

U.N. USES NEARLY 100 FISHING VESSELS TO SEARCH FOR FOOD

In its search for more food for the developing nations, the U.N.'s FAO has dispatched a fishing armada of nearly 100 vessels to many parts of the world. This was reported by Sam Pope Brewer, The New York Times, on April 18.

The vessels fly both the U.N. flag and those of nations from which they operate. They have modern navigational and fish-finding gear. Many vessels have complete laboratories to study fish, test seawater, and to analyze samples of the aquatic life fish eat.

FAO Aims

The aims of the FAO program are to study the movements of fish, to discover new grounds, and to train fishermen to increase their catches. FAO scientists are training the people of underdeveloped nations to conserve the catch for use as food--or to use it in other protein forms, such as flour."

FAO Vessels At Work

In Lake Nasser, created by Aswan High Dam, 2 fishing boats built of steel-wire mesh covered by cement are being used to help develop the fisheries.

The first FAO vessel was the 40-foot tuna boat 'New Hope', bought in U.S. in 1952. It has seen much service: first in Somalia, then Iran, then Pakistan, where it helped develop shrimp fisheries.

53 Fisheries Projects

Today, FAO has 53 fisheries projects with investment of \$130 million, over 300 experts, and 1,700 local seamen.

Some boats are built for specific projects; others are acquired and modified. The builders have been Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Britain. Each vessel is assigned

to a project sponsored by government involved.

A project lasts about 5 years and may be renewed. In many cases, the vessels remain with countries that used them.

Achievements

Argentina has reported that the 107-foot 'Cruz del Sur' has set fishing records since its 1968 launching. It operates out of Mar del Plata as a combination stern trawler and purse seiner. An earlier project introduced the purse seine to Argentina.

Caribbean Fisheries

Three FAO fishing vessels have dramatically changed Caribbean fisheries for 16 countries and dependent territories. The vessels are 81-foot twins, 'Alcyon' and 'Calamar', and British-built 56-foot 'Fregata'. The twins were built in Japan in 1966 to cross Pacific under own power.

These territories, although spread over 1.5 million square miles of ocean, had depended chiefly on uneconomical imports.

Rome Headquarters

Headquarters for FAO's department of fisheries is in Rome. There, naval architects and marine engineers design the fishing vessels and arrange construction and delivery.

The department head is Jan-Olof Traung of Sweden. Its staff is from Iceland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Britain, and other countries.

Traung says new craft are launched and projects begun every year. They are designed for more than one kind of fishing. However, making them all-purpose ships would cost more than FAO can spend and be less efficient.



Small display stands carry variety of fish at Pusan fish market in South Korea. (FAO photo)

ASIA

JAPAN

HALF OF DOMESTIC FISHING GROUNDS ARE POLLUTED

The Japanese Fisheries Agency estimates that half the domestic fishing grounds are polluted beyond the safe level for marine animal life. Damage to the fishing industry is estimated at 15 billion yen (US\$41.6 million) a year. This ominous announcement followed a nationwide survey of 227 fishing grounds by the Fisheries Agency in late Oct.-Nov. 1970.

The survey covered 44 prefectures, excluding Tokyo and inland 'Gumma,' which are conducting their own. Water, sea-bottom

quality, and presence of heavy metals (like mercury and cadmium) were checked.

Many Below Safety Levels

An interim report on the findings of water-quality tests indicates that 61 (47%) of 129 marine coastal fishing grounds and 35 (over 50%) of 67 freshwater grounds failed safety levels for marine animal life. The Fisheries Agency estimated the yearly loss of fish and shellfish since 1968 at 15 billion yen.

The Agency said that pollution damage actually was much more extensive because number of polluted fishing grounds would increase when final figures are known. ('Yomiuri', Mar. 23.)

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25th (1970/71) ANTARCTIC WHALING EXPEDITION ACHIEVED GOALS

On March 8, 1971, three Japanese whaling fleets in 25th (1970/71) Antarctic expedition attained assigned quotas of 1,493 blue-whale units (BWUs) and ceased operations. The 1970/71 quota was the same as in previous year. ('Suisan Tsushin', Mar. 15; 'Minato Shimbun', Mar. 13.)

On March 19, 1971, 'Mainichi' quoted whaling-industry sources as saying that record profits would be made from the 1970/71 Antarctic whaling operation. Prices for frozen whale meat averaged \$500 per ton; fin-back whale oil \$277 per ton; and sperm whale oil \$333 per ton.

Catch and Products	Vessel and Owners			Total
	Tonan Maru No. 2 (Nihon Suisan)	Taiyo Maru No. 3 (Taiyo)	Kyokuyo Maru No. 3 (Kyokuyo)	
	(No. of Whales)			
WHALES:				
Fin	426	763	418	1,607
Sei	1,356	1,401	1,380	4,137
BWUs*	439	615	439	1,493
Sperm	130	443	761	1,334
	(Metric Tons)			
PRODUCTS:				
Baleen Whales:				
Fin whale oil	8,385.0	11,931.0	7,944.0	28,260.0
Frozen	25,643.8	30,495.0	22,193.0	78,331.8
Salted	750.7	302.0	416.0	1,468.7
Other	-	3,712.6	525.0	4,237.6
Total Baleen	34,779.5	46,440.6	31,078.0	112,298.1
Sperm whale	1,395.0	2,709.0	5,605.0	9,709.0
GRAND TOTAL (All whale products)	36,174.5	49,174.5	36,683.0	122,007.1

* One blue-whale unit = either 2 fin whales, 2½ humpbacks, or 6 sei whales.

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JAPAN (Contd.):

TUNA LONGLINERS IN ATLANTIC
CONCENTRATE ON ALBACORE

Anticipating a favorable turn in U.S. albacore market, Japanese tuna longline fishermen in the Atlantic are concentrating on albacore.

Indications were that U.S. tuna packers would clear their canned white-meat tuna stocks by April or May because U.S. consumer purchases were picking up during Lenten season. The Japanese anticipate that demand for albacore will start building in June and higher prices will follow.

Main Albacore Grounds

The principal albacore areas in Atlantic are the northern grounds (near 30° N. latitude), off Cape of Good Hope (South Africa), and off Montevideo (Uruguay) where fishing is usually good. Most albacore taken in those areas are small (28-33 pounds per fish) and suitable for export to U.S. ('Katsuo-maguro Tsushin', Mar. 24.)

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JAPANESE-Guatemalan SHRIMP
VENTURE WAS PROFITABLE IN 1970

After 10 years of trying, the Nichiro Fisheries Co., Mitsubishi Trading Co., and Guatemalan interests reported profits in 1970. Their shrimp-fishing-and-processing venture at Champerico (Guatemala) was established in 1961.

In 1970, the joint company handled 1,171 metric tons of shrimp with a sales value of US\$2.38 million. For first time, it declared a 5% dividend of about \$27,800.

20 Shrimp Trawlers

The partners operate two companies: Pesca, S.A. and Copesgua, S.A. These own 20 licensed shrimp trawlers, 18 now fishing, and 2 being replaced with vessels under construction.

For several years, production was nearly stagnant. But, in 1968, heavy rainfalls suddenly increased abundance of shrimp. The catch has increased since then. ('Suisancho Nippo', Mar. 25.)

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SUMMER ALBACORE TUNA FISHERY
BEGINS

The 1971 Japanese pole-and-line summer albacore season off the home islands began in mid-March, about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Fishing in April was good, promising a favorable fishery this year.

The catches, 100 to 200 metric tons a day, began to arrive at Yaizu and Shimizu in late March. Practically all albacore landings were bought by domestic packers at exvessel price of 280-290 yen a kilogram (US\$706-731 a short ton). Indications were that price might advance to 300 yen per kilogram (\$756 a short ton). ('Suisan Tsushin', April 10.)

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'SURIMI' FLEET FINDS IMPROVING
ALASKA POLLOCK FISHING

During good weather in March, 5 Japanese 'surimi' (minced fish meat) and meal factory-ship fleets made good Alaska pollock catches in "Triangle area" of eastern Bering Sea. The fleets were trawling at around 250 meters (water temperature about 4° C.).

Fishing Schedule

The improvement in March catch over Jan.-Feb. has allayed fears that the resource is declining. Conceivably, the trawlers may have been scooping up only dense concentrations of a declining stock. From late April to early May, the fleets were scheduled to fish at shallower depths (around 100 meters) along Aleutian chain because Alaska pollock would be migrating shoreward to spawn. The catch during spawning season would provide a good indication of resource status. ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun', March 24.)



S. VIETNAMESE FISHERIES MADE EXCELLENT PROGRESS IN 1970

One of the brightest reports from South Vietnam in recent months was the dramatic progress of her fisheries in 1970. The remarkable catch increase was due to various factors: growth of motorized and nonmotorized fishing fleets, more fishermen, use of synthetic fish nets, and improved general conditions.

Projects for the future include: 500 fish finders to modernize fishing vessels and 12 shipboard ice-making plants, expected soon.

On Phu Quoc Island, a fish-meal plant with a 5-metric-ton daily capacity will be installed. Interest is great in small shipboard fish-meal plants because about 25% of the catch is trash fish discarded by fishermen; inexpensive plants could help increase fishermen income substantially. (U.S. Embassy, Saigon, April 14.)

The Fisheries Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Saigon, provided these data:

	1969	1970	+ or - from previous year
	Metric Tons		%
Catch:			
Marine	355,488	441,765	+24
Fresh-water	63,673	74,140	+16
Shrimp	27,504	33,268	+21
Other crustaceans & molluscs	17,179	28,277	+65
Total	463,844	577,450	+25
	Number of Vessels		
Fleet:			
Motorized	39,001	42,603	+ 9
Nonmotorized	42,955	45,612	+ 6
Total	81,956	88,215	+ 8
	No.		
Fishermen	277,118	317,442	+15
	Metric Tons		
Exports:			
Shrimp	49.1	25.9	-47
	1,000 Liters		
Fishery products produced:			
Fish sauce	60,850	64,184	+ 5
	Metric Tons		
Cured fish	30,242	34,425	+14
Dried fish	20,769	27,979	+35



Shrimp sellers at market place of Rach Gia, S. Vietnam. (Keith Brouillard)

INDIA

TRAWLERS TO FREEZE SHRIMP AT SEA

Two 86-ft., double-rig, shrimp trawlers built in Mobile, Alabama, for Union Carbide India Ltd., have been delivered to Cochin (Kerala). Named 'Lakshmi' and 'Sunita Rani,' they will help modernize India's large shrimp industry.



Fig. 1 - A vast shrimp bed off Kerala, India, is fished by hundreds of Indian boats. FAO states the bed is more than 120 miles long and 4 to 6 miles wide. The bed yields the large, succulent prawns, prized in N. America and Europe.

Plants in Cochin freeze, pack, and export the shrimp, which earn much-needed hard currency.

FAO has aided Indian Fishery development in boat design and construction, mechanization, and gear technology. Hundreds of shrimp trawlers have been built from FAO designs.

In this photo are fisherman's house and fish-landing quay. Catch, mostly prawns, is sun dried. (FAO: C. Day)

The boats are equipped with freezers and refrigerated holds. The shrimp are cleaned and processed aboard within an hour of capture.

A Third Trawler

Each boat has a capacity to catch and process 500,000 lbs. of shrimp a year. They will work at sea for 15-day periods. A third trawler, built in Bombay, will join them later.

The frozen shrimp will be shipped to the U.S., Western Europe, and Japan. ('Fishing News International', Mar. 1971.)



Fig. 2 - Prawns sun drying at Cochin. This preservation method is used for local sales and nearby export markets. Quick-freezing and packing plants prepare prawns for export to European and N. American markets. (FAO: C. Day)

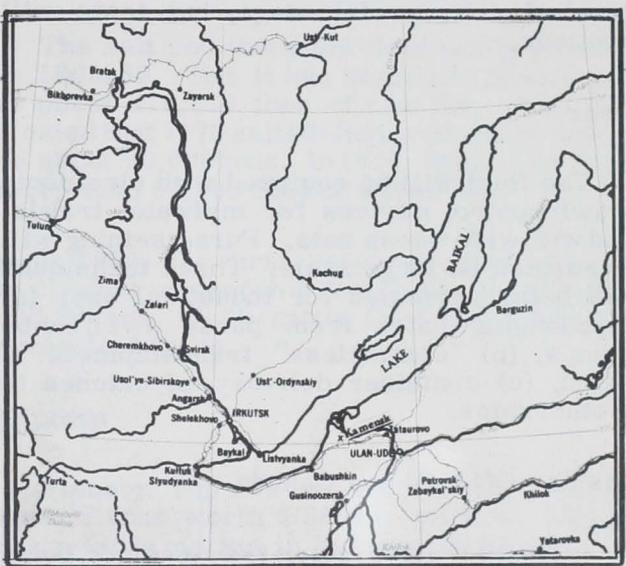
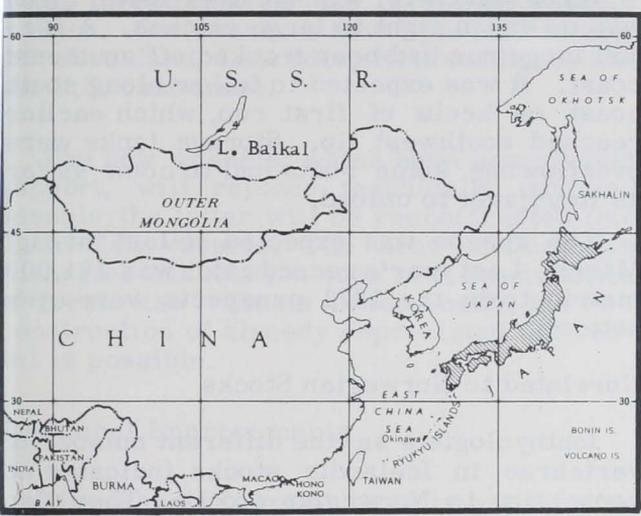


REPORT 2ND MILL PLANNED AT LAKE BAIKAL

The Soviet government is proceeding with plans to build a second wood-pulp mill on Lake Baikal's shore, a conservationist has revealed. The report, from Theodore Shabad in Moscow, appeared in The New York Times on April 18.

cooled, for about a decade. The site is Selen-ginsk, near Kamensk, 100 miles northeast of mill one.

Ovsyannikov stated at a Moscow news conference held during meeting of Society of the Conservation of Nature: "An advanced 3-stage treatment system will remove all toxic material from waste waters and preserve Baikal as one of the cleanest lakes in the world."



Some Soviet ecologists point to Lake Baikal as a striking example of the misuse of water resources in their country.

He is president of the society, a Russian Republic organization, which claims 19 million members.

Nikolai G. Ovsyannikov, the conservationist, promised that a modern waste-treatment plant would maintain Baikal's unusual purity. But his disclosure has rekindled an old controversy.

Other Soviet republics have similar societies.

First Mill in 1966

Conservationists vs. Planners

Conservationists have been worrying about Baikal's future since 1966, when the first pulp mill began operations in Baikalsk, a town on the lake's southwest end. They protested the discharge of effluents. To meet their protests, a specially designed treatment plan was added to the mill. This did not placate the critics, who argued that no treatment plant could preserve the lake's quality. The remarkably transparent water contains many unusual plant and animal species.

Baikal is an old battleground between conservationists and industrial planners--despite the adoption in 1969 of a decree ordering strict measures to halt pollution.

2nd Long Planned

The industrial planners argue that the forests of Baikal region must be cut because country badly needs pulp for the tough cord used in cars and in airplane tires.

Planning the second mill has proceeded sporadically, as controversy heated and

USSR (Contd.):

SOME DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS:
1971-75

Expansion plans for the Soviet fishing fleet continue full speed: the Fisheries Ministry announced a 30% increase in BMRTs (Soviet-built factory stern trawlers of 'Maiakovskii' class) for 1971-75. East German deliveries of fishing vessels will continue at same pace. Domestic construction of "super-trawlers" is being pushed.

Catamaran fishing vessels have not yet reached commercial stage, but tests will continue.

Gear

The fleet will be equipped with electronic trawl-control devices for midwater trawls, and with wide-mesh nets. Purse seining will be adopted on large scale. Three techniques are being perfected for industrial use: (a) discharging catch from purse seines by pumps, (b) "contactless" transshipment of catch, (c) container delivery of catches to motherships.

Fishing Off U.S. and Canada

'Atlantik'-class stern trawlers are being dispatched to fish for herring and mackerel in the area supervised by International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. Exploration for new herring grounds is being intensified. Fishing on Continental Slope (depths between 500 and 1,500 meters) is being tested.



ICELAND

RECORD CAPELIN CATCH EXPECTED

The 1971 capelin season, which started Feb. 16, promises to be the best ever. By March 7, 60 boats had caught 117,000 metric tons, compared with 68,000 at same time in 1970.

As of March 10, with weather ideal, there was no end in sight to large catches. A second large run had been tracked off southeast coast. It was expected to follow along south coast on heels of first run, which earlier reached southwest tip. Storage tanks were overflowing; some boats had to come as far as Reykjavik to unload.

The season was expected to last through March. Last year's record catch was 191,000 metric tons; the 1971 prospects were even better.

Unrelated to Norwegian Stocks

Ichthyologists say the different number of vertebrae in Icelandic stocks indicates no connection to Norwegian stocks. They also claim that stocks of capelin are not endangered by huge catch as the herring stocks were.

Advance Contracts

More capelin meal has been sold under advance contracts than last year. Contracts have been signed with Sweden, Denmark, U.K., and Poland for 20,300 metric tons and 7,200 metric tons of capelin oil.

Prices are only slightly higher than last year's: US\$3.24-\$3.36 per protein unit for meal, and about \$238 per metric ton for oil.

Advance contracts for sale of 5,600 metric tons of frozen capelin to Japan also have been signed at prices varying from \$80 to \$190 per ton according to roe content of mature females. These roe-rich capelin are delicacies in bars.

1970 Exports

In 1970, Iceland's total capelin exports were (metric tons): frozen 1,020; meal 29,776; oil 5,742. Japan received all the frozen capelin. The largest buyers of meal and oil were Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Britain, Hungary, and East Germany. (U.S. Embassy Reykjavik, Mar. 10.)

WEST GERMANY

DEEP-SEA FLEET TO ADD 15 FACTORY STERN TRAWLERS

West German trawler owners have ordered 15 new factory stern trawlers from 4 shipyards for delivery in 1972 and 1973. The present fleet has 108 vessels (116,000 GRT). Total investment for the 15 will be US\$82.5 million. Such vessels have operated mostly off Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland, and the U.S. east coast.

The new vessels, which have government support, will replace technically outdated vessels; the latter will be reconstructed into fresh-fish vessels. The head of Deep-Sea Fisheries Association says new construction of fresh-fish vessels is too costly, but reconstruction of already depreciated old vessel is possible.

Technical Improvements

The vessels, similar to units built during last 5 years, will include technical improvements: 40-50-ton freezing capacity per day, and cold-storage space for 800 tons of frozen products. They will have a crew of 70. ('Fiskets Gang', Feb. 25.)



SPAIN

REPORT ON 1970 FISHERIES

The Madrid newspaper "Informaciones" reported, Jan. 23, on Spanish fisheries during 1970:

The catch was estimated at more than 1.5 million metric tons with exvessel value of about US\$336 million.

Lloyd's Register of Shipping credits Spain with world's third largest fishing fleet: 1,289 vessels over 100 GRT, and total fleet of 678,436 GRT. The freezer fleet is modern; even the salt cod or bacalao fleet has been modernized.

Freezer Fleet

The first freezer vessel, "Lemos", entered the fishery in 1961 and is still fishing. During 1966 the freezer fleet had 62 vessels (56,666 GRT); in 1969, 123 vessels (110,052 GRT). Production capacity is somewhat over 3,000 tons per day; in 1969, production reached 146,800 tons of frozen fish worth US\$71.8 million. The freezer fleet suffered major setbacks, particularly in 1968, but these were resolved through more varied production.

Salt-Cod Fleet

The salt cod (bacalao) fleet had problems in 1968/69. But it has stabilized production at about 270,000 tons of raw fish. This indicated that 1970 salted-fish production would be about 90,000 tons. In 1970, Spain exported more than 57,000 tons of salted fish.

In 1970, the first research vessel began to conduct research between Canary Islands and Sahara. A 20-nation fleet is fishing uncontrolled there.

Exports

Fishery exports in 1969 were 133,876 metric tons worth US\$65.8 million. Spain has a large market in Europe. Since none of the Common Market countries represents a major fishery nation, the EC imports much from outside countries. Although Norway, Denmark, and Iceland dominate those markets, Spain's products are not in direct competition, especially not in molluscs. Latin America and Africa are the most important markets for Spanish salt fish and cod. (Reg. Fish. Att., Copenhagen, from 'Fiskets Gang', Feb. 18.)



UNITED KINGDOM

1970 CATCH SET RECORD

In 1970, the exvessel value of British landings in England and Wales jumped US\$24 million from 1969 to reach a record \$186 million. Landings rose 21,000 tons to 960,000 long tons.

Landings of demersal fish (719,000 tons) were at 1969 level, but exvessel value rose from \$133 million to \$153 million. This increase was due mainly to a rise in average landed value of cod. Value of plaice increased; haddock's dropped slightly. Herring prices were higher and lifted pelagic landings from 173,000 tons to 185,000 tons, and from \$9.5 million to \$13 million. These are provisional figures compiled by U.K. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Shellfish landings increased more than 11% above 1969 in quantity and value.

Exports & Re-Exports

There was a substantial rise of 43% in exports and re-exports of fish and fish products--from 105,000 tons to 150,000 tons. Imports dropped sharply from 901,000 tons in 1969 to 766,000 tons, but value rose from \$276 million to \$301 million.

Fish-meal imports dropped from 460,000 tons to 363,000 tons, value from \$76 million to \$75 million. There was a smaller drop in imports of fish oil: 246,000 tons to 220,000 tons, but value rose from \$34 million to \$51 million. ('Fishing News', March 5.)



ITALY

SETS TEMPORARY GUIDELINE FOR MERCURY IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

Italy has set a temporary mercury tolerance level of 0.7 part per million, plus a 10% allowance, or a maximum limit of 0.77 ppm for fishery products. This was reported by the Japanese Fisheries Agency and trading firms.

The guideline is valid from April through June 1971. After that, Italy will make a final determination based on test results.

The new regulation can sharply affect Japanese exports of tuna, swordfish, and sharks to Italy.

How Fish Tested

During test period, Italy will draw out 10 samples from each lot. The entire lot will be rejected if: the mercury content in all samples averages above guideline; two or more fish contain an excess concentration; or if one sampled fish contains 1.5 times more mercury than allowed. ('Suisan Tsushin', Apr. 13.)



Fish stall in Rome market. (Robert K. Brigham)

LATIN AMERICA

LONG-AWAITED FISHING LAW IS ISSUED

On April 2, the official Brazilian newspaper 'Diario Oficial' carried the Decree Law governing fishing within the 200-mile territorial sea. The law became effective with publication.

I. Two fishing zones are established: from the coast to 100 miles, and 100-200 miles. In the inner 100 miles, fishing is restricted to Brazilian vessels. Both foreigners and Brazilians can fish in the second 100 miles.

Exploitation of "crustacea and other living resources depending on the subject bottom Brazilian territorial waters" are reserved for Brazilian vessels.

Vessels "in the regime of lease to Brazilian legal entities, having headquarters in Brazil" are considered to be "equal" to local vessels.

In "special circumstances," the Ministry of Agriculture, through SUDEPE (Brazilian fisheries ministry), in consultation with the Navy, might permit foreign fishing within inner 100-mile zone. Legislation covering fishery research vessels will be dealt with later.

Registration

II. Both national and foreign vessels must be registered. "National" status will be granted "exclusively to Brazilian born or naturalized citizens or companies organized in the country under Article 8, Decree Law 221, Feb. 27, 1967."

To get Ministry of Agriculture authorization to lease foreign fishing vessels, the applicant must prove: his capital is owned predominantly by Brazilians; the crew has the stipulated number of Brazilians; the operation will expand exports or supplies in a deficit production zone. The leasing authorization, good for one year, may be extended for

one more. After lease termination, the vessel must be "nationalized" to continue operation.

Foreign vessels not on lease may fish within the outer 100-mile zone when authorized. Authorization for a maximum of one year is renewable. It will stipulate equipment and process permitted.

The request for authorization to SUDEPE must be made by a "reliable Brazilian legal entity," which will assume legal and financial responsibilities. The application should include name, nationality, description of vessel and gear; also, a statement that there is room for an "element" designated by SUDEPE or the Navy to accompany vessel.

Foreign vessels will be required to pay a \$500 registration fee, plus a \$20/NRT fee. Foreign captains must: (1) use SUDEPE-approved sailing charts; (2) know and respect Brazilian law, particularly concerning pollution; (3) use SUDEPE-approved equipment and techniques; and (4) report arrival and departure times in Brazilian waters, plus daily position, to the Navy. Foreign vessels can unload only with SUDEPE special authorization.

Punishing Violators

III. "Trespassers" will be escorted to nearest port captain. Foreign vessels fishing without authorization will be prosecuted for smuggling. Brazil can impound the vessel, gear, and catch, and prosecute the captain. Violators also can be fined. The navy will ask for air force surveillance.

IV. SUDEPE will establish catch limits for species in each zone for national and foreign vessels. It will take other necessary conservation measures.

Provisions of the law may be modified by treaty. (U.S. Embassy, Rio de Janeiro, April 2.)



PERU

NEW FISHING LAW CONFIRMS 200-MILE LIMIT

Peru's new General Fisheries Law confirms State control over all her marine resources up to 200 miles from the coast. The Ministry of Fisheries is authorized to direct all fishery development.

Most important, no new foreign investment is allowed in the fishmeal industry. Existing foreign firms are required to give up majority holdings. Supposedly, the transfer of control is to be done without harming the interests of those foreign-controlled companies regarded as technically and economically competitive.

To Redistribute Income

A unique plan aims to redistribute income among the workers through profit-sharing. The workers will share in the ownership and management of their factories.

The industry is defined as public and private, but "socially owned" fishing companies also are allowed. The public sector is represented by the Ministry of Fisheries and

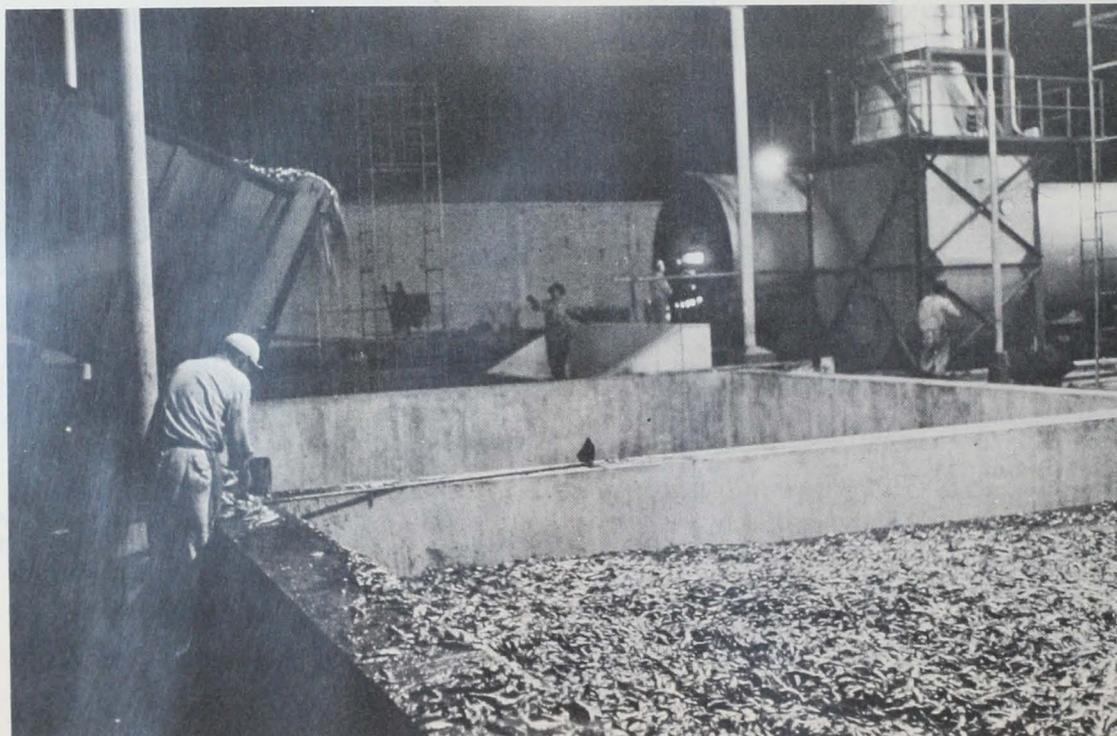
autonomous public companies: Public Fisheries Service Co. (EPSEP) and Public Fishmeal and Fishoil Marketing Co. (EPCHAP). Private companies may be local, foreign, or joint ventures.

Foreign companies must sign a contract with the government stating how long it will take to transfer at least 51% of their capital to local investors.

Goals of New Law

Fishing companies are to be encouraged and developed by the State in accordance with a scale of priorities: first, fishing for food fish; second, fishing for nonfood consumption; third, fishing for indirect human consumption (fish meal).

The law creates a Fishing Community and a Fisheries Compensation Community. Both are designed to strengthen the fishing companies and to promote social solidarity among workers, employers, and the State. Every year, each firm must deduct 22% from net profits, free of tax--2% for research and training fund; 8% in cash for communities; and balance of 12% toward community's share of firm's capital. ('Peruvian Times', April 2.)



Fishmeal plants work round the clock. This is view at night.

(FAO: R. Coral)

CANADA

SALTFISH CORPORATION HAS GOOD YEAR

Despite the problems of organization and getting under way, the Canadian Saltfish Corporation (CSC) was able to sell all the saltfish available and could have sold much more during its first period of operation. Sales in such areas as New York, Puerto Rico, the Caribbean Islands (particularly Jamaica), Portugal, and Italy were bigger than ever; CSC also sold in new areas, such as Chicago.

CSC has a staff of 35, including 8 quality-control inspectors. The latter's presence has improved the market's reputation.

In Short Supply

The major problem now facing CSC is inadequate supply. Two years ago, the government had to buy up vast quantities of surplus salt fish for its foreign-aid program to save fishermen from economic disaster; now CSC is finding that it cannot supply its market demand. This is true particularly of lightly salted fish for which U.S. and Italian demand considerably exceed supply. CSC officials have been meeting with fishermen to assure increased supply this year.

Why the Change?

The causes for this change are not completely clear. To some extent, this is because of increased competition for fish from frozen-fish trade. Market prices there have risen sharply, so the trade is buying more fish. The frozen-fish trade does not require fishermen

to be concerned about "added-on-value," which salting and curing do require.

In addition to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec supply salt fish to the world. It is expected that these Provinces will join CSC this year. The supply of salt fish from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island is comparatively small; their membership would not appreciably affect market. (U.S. Consulate, St. John's)

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BRITISH COLUMBIA'S 1970 HERRING SPAWN WAS WELL ABOVE AVERAGE

The 3-year closure of British Columbia's herring fishery appears to have achieved its goal of returning deposition along its shores to adequate levels. The 1970 spawn deposition has exceeded substantially the 25-year average, reports the Canadian Department of Fisheries.

Department's Report

"In 1970, 290 miles of spawn were deposited in British Columbia waters, over twice as much as in 1969 and well above the 25-year (1940-64) average of 199 miles," a department report stated. Spawning abundance was above average in most subdistricts, except for Northern and Upper West Coast of Vancouver Island (only satisfactory levels), and Queen Charlotte Island and Southern Mainland, which are still below average.

The spawning in Feb.-Mar. 1971 would indicate whether resumption of fishing would be possible this year. Several thousand tons already have been taken in the food fishery.

SOUTH PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

VALUE OF FISHERIES DECLINED IN 1969/70

In 1969/70 (July 1, 1969-June 30, 1970) total exvessel value of fish, crustacea, and mollusc was US\$63,530,000, \$458,000 below previous season and first decline since 1957/58. These are preliminary figures of Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Spiny Lobster Value Dropped

The decline was due almost entirely to a 27% drop in value of spiny lobster catch--\$29,830,000 to \$21,864,000. The catch dropped 13% from 28,884,000 pounds in 1968/69 to 25,160,000 pounds in 1969/70. In Western Australia, the main lobster-producing State, the catch fell to 15,294,000 pounds, lowest since 1957/58.

Shrimp Catch Value Rose

The 1969/70 shrimp production increased in quantity and value. Catch was 29,290,000 pounds, up 37% from previous season; value rose 47% (\$15,420,000). Shrimp is Australia's second most important fishery.

The value of oyster production rose, but scallop dropped 20% to \$906,372. Abalone production increased 13% from previous season. Australian wet-fish landing for 1969/70

increased in quantity and value; a record tuna catch in New South Wales was main reason.

Despite slump in lobster catch, Western Australia retained its position as Australia's leading fishing state. ('Australian Fisheries')

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CHANGES TO METRIC SYSTEM

Australia has converted to the metric system. It will take 10 years to change over completely and cost about US\$112 million. Despite this, Australia is expecting great benefits. At present, Japan, her major trading partner, penalizes certain Australian imports that do not conform to metric system.

90% of World Uses Metric System

About 90% of the world uses the metric system, and 75% of world trade is transacted in metric units. The only major countries resisting change are the U.S. and Canada.

In East Asia, many countries have adopted the metric system. So have New Zealand and South Africa.

On Feb. 15, 1971, Britain changed to the decimal system. One pound now is divided into 100 pence, each worth \$0.024. The transition was smooth and painless. Conversion is expected to be completed by 1975.



AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

PILCHARD QUOTAS CUT

Growing concern in South and South-West Africa over the effect of heavy fishing on pelagic shoal fish stocks is reflected in the 1971 quotas for the 8 factories on the coast of South-West Africa. Seven are in Walvis Bay, one in Luderitz. There is a sharp cut in the amount of pilchards the factories can catch for their canneries and meal plants. This could lead to a reduction in South African canned pilchards on world markets.

There has been a spreading intrusion of anchovy among pilchards off South-West Africa and, to an even greater extent, among related stock to the south off South Africa's Cape Province.

year; anchovy increased from 327,000 tons in 1967 to 365,000 tons in 1968 and 437,000 tons in 1969.

In South-West African waters during 1970, the ratio of anchovy to pilchards in the catch was about 1 ton in 5. In South African waters, to Sept. 1970, the pilchard catch was only 46,000 tons; anchovy catch, 237,000 tons.

Pilchard Quota Cut

The government is trying to prevent the South-West African anchovy intrusion from growing to level in South African waters. It has slashed pilchard quota for each factory from 90,000 tons to 45,000 tons, plus a 45,000-ton quota for anchovy.



A Cape west coast pilchard and maasbanker cannery and fish reduction plant.

Pilchard & Anchovies

During the past 3 years, the amount of pilchards received by the shore factories has been between 1.1 and 1.4 million short tons a

The South-West Africa pelagic shoal fishing season was shortened by two months this year. It started Feb. 15 and will close Sept. 15. ('Fishing News International')