

WHALING OBSERVER PACTS SIGNED

1. JAPAN AND USSR

Japan and the Soviet Union signed an agreement in Moscow on April 18 providing for the placement of observers aboard their whaling vessels. The agreement, first of its kind between whaling nations, resulted from a decision reached at the June 1971 annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

The Agreement

The agreement will be in force until Feb. 28, 1973. Under it, Soviet observers will be assigned to each of the three Japanese whaling fleets that will operate in the North Pacific between mid-May and mid-June. Japanese observers will be assigned to the two Soviet whale fleets that will operate later in the summer. The observers will help determine whether whaling operations are being conducted under the rules of the international convention for the regulation of whaling. They will report their findings to the IWC. ('Tokyo Kyodo', Apr. 19.)

2. JAPAN AND U.S.

On April 26, Japanese Foreign Minister Fukuda and U.S. Ambassador Ingersoll signed an Agreement on the International Observer Scheme for Whaling Operations from Land Stations in the North Pacific. The agreement will remain in effect until Feb. 28, 1973.

Under the agreement, U.S. observers may be stationed at the six Japanese land stations: Wakkanai of Nippon Hoge, Kiritappu and Osawa of Nitto Hoge, Onagawa of Nippon Suisan, Ayukawa of Taiyo Gyogyo, and Ayukawa of Nitto Hoge.

The 1972 North Pacific Coastal Whaling season is from May 1 to October 31 for baleen whales, and from May 1 to December 31 for sperm whales ('Suisan Tsushin', Apr. 27.)

The Japanese quota for 1972 coastal whaling was reduced 20% from 1971 quota.

The Japanese quota for the 21st North Pacific Whaling Season was reduced 20% to 554 BWU.

3. NORTH ATLANTIC

On April 7, 1972, representatives of Norway, Canada, and Iceland signed an agreement to implement an international observer system for North Atlantic coastal (land based) whaling stations. The agreement entered into force on April 14. The three countries were expected to exchange observers during this year's whaling season beginning in May. (U.S. Embassy, Oslo, Apr. 24.)

JAPAN & USSR AGREE ON 1972 SALMON QUOTAS

The 16th annual meeting of the Japan-USSR Fisheries Commission, Moscow, March 1-April 20, culminated in an agreement signed April 21. The high-seas salmon quotas for 1972 are 87,000 metric tons for Japan and 3,000 tons for the Soviet Union.

This year, besides closing designated zones in Area A (north of 45° N. latitude) to Japanese fishing during specified periods, closures were established for the first time in several places in Area B (south of 45° N. latitude). Japan finally accepted this measure only for 1972, a year of poor pink-salmon run.

In the 1972 high-seas salmon fishery, the Soviets are likely to use mothership-type operations for the first time. ('Suisan Tsushin', May 2, 'Nihon Suisan Shimbu', Apr. 24.)

U.S.-BRAZIL AGREE ON SHRIMP FISHING

On May 9, 1972, the U.S. and Brazil signed an agreement establishing a shrimp-conservation zone off Brazil. Within the zone, the activities of shrimp vessels of the two countries will be regulated.

The agreement was signed by U.S. Ambassador William Rountree and Brazil's

Foreign Minister, Mario Gibson Barbosa. It will be submitted to the senate for ratification. A ratified agreement would remain in effect at least until January 1973.

Reserve Juridical Positions

The agreement reflects mutual concern for shrimp conservation. The two parties reserve their juridical positions on territorial seas and fishery jurisdiction under international law.

FAO FERRO-CEMENT FISHING VESSEL SEMINAR IN NEW ZEALAND

A 5-day seminar on the design and construction of ferro-cement fishing vessels will be held by FAO in Wellington, New Zealand, beginning Oct. 9, 1972.

The seminar, hosted by New Zealand, is being held in response to growing interest in developed and developing countries in the use of these vessels. Participants will be from FAO's Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (IPFC)--largely the developing countries along the Indian and Pacific Oceans--and from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, U.S., and others.

Main Purpose

The seminar's main purpose is to collect all data on existing ferro-cement boats, especially on construction methods, costs, and operational experience. The properties of ferro-cement as a boatbuilding material will be discussed and compared with other materials, modern and traditional.

FAO provided technical aid in building a 16-meter trawler in Thailand, an 11-meter gillnetter/handliner in Dahomey, and two open boats (7.5 and 10 meters) in Italy for Egypt. Also, three ferro-cement trawlers are being constructed for use in FAO projects in Uganda, Dahomey, and Madagascar.

Address questions about seminar to: Secretary, Seminar on the Design and Construction of Ferro-Cement Fishing Vessels, Department of Fisheries, FAO, Rome 00100, Italy.

NORWEGIAN FISHERIES FAIR, AUGUST 14-20

The Fourth Norwegian Fisheries Fair will take place in Trondheim, August 14-20.

The first day's program will deal with the use of acoustical instruments in fishery research and be of interest primarily to researchers. On the second day, the use of acoustical instruments in fishing will be discussed.

Preparations are underway for a study conference on the "transport of fish from pier to consumer". The fair's planners hope to organize visits to foreign factory vessels and large trawlers, and study trips to the fishing grounds aboard one of the Marine Research Institute's research vessels.

NORTH SEA IS CLEANER

The North Sea off West Norway shows no signs of oil pollution and the volume of chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons is much less than in 1970, reports the Ocean Research Institute, Bergen, Norway.

A Norwegian-Swedish team has made a systematic collection of water samples in the area between Feie and Shetlands. It also has collected fish, which will be measured for hydrocarbons, DDT, lead, and other heavy metals.

The researchers believe that the improvement is due partly to the halt in 1971 of the dumping of industrial chemical waste.



CANADA

CANADA CURTAILS ATLANTIC SALMON FISHING

On April 24, Canada's Minister of Fisheries, Jack Davis, announced in the House of Commons a partial ban on commercial fishing for Atlantic salmon. It is expected to last at least 6 years and to close most of Canada's Atlantic salmon fishing grounds.

The action was brought on by excessive high-seas fishing by foreign countries, heavy fishing by Canadian commercial fishermen, and pollution in some main salmon rivers. The closure will affect commercial fisheries in several producing rivers in the Maritime Provinces and Port Aux Basques in Newfoundland. It will not apply to salmon returning to streams in Newfoundland, Labrador, or Nova Scotia. Davis reported a serious decline in salmon returning to the St. John, Miramichi, and Restigouche rivers.

The Plan

The cost of the program for the current fiscal year was estimated at \$2 million. The ban will affect over 900 commercial fishermen. The plan anticipates buying out the commercial salmon fishermen--vessels, gear, and all. The move, reportedly, is designed to encourage Denmark to take similar action. Davis said the Danes have agreed with the U.S. to stop salmon fishing by 1975, but he contended that this will be too late to save the species.

Denmark & Norway

External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp said Canada had made vigorous representations to Denmark about its high-seas salmon catches. Canada was not satisfied with the Danish response and "wants exclusive rights to harvest salmon from our streams."

In a similar action, Norway has announced its intention to urge a total ban on salmon fishing outside national fishery limits. This hinges on other members of ICNAF and NEAFC engaged in the fishery undertaking the same obligation, with stricter catch limitations in any phase-out period. (U.S. Embassy, Ottawa, April 24.)

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CANADA'S ATLANTIC PROVINCES MADE RECORD EARNINGS IN 1971

In 1971, landings of Canada's Atlantic Coast provinces totaled 2.2 billion pounds, slightly below 1970 landings. They were worth C\$128.9 million, surpassing the record set in 1970.

Groundfish, lobster, herring, and scallops were 95% of landings and 85% of value.

During 1965-70, landings of groundfish (mainly cod, flounders, ocean perch, and haddock) fluctuated between 1.10 and 1.24 billion pounds; in 1971, they totaled 1.13 billion pounds. Their value has been increasing steadily in recent years and reached nearly C\$60 million, 11% above 1970's record.

Catch Composition Changes

Groundfish landings have changed in recent years. Cod were 10% less than in 1970. Still, they accounted for 39% of groundfish landings, compared to 52% in 1965. In 1971, the haddock catch increased but was still substantially below level of earlier years. In recent years, ocean perch and flounder have accounted for a larger share of the total groundfish landings. In 1971, ocean perch were 22% (12% in 1965), flounder 25% (18% in 1965). However, 1971 flounder landings declined 6% from 1970 record of 299 million pounds.

Herring Fishery Expands

The herring fishery has expanded appreciably since 1965. From 405 million pounds in 1965, landings increased to 1.16 billion pounds in 1968. They have declined annually since then: in 1969, by 7% and, in 1970, by 2%. In 1971, herring catches declined again, by about 12%. They were 41% of all fishery landings but only 10% of total value.

Lobster landings, which have been ranging between 35 and 40 million pounds, rose only slightly in 1971. Their increased value reflected higher market prices.

The low abundance of sea scallops on traditional fishing grounds has contributed to

CANADA (Contd.):

decreased catches in recent years. Landings decreased 14% in 1971, but prices reached records. The Atlantic salmon catch of 4 million pounds was about 1 million pounds less than in 1970. ('Canadian Fishermen' and 'Canadian Fisheries Statistics').

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NEWFOUNDLAND LANDINGS FELL 13%
IN 1971 BUT VALUE ROSE

In 1971, landings in Newfoundland declined 13% from 1970, but their value to fishermen set a record. The catch totaled 388,600 metric tons worth US\$35.3 million. Of the total catch, groundfish registered 242,200 tons, down 13% from 1970. Cod declined 10% from 127,700 tons in 1970. Flounder slipped 13%, ocean perch 37%, and Greenland turbot 4%. Herring landings also fell: 134,500 tons, compared to 159,100 in 1970.

The salmon catch decreased almost 16% to 1,500 tons. Salmon anglers landed 12% fewer fish. In 1970 and 1971, there was full-scale tagging of smolt and adult salmon in Labrador. This project is part of an international study to determine the origins of salmon stocks exploited in Greenland area.

Mollusks & Crustaceans

Landings of mollusks and crustaceans totaled 5,800 tons, compared to 2,700 tons in 1970. The lobster catch declined 6% to 1,400 tons. Scallop landings dropped to nearly three-quarters of 1970 catch; however, new stocks have been located in many areas. Encouraging results were reported for experimental scallop farming introduced in 1971. After 3 seasons of virtual failure, squid are showing signs of reappearing; landings totaled 1,800 tons in 1971, compared to 80 tons in 1970.

Bait Subsidized

The Newfoundland Bait Service provided 4 million pounds of bait at subsidized prices to inshore fishermen in 1971. Some problems were encountered in catching enough herring for bait as a result of accelerated demands for food processing. However,

there were enough capelin for bait purposes. Squid have been extremely scarce recently, but fishermen have found mackerel an acceptable bait substitute. Good signs of mackerel in Newfoundland waters were noted; limited landings were used by food processors and for bait.

The Fishing Vessel Assistance Program approved applications to construct 83 vessels 45 to 50 feet. Approximate construction costs amounted to \$3,265,000. (Canadian Department of the Environment Fisheries Service.)



LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO'S FISH INDUSTRY
GAINED 7% IN 1971

In 1971, Mexico's fish industry produced 273,154 metric tons of all species, a gain of 7.3% over 1970, according to preliminary figures of the Secretary of Industry and Commerce.

Among edible species, sardines gained the most: 37.6%; anchovies and turtles showed the biggest declines: 42.2 and 44.8%. Production of shrimp, the biggest money crop, fell 3.1%. Fish meal continued upward, although more slowly than in 1970; it increased 10.8% to 21,509 tons. However, production is still far below Mexico's requirements.

Shrimp Exports Rose

Despite slightly lower shrimp production, Mexico's exports of shrimp increased 6.2% to 30,582 tons, and 9.7% in value to US\$69.3 million. Although most shrimp exports went to the U.S., the traditional principal market, exports to Japan increased 91% over 1970, totaling 1,999.3 tons. This trend is expected to continue in 1972. As a result of record shrimp prices in the U.S. and Japan, shrimp exports for the first time ranked third in total exports, although well behind tomatoes and sugar.



NORWAY'S LOFOTEN FISHERIES ARE THE BEST SINCE 1951

The Lofoten cod fisheries in North Norway, which ended April 26, were the best since 1951, reports the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Six thousand men landed 97,000 tons of cod, 17,500 tons more than in 1971. The 1951 catch was 115,000 tons, but the number of fishermen was 20,000--more than 3 times this year's.

Average earnings of fishermen in the Lofoten fisheries this year are estimated at almost 50,000 kroner (£3,000, \$7,000).

About 58,000 tons of the catch have been salted, about 17,000 tons dried, and the remainder filleted for freezing or sold fresh.

FISHERMEN DOWN 40%

In 10 years, the number of fishermen in Norway fell 40%--from 61,000 in 1960 to 35,000 in 1970--according to census returns of the Central Statistical Office, Oslo. Johan Toft, chairman of the Fishermen's Federation, attributes the reduction to rationalization: "Crews have been reduced, but the catch per man has increased and is bigger today than ever before."

FROZEN FISH EXPORTS RISE 41% IN VALUE

The frozen-fish marketing organization Frionor, Oslo, reports that exports in first-quarter 1972 were up 22% in volume and 41% in value over the 1971 period. Shipments totaled 17,000 tons worth more than 100 million kroner (£6 million, \$14 million).

NORWEGIAN FISH-OIL PRODUCTION ROSE 3% IN 1971

In 1971, Norwegian fish-oil production was 194,400 metric tons, an increase of 3% from 1970. Year-end supplies were 150,000 metric tons larger than at year-end 1970. Increased production is expected during 1972. The main fish used for fish oil and meal in 1971 was capelin, caught primarily off the north Norway coast.

Little Whale Oil

In 1971, whale-oil production totaled only 194 metric tons. In earlier years, it had been the main source for the oil industry. Two land stations won approval to operate in 1971, but only one considered it profitable enough to do so. In first-quarter 1972, the Norwegians have not sought Antarctic whales. One result is the shortage of raw material for the refining and hardening industry. The U.S. has been a main foreign supplier of oil for this industry; it has supplied nearly half the oil imports. ('Foreign Agricultural Service', U.S. Dept. of Agric., April 12.)

'GIVE A MAN A FISH HOOK. . .'

The fish-hook manufacturer O. Mustad & Son A/S, Oslo, reputedly the world's largest, has sent 300,000 fish hooks to the Red Cross in Bangladesh. The gift followed a letter home from the owner's daughter, Anne Mustad, a physiochemist working with a Norwegian medical team in Bangladesh. Her letter quoted the Bangladesh adage: "Give a man a fish and he has food for a day. Give him a fish hook and he has food for life."

ICELAND IS ADDING 27 STERN TRAWLERS

Iceland has authorized 27 stern trawlers 400 to 1,000 gross registered tons, reported 'Fishing News' of London on March 17. An agreement was being negotiated with Japanese shipyards to build 10 stern trawlers averaging about 500 GRT each. Four vessels have been ordered from Spain (one has been completed). Norway is building 10 vessels of about 500 tons each; two are being built in Poland. Iceland's shipyard will construct one 500-ton vessel.

Fleet Modernization

The fleet-modernization program, with deliveries slated for 1972-73, is the first recruitment to the trawler fleet since 1960. Total investment will be US\$30 million, supported by loans from the Fisheries Fund that

ICELAND (Contd.):

may cover two-thirds of cost of vessels built abroad. In 1970, the trawler fleet caught 16% of the production of groundfish species and, in 1971, 23%.

If Iceland succeeds in extending her fishing limits to 50 miles, as proposed, it could create a vast protected area for the incoming fleet of stern trawlers.

Iceland's 1971 Frozen-Fish Production

In 1971, Iceland produced 93,000 metric tons of frozen fishery products. Cod fillets and blocks were 35,000 tons of total, down 4,000 tons from 1970. About 47% was fillets and 53% blocks. Haddock fillets totaled 6,220 tons (up 22% from 1970) and blocks 348 tons. Saith (coalfish) totaled 13,745 tons, the bulk fillets for the Soviet and Czechoslovak market; there also was an increase in blocks for the U.S. Shrimp and Norway lobster production rose 14% to 1,504 tons, while scallops increased 58% to 380 tons.

The U.S. was Iceland's leading export market for frozen fillets and blocks with 53,230 tons; the Soviet Union was second with 12,383 tons. ('Aegir', March 1972.)



MARINE FISH FARMING PROGRESSES IN UNITED KINGDOM

Experiments are underway in the United Kingdom (UK) to develop a profitable marine fish-farming industry. They have concentrated on the marine flatfish--plaice, Dover sole and, more recently, turbot and lemon sole.

Results have shown that these species can be spawned under artificial conditions. Large numbers of plaice and Dover sole have been hatched, reared, and marketed. Each species is assessed by these criteria: high market price, fast gain in weight, and ease of breeding and rearing of young in captivity.

High Priced Are Profitable

In terms of profitability, those species found to give economic returns are the high-priced ones: turbot, Dover sole, hake, and

halibut; those most unlikely to give economic returns are red sea bream and plaice. ('Marine Fish Farming', Suffolk and Lowestoft Laboratories, UK.)



SCOTTISH SHRIMP AND SHELLFISH BOOM

There has been a marked increase in Scottish shellfish landings in the past 20 years. Shellfish landings reached 22,220 metric tons in 1971, and value US\$10.9 million.

The growing popularity of Norway lobster (or prawn) spurred growth of landings from 152 metric tons in 1950 to 1,981 metric tons in 1960 and 8,178 tons in 1970. The value of this catch in 1970 was nearly US\$4.5 million. Scallop fisheries began in the 1960s and, by 1970, totaled 8,788 tons worth US\$2.1 million. Recently, the pink shrimp (*Pandalus* sp.) became a target. Three species are found around the Scottish coast.

Rich Fladen Grounds

The prolific Fladen grounds near Scotland, long fished by Scandinavian shrimp vessels, are providing an increasing catch for Scottish vessels. The latter's early efforts failed because a market did not exist in Britain. The growing demand in Britain for pink shrimp has led to an import trade worth US\$12.4 million a year. This market has stimulated Scottish fishermen. Both pink and brown shrimp are available close to shore. Expansion of this fishery is expected. Peeling machines have been installed to handle the growing catch.

Norway Lobster

Norway lobster now is caught only during short periods at dawn and dusk in shallow waters. Investigation is underway to learn whether electrified trawl will extend fishing results. Tests in natural habitat have shown positive results in making a significant percentage of these lobsters leave their burrows. Eventually, the electrified trawl likely will become a practical commercial proposition to stimulate production of Norway lobster and shrimp. ('Scottish Fisheries Bulletin')

VALUE OF IRISH CATCH + EXPORTS UP IN 1971

In 1971, Ireland's catch, excluding salmon, was worth a record £4.2 million, 7% above 1970, according to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This was reported in 'The Irish Skipper', May 1972. The industry contributes about £10 million to the national economy. It "reflects the substantial increase from added value to landings in the processing, distribution and export sectors."

The value of fish and fishery products increased 22% to £5.6 million. Herring and shellfish were mainly responsible: their values rose £500,000 and over £250,000.

The whitefish catch increased from 302,000 hundredweight (cwt.) to 406,000 cwts. Value went up 11%--from £1.4 m to £1.6 m. Landings of cod and haddock were responsible

for the improved results. Catches of pollock, megrims, and dabs dropped slightly.

Shellfish Up 18%

In 1971, shellfish values rose 18%, from £1,102,000 to £1,302,000. The increase was brought about by a striking increase in some catches (1970 figures in parentheses):

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| crawfish | 179,000 fish | (155,000) |
| crabs | 1,847,000 | (1,265,000) |
| escallops | 2,281,000 | (323,000) |
| oysters | 2,940,000 | (1,619,000) |

Mussel production went up nearly 50% in 1971: from 56,000 cwts. to 93,000.

Herring Returns

The 1971 statistics do not cover the 1971/72 winter herring season. Good returns were reported despite the season's late start. In a few weeks, the fleet landed 27,000 tons worth £1,119,000.

These landings put Ireland ahead of Belgium and Holland and closing quickly on France and Germany.

During the winter herring season, Killybegs alone exported salted and spiced herring worth £150,000 to Scandinavia, including Norway.

France has imported salted herring and frozen herring fillets worth £112,000; Belgium and Germany mainly frozen fillets valued at £180,000.

Britain and Holland bought more than £250,000 worth of herring.



FRANCE ORDERS 13 STERN TRAWLERS FROM POLAND

Poland's Gdynia shipyards will deliver 13 vessels to France by 1973. Known as the B423, they are medium-range, highly efficient, stern trawlers, 178 ft. long and average 320 tons (dwt).

The vessels are designed for demersal and pelagic fishing in the North Atlantic and North Sea. The 'Otter Bank' and the 'Cap-Sainte-Marie', first of the new class to be completed, are in operation. From 1960 to 1970, Poland delivered 27 trawlers to France.

CONSTRUCTS 4 DISTANT-WATER TUNA SEINERS

Under the French Sixth Fisheries Plan, 4 distant-water tunapurse seiner-freezers are to be built by 1975. Two were launched in Dec. 1971. One, the 'Morgat', is 189 ft.; the other, the Spanish-built 'Guipuzkoa', 248 ft. The French say this is Europe's largest tuna freezer.

French shipyards will build the remaining two tuna vessels.

These 4 new vessels will increase the freezer fleet to 28 tuna vessels, all constructed recently. Total production capability will be 50,000 tons/year. In addition, reconverted seiners will add another 10,000 tons.

BELGIUM'S 1971 CATCH ROSE, PRICES FELL

Belgium's catch rose about 7% in 1971, but average market prices fell. The catch increase was attributable mainly to the cod catch, which was 84% above 1970. Catches of almost all other species showed declines for 1971.

Belgian fishermen operate in the southern part of the North Sea, the Irish Sea, and Icelandic waters. ('France Peche,' Mar. 1972.)



Soviet factory ship 'Vsevolod' in Bering Sea.

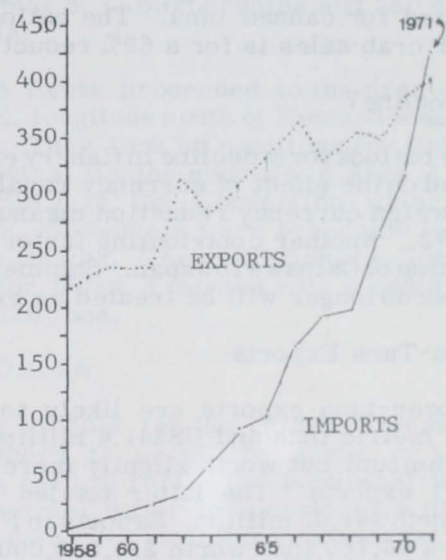
JAPAN BECOMES MAJOR IMPORTER OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

In 1971, Japan became a major importer of fishery products. Thus ended a long tradition as one of the world's principal suppliers.

In 1971, the value of Japanese fishery imports reached US\$426 million. For the first time, this exceeded exports of fishery products, which were valued at \$406 million.

| YEAR | EXPORTS | IMPORTS |
|------|---------|---------|
| 1971 | 406 | 426 |
| 1970 | 391 | 318 |
| 1969 | 347 | 261 |
| 1968 | 351 | 200 |
| 1967 | 326 | 192 |
| 1966 | 362 | 168 |
| 1965 | 331 | 104 |
| 1964 | 311 | 90 |
| 1963 | 283 | 59 |
| 1962 | 313 | 30 |
| 1961 | 229 | 23 |
| 1960 | 234 | 15 |
| 1959 | 233 | 8 |
| 1958 | 221 | 3 |

Shrimp, octopus, squid, and skipjack tuna were nearly 78% of the total value of imports. At the same time exports of tuna declined, due to mercury and canned-tuna decomposition problems, from \$40 million to \$13 million. Swordfish exports fell to nearly zero. ('Suisan Keizai', Apr. 10.)



Value of marine imports and exports, 1958-1971 (in US\$1 million).

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PLANS GIANT FISH FARM

Japan's largest fish farm is planned for the waters off Kushimoto, Wakayama Prefecture. It is expected to be partly operational in 1974, but it will not be completed until 1976. Cost is estimated at US\$7 million.

The farm will enclose 114 hectares (1,140,000 square-meters) of water, surrounded by concrete breakwaters in the sea. About \$7.3 million worth of lobster, yellow-tail, and sea bream is expected to be harvested annually.

The fish farm is one of 15 planned under the Japan Fishery Agency modernization pro-

gram that began in 1970. ('Japan Times', Apr. 21.)

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VESSEL EXPORTS INCREASE

Japanese exports of fishing vessels have increased from about 100 a year up to 1966, to 166 in 1967, 145 in 1968, 152 in 1969, 139 in 1970, and 301 in 1971. One explanation for the sharp increase in 1971 was that fishermen rushed to replace their vessels with new ones because exports of used vessels were slated to be prohibited at the beginning of fiscal year 1972 (April 1, 1972).

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JAPAN

DECLINE IN 1972 FISHERY EXPORTS PREDICTED

A report on fishery exports in fiscal years (FY) 1970 and 1971 and FY 1972 outlook has been published by the Japanese Agriculture and Fishery Products Export Council. A fiscal year begins in April and ends in March the following year.

Projections for FY 1972 show a decline in value of exports from FY 1971 for most items. Fresh and frozen tuna exports are likely to approximate the 1971 figure. A 43% gain is projected for canned tuna. The outlook for canned-crab sales is for a 69% reduction.

Why Decline?

The outlook for a decline in fishery exports is based on the effect of currency revaluation and foreign currency reduction measures in FY 1972. Another contributing factor is the reversion of Okinawa to Japan. Shipments to Okinawa no longer will be treated as exports.

Frozen-Tuna Exports

Frozen-tuna exports are likely to reach 77,607 metric tons and US\$41.4 million--the same amount but worth slightly more--than FY 1971 exports. The latter totaled 77,607 tons worth \$41.05 million. Exports in FY 1970 reached 66,760 tons worth \$35,068,000.

The outlook for frozen-tuna exports in FY 1972 is that albacore and skipjack shipment will increase; yellowfin exports will decline because mercury problem in Italy remains unsolved. ('Suisan Tsushin', May 30, 'Katsuo-Maguro Tsushin', June 1.)

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FISHERY INFORMATION CENTER OPENS

An organization to provide fishery information to Japanese coastal and offshore fishermen has opened in Tokyo. It is named Fishery Information Service Center. Director is Ryuichi Kikuta, president, National Federation of Fishery Cooperatives (ZEN-GYOREN).

The center replaces the former fishery forecasting service, a government-subsidized

program in existence from July 1965 until March 1972. The new center will be financed primarily by the users, but it also will receive government aid.

Its Services

Services to be provided include: 1) continuation of existing program of disseminating fish bulletins and long-term forecasts for 10 fish species--including albacore and skipjack tuna, anchovy, saury, salmon, and sardines--fished off Japan's Pacific coast; 2) expansion of present investigations by survey vessels; 3) transfer from government laboratories of the program of processing sea-surface temperature data transmitted by aircraft (activity to be partly subsidized by government); 4) collection and dissemination of information obtained from fishing vessels (government to subsidize 50% of this work); and 5) distribution of red-tide warnings to fish-culture operators in shallow waters and in bays.

By Radio & Facsimile

Information will be transmitted to the vessels by radio and facsimile. At present, only about 3,000 of the 8,000 vessels equipped with facsimile recorders are operating off Japan's Pacific coast. To improve fishing efficiency, facsimile is likely to become more important in the Japanese coastal and offshore fisheries. ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun', Apr. 27.)

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NEW YORK OFFICE TO SERVICE TUNA LONGLINERS

NIKKATSUREN will open an office in New York on July 1 to provide better refueling and other services to its member vessels fishing off the U.S. East Coast. NIKKATSUREN is the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations.

The need to refuel at foreign ports is increasing for Japanese tuna longliners because their hook rate is declining and trips must be extended.

NIKKATSUREN also will open an office in Panama. It already has agents in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and other places ('Suisan Keizai Shimbun', May 25.)

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JAPAN (Contd.):

SITUATION EASES ON CANNED-TUNA EXPORTS TO U.S.

On Feb. 24, 1972, the Tokyo Canned Tuna Sales Co. resumed sales of canned-tuna-in-brine for export to the U.S. Sales had been suspended because of decomposition problem. Since Feb. 24, 700,000 cases (600,000 cases of canned white-meat tuna and 100,000 cases of canned light-meat tuna) have been sold to trading firms; some early shipments were arriving in U.S. ports in late April. U.S. customs clearance is proceeding smoothly. There were no rejections at major ports of entry, notably New York, where much is received. Easing of the situation is attributed to voluntary inspection and self-certification by Japanese tuna packers. ('Suisan Tsushin', Apr. 26.)

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CANNED TANNER CRAB PRICES ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE

The 1972 Japanese quota for tanner crab off East Sakhalin is 13 million crabs, same as for 1971. The production of canned product from that catch is expected to be around 135,000 cases (70,000 cases for home and 65,000 cases for export). The 1972 sales prices for canned tanner crab, domestic market and foreign, are likely to increase over 10% above 1971 levels. This outlook is based on the rapidly rising domestic demand: possibly 120,000-130,000 cases will be sold because of the sharply reduced supply of canned king crab that will be available this year. Practically all Bristol Bay king crab are being frozen, so the 105,000 cases to be packed from the West Kamchatka catch will be all the canned king crab available this year.

Prices to Rise

Japanese export-price quotations for canned tanner crab can be expected to increase to \$33-35 a case from the \$30 quoted in late 1971. (In 1971, export prices rose from \$25.50 to \$27 and, finally, to \$30 in November.) However, such high prices likely will limit sales to certain established brands, such as "Geisha" label. U.S. will be the only large market. As for canned king crab, if they are exported in 1972, prices would

have to be substantially increased above the 1971 quotation of \$60 a case. ('Suisan Tsushin', May 11.)

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SALMON MOTHERSHIP FLEETS DEPART FOR NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

On May 17, 10 Japanese salmon mother-ships departed Hakodate, Hokkaido, for the North Pacific Ocean. The 332 catcher vessels assigned to the motherships left May 15. The 1972 fleet was reduced 10% (or by one mothership and 37 catcher vessels) from the 1971 total of 11 motherships and 369 catcher vessels.

The fleets proceeded to the area west of 168° E. longitude south of Komandorskiye Islands. They took up positions for fishing in the central fishing grounds in Area A (north of 45° N.) of the Convention waters. By May 22, all vessels were scheduled to commence fishing. They will fish the North Pacific for about 3 months with a catch target of 35,326 tons.

1972 Outlook

The outlook for the 1972 high-seas salmon fishery is about the same, or slightly better, than in 1971. The somewhat-higher-than-normal water temperature is likely to accelerate the northward migration of the salmon runs. Catch predictions are for a medium catch of red salmon, good landings of pinks for a lean season, better-than-average run of chums, and a substantial increase in catch of silvers if the vessels delay their departure from the fishing grounds. ('Suisan Tsushin', May 18.)

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WHALING FLEETS DEPART FOR NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

In mid-May, 3 Japanese whale factoryship fleets departed for the North Pacific whaling operations. The quota for the 21st (1972) North Pacific whaling season has been reduced 20% to 554 blue whale units (BWUs). Each fleet has a Soviet observer aboard.

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SOUTH PACIFIC

AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES SET VALUE RECORD IN 1970-71

The value of Australia's fishery production for 1970-71 exceeded US\$112 million, 27.5% higher than 1969-70 period. This increase is attributed primarily to the rise in production and value of crustaceans. The value of lobster catch alone rose over 43% to a record US\$45.1 million; this reflected high prices paid for Australian rock-lobster tails in the U.S.

Rock-lobster production rose more than 13% between 1970 and 1971; it reached 28.5 million pounds in 1971. In the main lobster-producing area, Western Australia, the catch rose to 17.8 million pounds worth a record US\$28.8 million.

In 1971, prawn production showed spectacular increases in value (32%) and quantity (43%). In quantity, prawns are now Australia's most important single fishery item.

Mollusks Increased

Production of mollusks increased in quantity and value. Oyster production rose 5% to 21.7 million pounds, its value almost 11% to US\$8.6 million. The downward production trend of scallops and abalone of the last two years was reversed in 1970-71. Scallop production rose 47% in quantity and 88% in value to almost 18 million pounds worth US\$2.6 million. Abalone production rose 31% in quantity and 81% in value to 17.6 million pounds worth US\$5.9 million.

Prices for Australia's wetfish catch also increased despite a catch decline of almost 7% to 113.6 million pounds--due mainly to lower shark, snook, and Australian salmon catches. However, total earnings for 1970-71 decreased only marginally to US\$24.5 million.

Western Australia No. 1

Western Australia continued as leading fishery State. Its production in 1970-71 was valued at US\$35.8 million, compared with US\$16.1 million in 1969-70. New South Wales was second: its production value increased from US\$21.6 million in 1969-70 to US\$24.5 million in 1970-71. Queensland's production value increased sharply from US\$10.1 million in 1969-70 to 15.5 million in 1970-71.

The increase was attributed mainly to the large jump in Queensland's prawn production. South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, and Northern Territory also registered increases in catch value in 1970-71.

Early-1972 Situation

In early 1972, the 1971-72 fishery season showed fairly good rock-lobster catches. The price paid to lobster fishermen was about US\$1.95 per lb. Catches in Tasmania and Victoria were generally encouraging, while in South Australia the fishing season was poor. South Australia's fishermen have been hampered by poor weather and late running lobsters, but market prices, nevertheless, have remained favorable.

N. Australia Shrimp Leader

Northern Australia is now the top shrimp-producing area. The fishery includes waters north of 20th parallel off Queensland, north of Bowen, in Gulf of Carpentaria, off Northern Territory, and in the Arafura Sea. It started on major scale in 1968 with a catch of about 5 million pounds, more than double 1969 catch, and climbed to 15 million pounds in 1970. In 1971, a catch of 23 million pounds was anticipated. In 1971, 230 boats were fishing shrimp.

The area's potential is good. About half the shrimp were landed at Darwin. The fishery is still developing, so it is likely to maintain present growth rate.

About 86% of catch was banana prawn, (*Penaeus merguensis*), 9% tiger prawn (*Penaeus esculentus*).

Gulf of Carpentaria

The Gulf of Carpentaria catch of over 12 million pounds set a record. The lowest price paid was 30 cents (Australia) per pound, rising to 50 cents; it was worth over A\$5 million to fishermen. (A\$1 equals US\$1.12.) Other northern fisheries also were expected to set new records. Shrimp also are found off south, east, and west coasts.

OYSTER DREDGING: NEW ZEALAND'S UNIQUE INDUSTRY

The New Zealand dredge oyster industry is unique: it is the world's only remaining natural fishery for "flat" oysters, which are cropped without any attempt at cultivation. So states the country's Information Service. Elsewhere, fishing has been controlled, and similar resources of naturally occurring stocks have ceased to be commercially exploited.

The industry is one of New Zealand's oldest. Small quantities from Stewart Island were being marketed back in 1830. The industry was centered there. But, as stocks around the island became exhausted, the oyster boats explored out to Foveaux Strait, Centre Island, and Ruapuke Island up to 1880. Early this century, the industry was transferred to Bluff.

Oyster Grounds

Oysters occur over 300 square nautical miles in Foveaux Strait. The commercially fishable grounds cover about 120 square miles, mainly along the Strait's central regions, in 9 to 21 fathoms.

There has been concern for the oyster stocks and the possibility of exhausting them through overfishing. The fishery now is self-guarded by regulations varying according to circumstances. Among conservation measures are the quota, closed season, and number of boats permitted to dredge.

The Quota

Fixing a maximum amount of oysters that may be taken commercially during the season ensures that an adequate stock remains to maintain the fishery.

The quota was introduced in 1963 at 170,000 sacks. It has been reduced in recent years to reflect declining numbers of oysters. Now it is 110,000 sacks to be taken by the 23 oyster boats at Bluff. Although much smaller than total annual catches from 1966 to 1968, it is still higher than the average annual catch for the past 25 years.

The Marine Department has been interested actively in conservation measures that may assist regeneration of the natural stock. These include farming and the return of shell to the oyster grounds.



Fig. 1 - In Foveaux Strait oyster beds, there are 600 million oysters that may be taken for eating. About one-sixth will reach market. During the coming season, from March 1 to about end of August, 23 oyster boats, some seen here, will take 110,000 sacks.



Fig. 2 - Dredge nets are used on New Zealand oyster boats that fish out of Bluff harbor into Foveaux Strait. Here a net is being swung inboard, and the catch tipped onto a cultching bench for sorting. (Cultching is separating the shells of takable size, believed to contain oysters, from material dredged from bottom.)

The New Zealand Marine Department advocates return of opened shell to the sea. From 1970 trials, when 1,000 sacks of shell were returned to an area of Foveaux Strait, the results of regeneration have been encouraging.

Returning Open Shell to Sea

The return of opened oyster shell to the sea has been advocated for two reasons. Oyster larvae usually settle on living or newly dead oysters. When beds are thinned by dredging, the material on which "spat" settle is removed, and so the number of oysters settling successfully is reduced. Adhering to the shells of the larger oysters are small oysters called "wing." Wings are still alive when the shells are opened. If they were returned to the sea in reasonable time, they would have a good chance of surviving and growing.

In 1970, 1,000 sacks of shell were returned to part of Foveaux Strait as a trial. The sacks were put down in a small area not dredged by

boats. Then, it was roped off and samples taken every two months. Results have been encouraging. There was a high survival and good growth of wing oysters and a reasonable spat fall on the shell in the summer.

Foveaux Strait's Beds

There are 600 million oysters in the Foveaux Strait oyster beds that may be taken for eating. Only about one-sixth will reach the market. Conditions are reviewed months before the season starts (March 1 to about end of August). Management decisions, backed by scientific evidence, ensure that oysters are reasonably available to the public, profitable to fishermen, and protect a unique New Zealand industry.