

INPFC MEETS IN ALASKA

The 18th annual meeting of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC), which concluded in Anchorage, Alaska, Nov. 5, 1971, reviewed the results of conservation programs and scientific research on North Pacific fishery resources. INPFC members represent Canada, Japan, and the U.S. Elmer E. Rasmuson of Anchorage was chairman.

About 80 administrators, scientists, industry advisers, and consultants from the International Pacific Halibut Commission participated. The discussions dealt primarily with ensuring the continued orderly development of fisheries resources to maintain maximum sustainable yields.

In fisheries characterized as fully exploited and under an effective program of research and management for conservation, the Convention bars members that have not participated in these fisheries. No changes in the abstention provisions were recommended.

Commission Recommendations

The Commission recommended that contracting parties consider the conservation needs of salmon stocks in areas of intermingling when preparing fishing regulations.

In fisheries exploited by two or more member countries--king crab and tanner crab of eastern Bering Sea, and groundfish other than halibut in Northeast Pacific Ocean--scientific studies will continue.

Halibut Fishing Recommendations

The Commission recommended conservation measures for halibut fishing in the eastern Bering Sea in 1972. Such recommendations have been made annually since 1963, when line fishing for halibut first opened to all three nations. The Commission's 1972 recommendations are similar to 1971's; the open season in certain fishing grounds of eastern Bering Sea is modified. Also, an extensive area in the southeastern Bering Sea, a nursery ground for young halibut, again is recommended for complete closure.

The Commission again urged members to obtain data on the interrelationships between the condition of halibut stocks and the trawl fisheries for other species.

Commission Members

Commission members are: for Canada--C.R. Levelton, James C. Cameron, Carl E. Giske, and Donovan. F. Miller; for Japan--Kenjiro Nishimura, Masatada Tachibana, Toshihiko Ohba, and Haruo Nakai; for the U.S.--Milton E. Brooding, Edward W. Allen, Elmer E. Rasmuson, and Philip M. Roedel.

The 1972 meeting will be held in Vancouver, Canada, beginning Oct. 30. Officers elected for 1972 are: C. R. Levelton, Canada, chairman; Kenjiro Nishimura, Japan, vice-chairman; Elmer E. Rasmuson, U.S., secretary.



SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERY CONVENTION IS IN EFFECT

A convention to conserve the living resources of the Southeast Atlantic Ocean came into force on Oct. 24, 1971, after the Soviet Union had ratified it, reports FAO.

South Africa, Japan, and Portugal already had ratified it. The convention was to become effective when accepted formally by at least 4 nations with a total 1968 catch in the Southeast Atlantic of at least 700,000 metric tons. The USSR, South Africa, Japan, and Portugal caught more than 2.9 million tons of fish there in 1968.

The 21-article treaty, drafted under FAO auspices, was adopted at a conference at FAO, Rome, October 1969. All participants at the conference, or members of U.N. or its specialized agencies, may subscribe to the convention. It is titled: The Convention on the Conservation of the Living Resources of the Southeast Atlantic.

The Convention

The Convention seeks to regulate fishing of heavily exploited stocks off Africa

between 6° south and 50° south latitude, and 20° west and 40° east longitude. It provides for establishment of International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries. The Commission will study and recommend rational exploitation of the fisheries. It will be aided by a scientific advisory council and by subsidiary committees. Although independent of FAO, it will cooperate closely.

Catch Increased 30 Times

Fishing in the Southeast Atlantic has increased 30 times in 30 years: from under 100,000 metric tons a year before 1939 to 3,300,000 tons in 1968. Hake and pilchard were the main fish catches.

Nations that have signed but not ratified the convention are: Belgium, Cuba, West Germany, Italy, and Spain.



NORWAY FINANCES AND BUILDS FAO RESEARCH VESSEL

Norway is building a \$1.3-million fishery research vessel for FAO's exclusive use, reports FAO. The ship will be the largest and best equipped of FAO's fleet of more than 100 fishery vessels. Their work is financed mainly by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The new vessel will speed existing projects and conduct exploratory surveys and training.

FAO assists over 50 projects in almost 70 developing countries and territories.

Norway's Institute of Marine Research will operate it for FAO. Completion is scheduled for late 1973. Operating costs of the Norwegian-registered ship will be shared.

The Vessel

The vessel will be a Norwegian-type combination trawler about 151 feet by 33 feet: 1500 HP engine, estimated speed of 13.5 knots, equipped with electronic gear for exploratory fishing, and laboratory for biological and oceanographic research, crew of 13, accommodations for 7 FAO scientists and technologists, and 8 counterpart crew or trainees from developing countries.

When completed, the vessel will undergo a 6-month trial cruise along Africa's western coast.

ICELAND SEEKS TO EXTEND FISHERY LIMITS TO 50 MILES

Iceland has asked Great Britain and West Germany to renegotiate their 1961 fishery agreements that established Iceland's exclusive 12-mile fishing limit. Iceland now intends to extend its limit to 50 miles by September 1972. It contends that international arrangements to conserve fish stocks off its coast are not doing the job. Instead of reducing fishing effort, other nations are increasing their fishing with larger, more efficient vessels. Iceland says it is necessary to take immediate measures to regulate the fisheries.

1961 Agreement

The 1961 agreement followed the "cod war" of 1959 and 1960, when Iceland decided to extend its jurisdiction from 4 to 12 miles. Britain did not recognize Iceland's extension to 12 miles until a compromise was reached in 1961. This allowed Great Britain to fish in defined areas between 4 and 12 miles for 3 years. A similar agreement was concluded with West Germany.

Iceland Unwilling To Wait

Britain has asked Iceland to postpone action until the 1973 Law of the Sea Conference. Both Britain and West Germany have asserted that Iceland's extension of the 12-mile limit would be contrary to international law and violate the 1961 bilateral agreements. However, Iceland is unwilling to postpone the issue until 1973. It claims that the 1961 agreements are unacceptable in the light of fishery and economic developments in the last 10 years. It does not believe that the UN or the International Court would approve fishing-limit expansion in time to save the fish stocks.

The 3 governments are discussing the matter. (U.S. Embassy, Reykjavik)



WHALE DOOMED, ECOLOGISTS SAY, BUT INDUSTRY SEES FEAR AS MYTH

James P. Sterba

TOKYO--The 518 crewmen of 'Kyokuyo Maru No. 3', one of the world's largest whaling factory ships, were led in a banzai cheer. Then, as the ship--as long as two football fields--was tugged from its berth at Chiba, on Tokyo Bay, colored streamers stretched between the crewmen and their families, whom they would not see for the six months they will spend in the Antarctic.

Despite the cheers and the streamers, this modern whaling expedition would have none of the romance about which Herman Melville wrote. Whale herds would be located by scout ships and sonar, frightened by high-pitched sounds and chased to near-exhaustion. An explosive charge would be embedded deep in a whale's body, after which the carcass would be towed to a factory ship, to be sliced into parts within an hour.

In Captain Ahab's day a whaling boat averaged a whale a month; today, it is estimated, a whale is killed every 12 minutes by the worldwide industry. American conservationists maintain that the whales are threatened with extinction.

The conservationists, deploring the commercial killing, persuaded the United States Government last December to forbid imports of whale products and, in March 1971, to eliminate American whaling. They are now seeking a worldwide moratorium.

Whale Meat for Food

But the Soviet Union and Japan, which together killed 84 percent of the more than 42,000 whales reported taken last year, accept neither the argument nor the moratorium idea. Both countries use whale meat for food, and whale products go into such diverse items as transmission fluid, lipstick, fertilizer and animal feed--for all of which there are adequate substitute sources.

Officials in Tokyo maintain that whale meat is an essential of the Japanese diet, accounting for 10 percent of the animal-protein intake in 1969. Soviet spokesmen say populations in underdeveloped Siberia and the Asian regions rely on whale meat as a cheap source of protein even though it is mostly used for dog and cat food around Moscow.

Nearly everyone concerned with whaling agrees that several species of the giant sea mammals--the largest of which outweigh prehistoric dinosaurs--have been reduced to remnants.

According to whaling records, modern whalers with harpoon guns mounted on fast killer boats have taken more whales in the last 48 years than were killed in the previous four centuries by their brethren with hand harpoons.

It is another example, conservationists assert, of man's wasteful management of a

Reprinted from The New York Times, Nov. 30, 1971.

valuable natural resource. Kept to "maximum sustainable yield"--at which the birth-rate determines the number killed--whales could have provided food for millions of people indefinitely.

Oceanic Disruption Feared

Some scientists fear that the decline in whales will cause ecological disruption of the oceans. Others believe that whaling should cease because the sea mammals--the whale and the porpoise--have intelligence closest to that of man and should be carefully studied.

Of the eight largest species, the right and bowhead whales--targets in the 18th and 19th centuries because they were slow and floated when killed--are virtually extinct. Blue, humpback and gray whales have been reduced from hundreds of thousands to a few thousand in 40 years and they are nominally protected by whaling nations.

Stocks of three other species--finback, sei and sperm--have been reduced by more than half, but they continue to be hunted under international sanction despite the contention that they are destined to share the fate of the others. Many whalers and officials in Japan describe that view as emotional nonsense.

International efforts to preserve whale herds at levels of maximum sustainable yield were late in coming and have been largely unsuccessful. The International Whaling Commission, established by 17 nations in 1946 with no enforcement powers, began setting yearly kill quotas, for all except the sperm whale in 1949.

Quotas for sperm whales in the North Pacific were established in 1970, but limitless killing is allowed everywhere else.

Quotas have dropped sharply since 1949 in the Antarctic, which has been the world's major whaling ground since Norwegians discovered extensive herds there in 1904. Conservationists say the decrease shows that the quotas have consistently been set too high by delegates representing whaling concerns.

One of Japan's two delegates is Iwao Fujita, a former commission chairman who is also president of the Japan Fisheries Association, which lobbies on behalf of fishing companies.

Dr. Douglas G. Chapman, chairman of the commission's scientific committee, said in recent United States Congressional testimony: "During its early years the commission took a number of restrictive acts, but unfortunately, in general, the restrictions were too little too late and were often rendered ineffective by individual vetoes."

The 10-year moratorium proposed by the United States would undercut the commission at a time when it is just beginning to be effective, he added.

Observer Failed To Appear

The issue of control reaches down to the individual whaler. Below decks on *Kyokuyo Maru*, amid boilers for turning blubber into oil and refrigeration compartments for storing meat, there was a strong aroma of dead whales taken weeks before. Two decks below the bridge Capt. K. Yanagisawa had readied an officer's cabin for an international observer, who was to make sure that protected whales were not killed and quotas not exceeded and that seasons were observed. He did not show up.

An international observer plan was proposed by Norway in 1955 but has been put off

since. In late September Japan, the Soviet Union and Norway--each suspecting the other of violations--initiated an Antarctic observer agreement. Japan and the Soviet Union, with three factory ships and about 40 killer boats each, and Norway, with one small combination killer-factory ship, reported killing 11,770 whales in the Antarctic last year.

Before the agreement could be ratified and observers could get aboard, the Soviet fleets sailed, so the Japanese fleets will not have international observers either. Officials said the Soviet fleets could have easily waited a few more days since the season does not open until Dec. 5.

The empty cabin on Kyokuyo Maru will be occupied by the best-paid man aboard--the chief harpoon gunner. His men, on nine fast 750 ton killer boats, aim and fire the 150-pound harpoons.

A Big Breakthrough Seen

Another international observer agreement was signed last month for the North Pacific season, which begins next spring, but it still needs governmental ratification. Conservationists say it will represent a major breakthrough--if it goes into effect.

All the controls have their limits. There are 22 coastal whaling stations around the world not bound by the international commission's rules and quotas, although some countries have their own. From those stations killer boats go out for short periods and tow

back catches for processing on shore. Their take last year is listed as 11,719 whales.

The most frenetic whaling took place in the thirties and from the end of World War II until the middle sixties. In 1961, 21 factory ships, each with roughly a dozen killer boats, scoured the Antarctic, killing 37,350 whales. But as the herds dwindled the major whaling nations that were out for oil lost money and cut back or dropped out.

Although Japan and the Soviet Union have scrapped a total of five fleets since 1969, they have survived because they use whale meat, the price of which has been rising, for human consumption. The others, more wasteful, boiled the meat for its small quantities of oil--most oil comes from blubber--or used it for animal feed and fertilizer.

Big Yield in Edible Meat

In Japan the average baleen whale yields 74 percent edible meat, 24 percent oil and 2 percent other nonedible products. Roughly two-thirds of a sperm whale is turned into oil, which is valuable to industry; the other third is a dark, strong-smelling meat that is unpopular here, so large amounts go to the United States as food for mink farms.

Whaling in Japan is an \$80-million-a-year business divided among three of the world's largest fishing concerns--Taiyo Fishery Co., Ltd.; Nippon Suisan Co., Ltd., and Kyokuyo Co., Ltd. Diversified companies, their combined sales were about \$1.3 billion in 1970.



PORTUGAL'S COD CATCH IN ICNAF AREA IS LOW

In 1970, Portugal caught 163,000 metric tons, mainly cod, in the ICNAF area (Int'l Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries), lowest in many years. In 1967, the catch was 237,000 tons; it has declined each year since then.

In 1970, 36 trawlers participated in this fishery, 3 more than in 1968. To secure full cargoes, trawlers had to extend fishing season to make up for scarcity of fish. Only 24 line fishing vessels took part, compared to 30 in previous years. Three liners ceased operation in 1970; 4 others were converted to trawlers, which delayed somewhat their departure for fishing grounds.

Can't Meet Home Demand

Portuguese officials contend that the fishing zone limitations imposed by Canada and Greenland are forcing replacement of most cod line-fishing vessels by modern stern trawlers equipped with freezing and salting facilities. Their cod production, stable for many years, has not been sufficient

to supply domestic requirements. Considerable quantities have to be imported. The trend to modern freezing and frozen food distribution is expected to increase requirements for frozen fish products.

6-Year Program

In 1968, Portugal began a 6-year program to renew and modernize its high-seas fishing fleet. It provided for investment of US\$65 million during 1968-73. This is directed mainly to increase production in distant-water fishing, improve quality of product, and expand markets. Of the \$65 million, the largest portion, \$36 million, is to increase trawler fishing off Africa. About \$14 million is for cod fishing. Also in the program are plans to build 3 stern trawlers, one cod longliner, 4 pair trawlers, and conversion of some line fishing vessels to trawlers and freezers. Late in 1969, two new stern trawlers were added. Government investment in cod fishing in 1969 was reported to be \$2.5 million and, in 1970, about \$1.4 million.

DENMARK IMPOSES 10% IMPORT SURCHARGE ON PROCESSED FISH

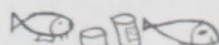
Effective Oct. 20, 1971, Denmark imposed a 10% import surcharge on all prepared and preserved fish products covered by Chapter 16 of Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN). Products in BTN chapter 03 (fresh, chilled, frozen, dried, smoked, and salted products) and fish oil are not subject to the surcharge.

U.S. Products Affected

In 1970, Denmark imported from the U.S. fishery products worth \$790,000 under the

affected tariff categories. Frozen cooked shrimp is principal product in this trade. Canned shrimp, canned oyster, and canned salmon are also affected.

The 10% surcharge is to be reduced to 7% on July 1, 1972, and to 4% on Jan. 1, 1973. The surcharge will end March 31, 1973. (U.S. Embassy Copenhagen, Oct. 22, 1971.)



SOVIET YOUTH REJECT SEA AND PIER JOBS

Although the Soviet government has ambitious plans to expand the merchant fleet and the ports, the sea is no longer attracting enough young men to match these plans. This was reported by Hedrick Smith to The New York Times Nov. 1, 1971.

Mikhail A. Kalin, director of Odessa port, said: "For some time we have needed 200 more workers on our docks and in spite of notices and announcements in newspapers around the country, we cannot get these men."

At Odessa, and its sister city Ilyichevsk, 22 miles south on the Black Sea, recruiting and retaining enough workers have been continuing problems. Officials at Ilyichevsk reported that the port admits about 1,500 new men into its basic 2-3-month training course every year--and that 40% leave when the course ends. Others drift away in the following months; some stay to work at the fast-growing port.

Job Not Glamorous Enough

In the age of space flights, jets, computers, and electronic equipment, some port officials suggest, being a dockworker or a merchant seaman holds too little glamor. Other officials say this problem affects other sectors too: restaurants, hotels, service industries generally, and nearly all food or general merchandising stores.

The editor of the 'Odessa Port Gazette' states: "Nowadays, the young want push-button jobs."

Labor Shortage A National Problem

The labor shortage in ports and merchant fleets is a general problem of the Soviet economy. This was emphasized in April 1971 by Leonid I. Brezhnev, party leader, and Premier Aleksei V. Kosygin in speeches to the Communist party congress.

Said Brezhnev: "In the years 1971-75 the possibilities of attracting additional labor forces are diminished compared with the preceding 5-year period." He was referring to the near-completion of campaigns to attract more women, older persons, and even

youngsters into the job force. Foreign specialists say that Moscow has nearly exhausted these reserves.

Soviet Plans

Despite this problem, Soviet leaders projected an annual growth rate through 1975 of nearly 7%--while the work force would be increasing a little over 1% a year. They emphasized increasing productivity primarily through mechanization and modernization.

Both Odessa and Ilyichevsk ports are using this approach, but officials are worried about their chances to attract young workers. M. A. Kalin said: "Young people don't want to work here as they did before. They have become too educated. They want to work on planes, computers, machines. They don't consider this very high-level work. Even the pay, the housing we provide and other services do not attract them."

The Pay

Valentin I. Zologaryev, Ilyichevsk port director, reported that an inexperienced dockworker starts at 170 rubles (\$187, officially) a month. He can work up to top-skilled job in highly graded dock-workers' brigade at 350 rubles (\$385). Western specialists estimate this pay to be about equal to average Soviet monthly wage.

August D. Kuznetsov, a deputy director of Odessa port, noted that youthful impatience to advance troubles the merchant fleet. "We have a very young maritime fleet--most ships are only 8 to 10 years old. We have enough officers but not enough ordinary sailors."

Workers Support Automation

M. A. Kalin pointed to one benefit of the labor shortage on the docks: unlike many western dock-workers, the Soviet support automation in handling cargoes and the trend toward containerized ships. He explained that the more mechanized jobs merit higher pay. Because there is a relatively short supply of labor, workers can expect to be upgraded and to receive more money as the ports are mechanized.

MEXICO REVEALS 5-YEAR FISHING-VESSEL BUILDING PLANS

During the next 5 years, Mexico plans to build these fishing vessels:

- 500 shrimp boats, 67 to 72 feet long
- 300 hand-line boats, 36-50 feet
- 100 all-purpose finfish boats, 60-65 feet
- 70 sardine purse-seiners, 86 feet
- 30 tuna purse-seiners, capacity 350 to 500 tons.

The shrimp fleet has 1404 vessels: 762 on Pacific coast, 642 on Gulf coast; 780 are

over 15 years old. Plans call for replacing each group of 14 old vessels with 10 new ones.

Construction of the other vessels is designed to further diversify the fishing industry and to increase fish production.

If carried out, this program will require considerable machinery and equipment not manufactured in Mexico. Most, if not all, construction will be done in Mexican shipyards. Plans for financing were not revealed. (Reg. Fish. Att., U.S. Embassy, Mexico, Nov. 1, 1971.)



FISH CATCH RISES 9% IN FIRST-HALF 1971

During the first 6 months of 1971, Mexico's fish production gained 9.1% over first-half 1970; the total was 133,308 metric tons. Among edible species, sardines soared 55.7%, grouper 33.3%; anchovies dropped 80%, shrimp 9.5%. Shrimp production during second half will be considerably better; there probably will be net increase for 1971 over 1970.

Industrial Products Up 18%

Industrial products increased 18.1% over 1970 period. Fish-meal production at 11,786

tons was up 19.4% from 1970. Mexico is moving steadily toward self-sufficiency in this product.

Exports Down 5%

Exports of shrimp, by far the most important seafood export, fell 5% from 1970 period. Total value was US\$21.7 million. Most went to the U.S. This was expected to improve in second half of 1971.



MEXICAN REVERENDS' TEACHERS' VISIT
BUILDING PLANS

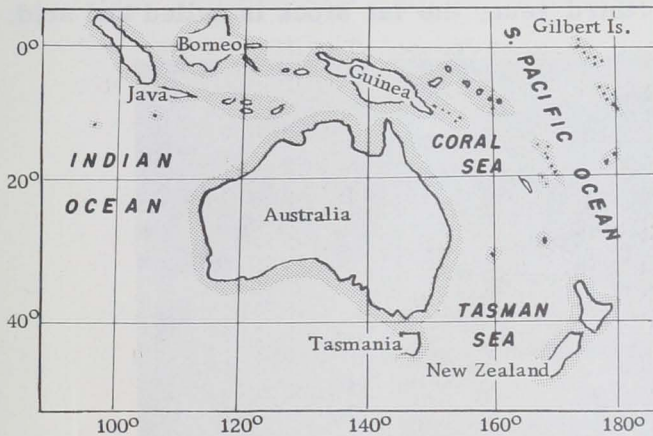


Guam fisherman casts his net. (Photo: U.S. Navy)

AUSTRALIA'S FISHERY EXPORTS SET RECORD

Australian exports of frozen rock lobster tails, shrimp, scallops, canned abalone, and cultured pearls set records in the year ending June 30, 1971. The main markets were the U.S. (53% by value) and Japan (30%). These data were reported in 'Australian Fisheries', Sept. 1971.

Exports of frozen rock lobster tails totaled 10 million pounds worth US\$34 million. This was a rise of 17% in quantity and 41% in value from previous year. Exports of frozen whole rock lobster dropped 52% to 587,000 pounds worth US\$934,000. This was due mainly to high prices for tails. The U.S. took practically all of the tails and France 68% of frozen whole lobsters.



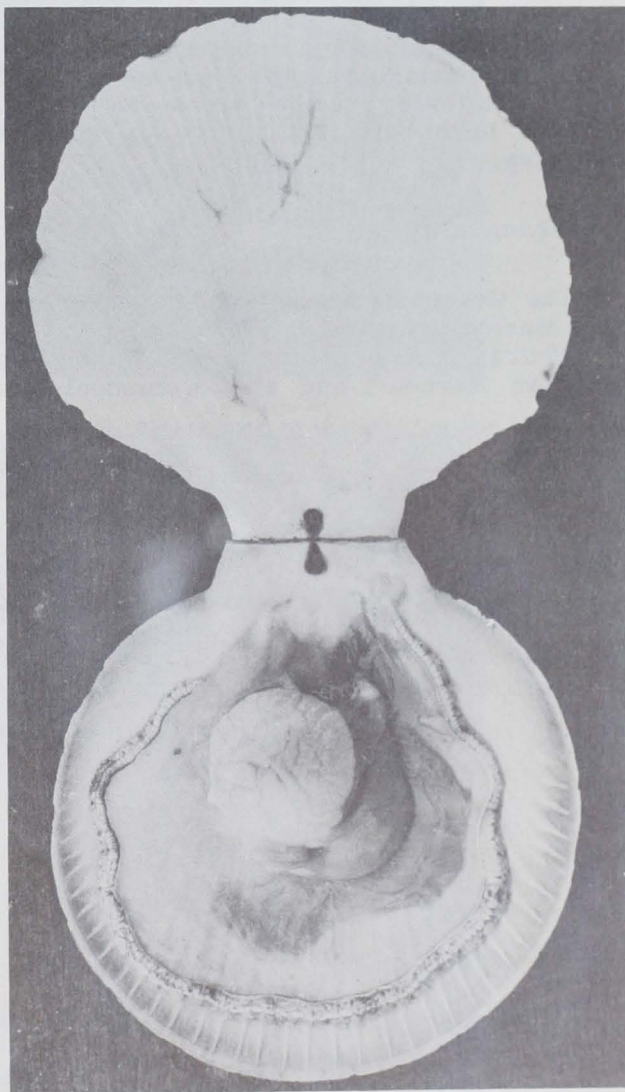
Shrimp Up 40%

Shrimp exports of 14.9 million pounds worth US\$21.2 million were up almost 40% from previous year. Japan took 78%, the U.S. 10%.

Exports of canned abalone rose 41% to almost 5 million pounds; frozen abalone was

4% higher--2.3 million pounds. Hong Kong took 45% of canned abalone, Japan 59% of frozen abalone.

Exports of scallops rose about 90% to 2.2 million pounds worth US\$2.7 million. France took 61%, the U.S. 29%.



A Queensland scallop in its shell showing the large adductor muscle or meat. (Photo: Australian News & Info. Bur.)

NEW ZEALAND'S ROCK-OYSTER FARMING MAY BECOME EXPORT INDUSTRY

New Zealand has been trying to broaden the base of its fishing industry. Most progress has been made with rock oysters. Rock-oyster farming, introduced only 6 years ago, now is approaching the point when it will become an export industry.

The Rock Oyster Farming Act was passed in 1964. Before that, the New Zealand Marine Department was responsible for protecting, harvesting, and marketing rock oysters from natural beds. Now orderly rows of wooden stands stretching from the shoreline of harbors and estuaries in northern North Island mark the sites of private rock-oyster farms. Leases have been granted to 133 private farmers.

Government Aid

The Government too is in the business. The Marine Department has established four 1,000-tray farms in the Bay of Islands, in Kaipara Harbour, and at Coromandel. Its

farms produce commercially. However, they were set up primarily to help private farmer as experimental and demonstration farms. They were the first step in creating the industry.

Government activities include research and experiments to establish data and procedures. Farmers agree that these have been a major factor in the industry's status today.

Rock-Oyster Farming

Rock-oyster farming demands steady, regular work. On Government farms, it is 43-hour week, sometimes odd hours if work must start about 3 a.m., and sometimes muddy work. A workshop and punt are among necessary installations.

The young oysters are raised in one area and transferred to others to grow. In the third year, the fat stock is culled and sold;

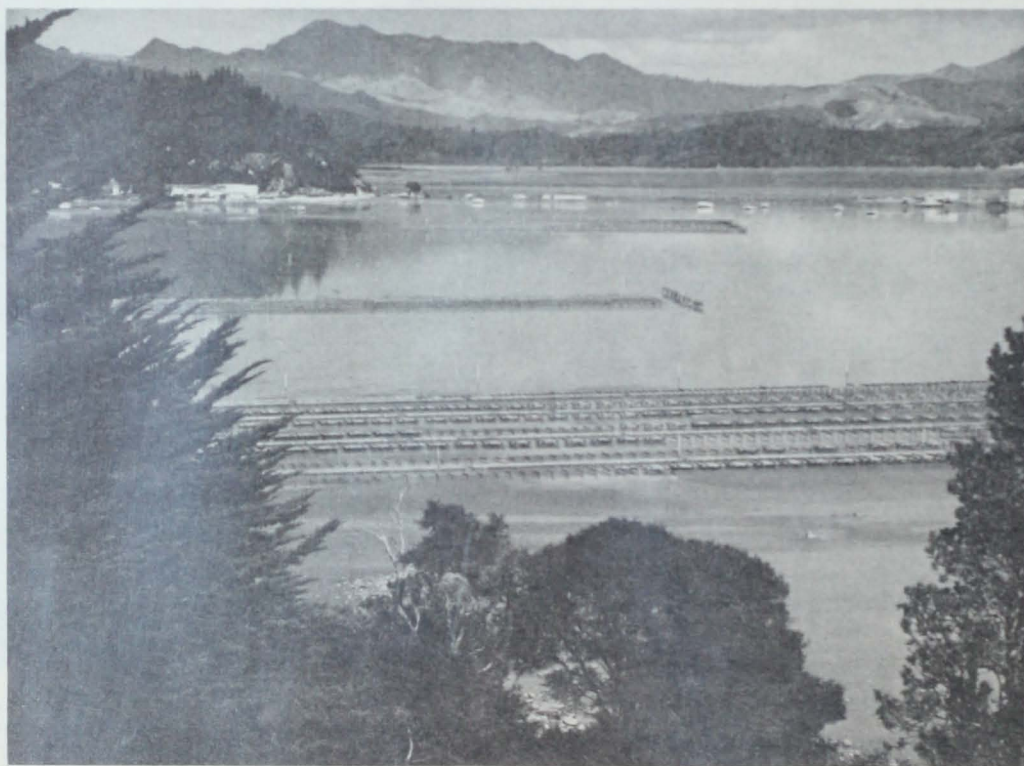


Fig. 1 - Rock oyster farms at Coromandel, New Zealand. The Marine Department's farm is in background; two private farms in foreground.

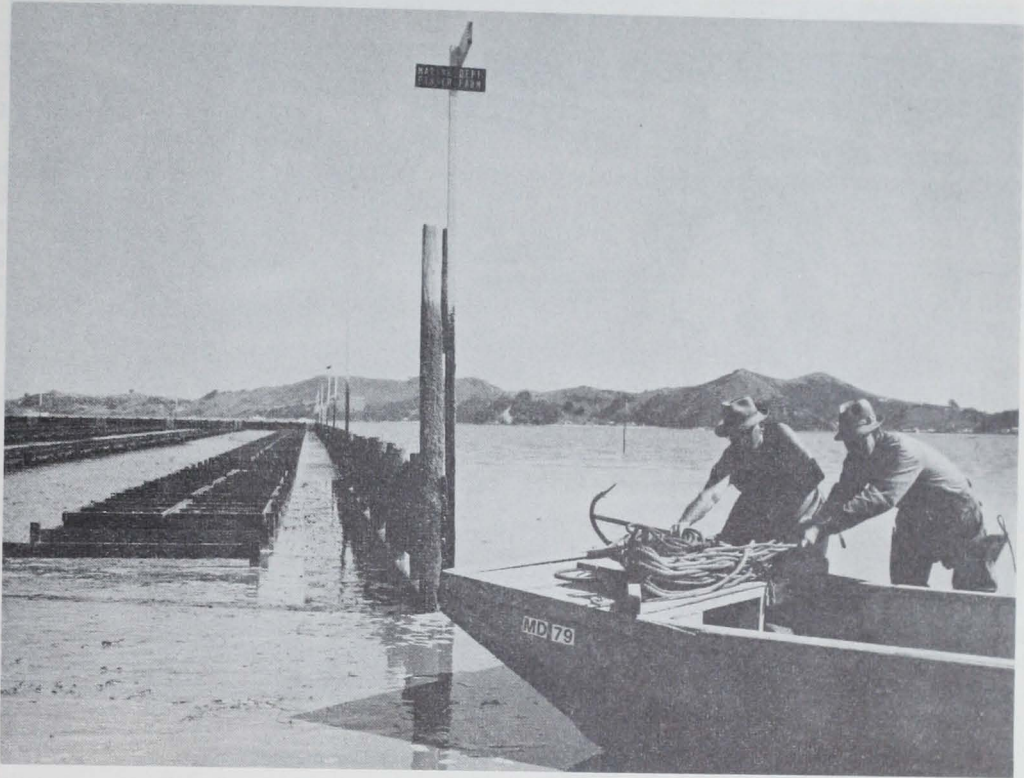


Fig. 2 - At Marine Department's Coromandel farm, a punt is necessary transport to oyster racks.



Fig. 3 - A Marine Department rock-oyster spat-catching installation at Te Kapa Bay, Mahurangi Harbour. About 50,000 spat-catching sticks are in the photograph. The racks are covered from mid to high tide.



Fig. 4 - Racks of trays at Marine Department's Coromandel farm.

(New Zealand Information Service)

store stock is sent back to a fattening area until it can be sold.

There is no particular limit to oyster-farm size. Five acres could be an economic proposition for one man, but $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres would be more realistic. Some companies have planned 200-acre farms.

For many farmers, the industry is still part-time work. They are waiting to see their new venture full developed. Some are dairy farmers, one a dentist, a hairdresser, and a tobacconist who travels 70 miles to his Coromandel farm.

Potential Not Yet Realized

The full potential of rock-oyster farming has not been realized. Real production from private farms began in 1969. So far, it has been based on fattening natural rock oysters on trays. When this method changes to growing young oysters, or spat, off planted sticks,

there will be much more development. This will begin in 1972-73, when oysters on 100,000 catching sticks distributed to farmers in 1969 reach maturity.

1970 Production

In 1970, production from private farms rose 25%. It was worth NZ\$67,200 locally; in export revenue from Australia and Pacific Islands, NZ\$88,500.

Government farms added to the production success. In 1969, domestic sales were worth NZ\$25,300; from exports to Sydney, Melbourne, and Hong Kong, NZ\$21,600. In 1970, Government production was lower because of a policy of conserving supplies and spreading sales over a longer period.

The target for total sales of rock oysters by 1978 is NZ\$1 million. Progress to date suggests that this new farming industry could become a multimillion-dollar export earner.

JAPAN

U.S. CONTINUES TO DETAIN CANNED TUNA

Japanese canned tuna-in-brine shipments to the U.S. continue to be detained at ports of entry for failure to comply with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) quality standards. Since January 1971, 450,000 cases have been seized; the number is expected to exceed 500,000 cases by the end of 1971.

Reasons for Seizure

The FDA seizures stem primarily from the smell of off-odor in the pack, but honeycomb, off-color, and excess mercury also are reasons. The Japanese believe that rejections based on smell is due to the wide difference between Japan and the U.S. in judging fish smell--present in tuna packed in brine but disappears almost completely in tuna packed in oil. ('Suisan Tsushin', Nov. 2, 1971.)

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COMPETITION DEPRESSES CANNED-TUNA PRICES

Canned tuna-in-oil sales on the Japanese market are rising yearly. The 1971 volume is expected to reach around 800,000 cases. The product is attracting attention because its market potential in Japan is very good. However, severe sales competition in recent months has reduced price sharply.

Large Drop

A major brand of canned albacore, previously retailed at 180 yen (US\$0.50) a can (7-oz.), now is selling for 130 yen (\$0.36) at some supermarkets. There is fear that price cutting might reduce quality and ruin a growing market.

This unfavorable situation was created by 2 factors: an oversupply that resulted from tuna packers cutting export production because of decomposition and mercury problems, and because packers increased output for domestic market. ('Suisan Tsushin', Oct. 30, 1971.)

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TUNA FLEET OFF NEW YORK GROWS

Japanese tuna longliners off New York numbered 70 at the end of October 1971. They were concentrating on bluefin and bigeye tuna as alternate resources for diminishing southern bluefin off Australia and in Indian Ocean. In the latter, sharply declined hook rates have necessitated voluntary regulation by the Japanese.

Similar To Japanese Waters

The waters off New York, where the warm Gulf Stream encounters the cold Labrador Current, are similar to Japan's northeastern coast, where the Kuroshio and Oyashio currents meet to form good fishing grounds. The Japanese have known about the good bluefin grounds off New York since about 1963, but rough seas kept them away. But from around 1970, their longliners seeking high-value fish began fishing there. They found the catch and value good from September until around November; after that, the fish began migrating northeastward toward Newfoundland. ('Suisancho Nippo', Oct. 30, 1971.)

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TRAWLERS TAKE HERRING IN ICNAF AREA OF NORTHWESTERN ATLANTIC

Four Nihon Suisan 2,500-gross-ton stern trawlers were operating in late October in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean regulated by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF). From September 17-18 until about October 17, those vessels fished herring north of Georges Bank southwest of Nova Scotia and caught about 2,500 metric tons of egg-bearing herring. Many foreign vessels fished the herring grounds off Georges Bank and dispersed when the season ended around October 17.

Nihon Suisan's trawlers plan to fish squid in ICNAF area and off New York from December 1971 for about 2-3 months. Meanwhile, they will be scouting for good fishing grounds. ('Suisan Tsushin', Oct. 23, 1971.)

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JAPAN (Contd.):

INTERESTED IN SEA-URCHIN
RESOURCES OF PERU AND CHILE

There is steadily growing demand for processed urchin roe in Japan. To meet it, sea-urchin-ro processors are turning to the urchin resources of Peru and Chile. These resources have lower harvesting costs than those of South Korea. The latter, a major urchin roe supplier, provides 80% of Japanese annual imports of about 1,000 metric tons.

Rising Cost of Korean Product

The South Korean product is high quality. However, the increasing cost of raw-material imports from Korea, where labor costs are rising sharply, is becoming a big problem for Japanese urchin-ro processors. ('Minato Shimbun', Oct. 3, 1971.)

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PURSE-SEINE FLEET IS CATCHING MANY
SKIPJACK OFF WEST AFRICA

The Nichiro Fishing Co.'s purse-seine fleet was making good catches of skipjack off Ghana in late October 1971. It was led by the mothership 'Hiroshima Maru' (3,600 gross tons, carrying capacity 2,500 tons).

Landings by the fleet's three pair-boat seiners to mid-October reached 3,000 metric tons of tuna, mostly skipjack mixed with yellowfin. This fleet began fishing in June 1971. Its catch target: 5,700 tons of skipjack and yellowfin. ('Katsuo-maguro Tsushin', Oct. 25, 1971.)

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GOOD SQUID FISHING
OFF BAJA CALIFORNIA

The 'Ryoun Maru No. 3' (299 gross tons) was chartered by Japan's Marine Fisheries Resources Development Center for exploratory squid fishing off California in 1971. She departed Japan in August. On October 23, she landed 12 tons in one night off southern tip of Baja California (23° N. latitude and 112° W. longitude). It was the first time the vessel had made such a large catch on its present trip. The discovery of good fishing is likely to attract more squid vessels.

The Center was elated over the sudden improvement in fishing; 10 days earlier, it had appeared hopeless. Congratulations were cabled to the vessel.

The squid resemble the 'surume-ika' species off Japan. They average 700 grams (1.5 pounds) each.

The Vessel

Ryoun Maru is equipped with 20 mechanical and 10 manual squid-fishing gear. The survey will continue until December 20. Return to Japan is scheduled for Jan. 13, 1972. ('Minato Shimbun', Oct. 26; U.S. Embassy, Tokyo translation of 'Shin Suisan Shimbun Sokuho', Oct. 27.)

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SAURY FISHING OFF U.S. WEST COAST
CONTINUES POOR

Japanese saury fishing off the U.S. West Coast continues spotty. Twelve vessels (including motherships) were fishing in late October 1971 with 'boke-ami' (stick-held dip nets) and floating-type seine nets. Rough seas and scattered fish were making fishing difficult. The saury were small and lean. (Japanese prefer saury with high oil content.)

The Catch

One mothership fleet of Hoko Suisan, fishing for 55 days with two vessels, caught 392 tons (as of October 25), or about 50% of its 750-ton target. The saury vessels were expected to remain there 2-3 weeks more. ('Suisancho Nippo', Oct. 27, 1971.)

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SAURY LANDINGS
CONTINUE GOOD IN JAPAN

As of Oct. 20, 1971, saury landings in Japan were 141,458 metric tons worth 9,787.5 million yen (US\$27.2 million), reports the National Association of Saury Fishery. These landings are almost double the comparable 1970 figure of 75,060 tons.

At this rate, 1971 production is expected to reach 160,000 tons. The fish are small, so the average exvessel prices continue low--around 69.1 yen a kilogram (\$174 a short ton). A year earlier, price was 114.7 yen a kilogram (\$289 a short ton). ('Minato Shimbun', Oct. 31, 1971.)

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JAPAN (Contd.):

BAIT SAURY CATCH IS BELOW
TUNA FISHERY NEEDS

As of Oct. 20, 1971, saury landings were estimated at 130,000 metric tons. Close to 25,000 tons were frozen as baitfish for the tuna fishery. This is below minimum of 35,000 tons needed to supply Japanese, South Korean, and Taiwanese tuna vessels.

The outlook for further increase in frozen production this year is not very promising, so the price of bait saury is rising slowly. Recent market price for fish size of 150 count per 10-kilogram (22-lb.) box is 2,000 yen (US\$5.55), compared with 1,800 yen (\$5.00) in late September 1971.

Substitutes for Saury

Years ago, at least 60,000 tons of bait saury were needed for domestic tuna fishermen and for export to South Korea and Taiwan. More recently, the increasing substitution of squid and mackerel has reduced substantially the annual domestic bait saury requirements. ('Suisan Tsushin', Oct. 25, 1971.)

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SOVIET MACKEREL FLEET INCREASES
OFF NORTHEASTERN JAPAN

The Soviet Union is intensifying its mackerel fishing off Japan's northeastern coast. On Nov. 1, 1971, a Soviet fleet of 7,000-8,000-gross-ton motherships and about fifty 500-1,000-ton mackerel vessels was fishing 60 kilometers (37 miles) southeast of Hokkaido. Another mackerel fleet of eight 6,000-12,000-ton factory motherships accompanied by thirteen 300-ton purse seiners was sighted for first time fishing as close as 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) off Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture. Reportedly, the fleet cut into area being worked by Japanese mackerel vessels and damaged fishing gear.

Soviet Rejects Request

On November 4, the Foreign Ministry asked the Soviet Embassy to put an end to the fishing so close to the coast of Hachinohe. It is here that local Japanese boats are observing voluntary regulations of the mackerel and squid fisheries. The Soviets replied

that the area was "high seas". They said their vessels are under no legal restrictions beyond the 3-mile limit. ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun', Nov. 8, 1971.)

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SURVEY WEST GERMAN
CANNED-TUNA MARKET

The Japanese have been studying the canned-tuna market in West Germany, second largest market after the U.S. In 1970, W. Germany purchased 1.26 million cases from Japan, according to the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). This was 83% of West Germany's canned-tuna imports. (In 1968, Japan's share was 94%; in 1966, 83%.)

Imports from Japan in 1971 were likely to fall below 1970 level because of mercury-in-tuna problem, although there have been practically no rejections in W. Germany.

Canned-fish consumption in West Germany is trending upward. There are heavy demands for canned herring fillets, sardine in oil, and tuna in oil, according to JETRO.

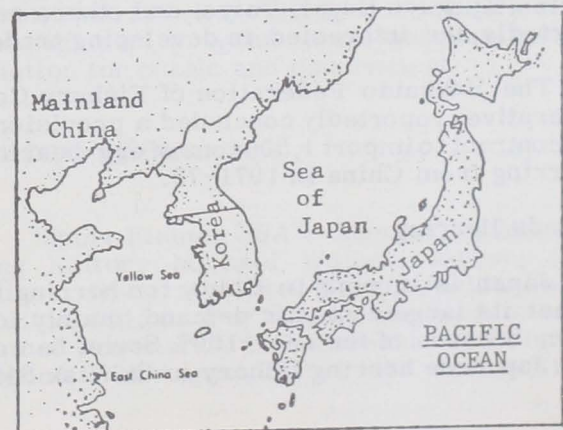
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IMPORTS \$9 MILLION WORTH OF
'YELLOW SEA PRAWNS'

Japan agreed to import from China this fall 2,400 tons of Yellow Sea prawns (*Penaeus orientalis* or 'giant prawn') worth \$8,971,800 (\$3,712 per metric ton or \$1.68 per lb.). ('Suisan Tsushin', Oct. 1, 1971.)

NMFS Comment: Yellow Sea prawns are fished by the Japanese, South Koreans, and Mainland Chinese.

In 1970, Japan imported \$19,282,000 worth of shrimp from China--about 40% of the \$49 million in fishery products from that country.



JAPAN (Contd.):

SEEK 3,000 MINKE WHALES
IN 1971-72 ANTARCTIC SEASON

On Oct. 12, 1971, Japan Fisheries Agency approved an exploratory whaling license for Taiyo Fisheries to hunt minke whales exclusively during the 1971-72 Antarctic Whaling Season. It is the first time any country's fleet will catch minke whales exclusively. During 1969/70 season, Taiyo's baleen-whale fleet harvested 500 minke whales. The 1971-72 season target is 3,000.

Taiyo's Fleet

The Taiyo fleet includes 1 mothership and 4 whaling boats.

NMFS Comment: The switch to minke whales is due to decrease in Antarctic whaling quota. Minke whales, not considered endangered, are not covered under International Whaling Commission's catch quota.

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1971 FISHERY IMPORTS
FROM CHINA NEAR RECORD

The value of marine products imported into Japan from China in 1971 is expected to set a record, reports the Japanese press. In 1970, Japan imported marine products worth US\$23.2 million: Shrimp, \$19.2 million; 'other', \$4 million. These were 9.1% of all Chinese exports to Japan (\$254 million).

At Canton Fair

A record 1,450 Japanese firms participated in 1971 Autumn Canton Fair. Nippon Reizo, Kyokuyo Hoge, Taiyo, and others reportedly are interested in developing trade.

The Hokkaido Federation of Fishery Cooperatives reportedly concluded a provisional contract to import 1,500 tons of egg-bearing herring from China in 1971-72.

Needs Herring

Japan is turning to China for herring to meet its large domestic demand, mainly for roe, because of the near-100% Soviet ban on the Japanese herring fishery in Okhotsk Sea;

also, because of poor herring fishing in North Pacific. Japan also imports herring-roe products from Canada and the U.S. ('Japan Economic Journal', Oct. 19, 1971; 'Suisan Keizai', Oct. 15, 1971.)

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FROZEN-FOOD MARKET EXPANDS

Fish and shellfish products now account for 30% of Japan's frozen-food market. Frozen foods were introduced in 1965; by 1970, these were worth US\$138 million.

Nearly 500 firms produce frozen foods--but 80% of total output is produced by the 5 largest fishery firms: Nippon Reizo, Nippon Suisan, Nichiro, Taiyo, and Kyokuyo Hoge. These firms also pack nonmarine products.

70% To Restaurants

Currently, 70% of Japan's total supply of frozen foods goes to restaurants, but private demand is rapidly increasing as the use of cooking ranges and freezers grows. Despite this rise, per-capita consumption of frozen foods is still only 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) per year; this compares with over 30.7 kgs (67.5 lbs) of fish products (fresh, frozen, chilled, and canned) a year. ('Manichi', Nov. 10, 1971.)

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SKIPJACK POLE-AND-LINE
VESSEL CONSTRUCTION RISES

Construction of skipjack pole-and-line vessels in 1971 rose sharply over 1970. As of mid-September 1971, 54 vessels were built, compared with 60 during the 12 months in 1970. At present rate, 1971 construction is likely to reach 100 vessels.

There is a noteworthy increase in large-size vessels--13 in 299-gross-ton class. The largest size built in 1971 is 404 tons, compared with 299 tons in 1970.

The skipjack vessel construction boom is attributed primarily to the skipjack fishing-ground development surveys in the equatorial western Pacific, stable market price, and the possibility of year-round operations in the skipjack pole-and-line fishery. ('Suisancho Nippo', Nov. 18, 1971.)