

Note: Also see Commercial Fisheries Review, December 1959, p. 102.



HIGH PERCENTAGE OF 1958 FISH AND SHELLFISH CATCH GOES TO MEAL AND OIL USE

Information assembled by the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries on the utilization of the 1958 United States catch of fish and shellfish indicates that about 1.9 billion pounds, or 40 percent, was used directly for the manufacture of fish meal and oil. Another 700 million pounds of waste from fish marketed fresh, frozen, canned, and cured was likewise used in the manufacture of meal and oil.

Thus, the total poundage used for that purpose actually accounted for about 55 percent of the 1958 catch.