

Poland-U.S. Fishery Agreement Signed

Warsaw—Representatives of the United States and Poland signed in Warsaw on June 2, 1973, a two-year bilateral fisheries agreement broadening and extending an agreement concluded June 13, 1970, concerning fishing and fishing operations in ocean areas off the Atlantic coast of the United States. The new agreement contains provisions to further conserve stocks of fish of mutual concern, to enhance the exchange of scientific information with respect to these stocks, to minimize fishing gear conflicts between vessels of the two countries and to facilitate the settlement of claims arising from such conflicts, and to provide opportunities for periodic discussions of problems of mutual concern between representatives of the appropriate fisheries authorities of the two Governments and fishermen's organizations.

The new agreement has been expanded to apply to bluefish, lobster, and yellowtail flounder. It also broadens existing protective measures for other species that are important to United States recreational and commercial fishermen.

Protection is continued for scup, flounder, hake, black sea bass, menhaden, and river herring. In addition, bluefish is added to this list of species for which Poland will not fish along the Middle Atlantic coast and for which Poland will minimize incidental catches throughout the year.

The agreement continues the seasonal closure January 1 to April 15 to fishing by all Polish vessels in waters roughly between 50 and 100 fathoms from Rhode Island to Virginia (71 degrees 40 minutes west longitude to 37 degrees 50 minutes north latitude) where bottom dwelling species concentrate early in the year. An additional area generally within the 50 to 100 fathoms contours extending 80 miles further south to 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude will be closed during the same period to fishing with bottom fish-

ing gear although mid-water gear will be permitted. The latter closure is viewed as an experiment, the results of which may allow Poland to move toward a much wider use of pelagic fishing gear and the possible phasing out of bottom fishing gear in other parts of the Middle Atlantic area.

New assurances are added to the agreement indicating that Polish vessels shall not intentionally catch lobster north of Cape Hatteras, and shall continue appropriate measures to minimize incidental catches of lobster in specialized fisheries for other species, and shall return to the sea in a viable condition all lobster taken incidentally, insofar as possible.

Source: State Department.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA EXPORTS TO U.S. UP THIRD IN 1972

South Korea exported US\$36.4 million worth of fishery products to the United States in 1972 (Table 1). The total was \$29.3 million in 1971. Most of this was tuna (valued at \$31 million) and canned oysters (\$3.5 million). The value of ROK's fishery exports to the U.S. increased by 33 percent over similar exports in 1971.

Table 1.—Value of South Korea's fishery exports to the United States, 1971-72

Commodity	1971	1972
	-----US\$1,000-----	
Fish:		
Fresh	26,893	31,287
Frozen	367	411
Canned	1,309	3,596
Pickled & salted	19	18
Seaweeds:		
Laver	220	137
Agar-agar	16	24
Other	21	43
Other:		
Fish nets	430	796
Other	57	175
Total	29,332	36,387

South Korea's total world fishery exports were valued at \$152,564,000 in 1972 (\$114,981,000 in 1971) with the most valuable commodities being: tuna (\$68 million), "other" live and fresh fish (\$27 million), frozen seafoods (\$12 million), fresh squid (\$11 million), fish nets (\$10 million) and canned seafoods (\$5 million). (U.S. Embassy, Seoul, February 8, 1973).

Source: NMFS International Activities Staff.

News from Japan

JAPANESE TO BUY U.S. TUNA CANNERY

The Japanese Mitsui Bussan recently decided to purchase a U.S. tuna cannery located in Puerto Rico. Mitsui is seeking an investment approval from the Japanese Finance Ministry, and as soon as authorization is granted, that firm's U.S.-based Mitsui and Company, U.S. Inc., will take possession of the cannery, which may take place as early as mid-June. Reportedly, the U.S. packer has agreed to sell its business to Mitsui, which has been supplying about one-half of the packer's raw tuna requirement buying about a third of its canned tuna production. ("Suisan Tsushin," May 31, 1973.)

MICRONESIA OPENS PORTS

The Congress of Micronesia, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, recently passed legislation which opens seven Micronesian ports to foreign fishing vessels for the purpose of supplying fuel, water and food, as well as to provide recreation to crew members. The seven ports are: Tanapag, Saipan; Tomil, Yap; Malakal, Palau; Moen, Truk; Ponape, Ponape; Jabor, Jaluit; and Darrit, Majuro. Under the Micronesian Agreement, whereby Japan has agreed to extend Micronesia US \$5 million for industrial development over a 3-year period, Japanese fishing vessels will be permitted to enter

Micronesian ports after the Japanese government signs a contract to provide production goods and services to that country, which is expected to be around autumn 1973.

The waters off Micronesia are heavily fished by tuna vessels from Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. About 1,000 Japanese pole-and-line and longline vessels are likely to utilize Micronesian ports for their fishing operations. The Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations (NIKKAT-SUREN) on May 25 dispatched a survey team to Micronesia to study the feasibility of procuring ship supplies and live bait for its member vessels. ("Katsuo-maguro Tsushin," May 29 and "Shin Suisan Shimbun Sokuho," May 19, 1973.)

FRENCH TUNA CATCH OFF WEST AFRICA INCREASING

The French tuna fleet operating off west Africa in 1972 landed 34,327 metric tons of tuna, according to a recent Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) report from Paris. This is an increase of nearly 40 percent above the fleet's 1970 catch of 24,729 tons off west Africa and 18 percent over the 29,182 tons taken in 1971. Of the 1972 catch, 37 percent was processed into canned fish for the French domestic market and the rest was exported to the United States and Italy. France reportedly is planning to add 20 new refrigerated tuna vessels to its fleet by 1975. The fleet enlargement is likely to increase that country's total tuna landings to 70,000 tons in 1975. ("Suisan Tsushin," May 23, 1973.)

JAPANESE ELVER IMPORTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA TO INCREASE

The increasing production of cultured eels in Japan to meet the growing domestic demand has put elvers in short supply in that country. The Japanese consumption demand for eels is about 30,000 metric tons annually. In 1970, the domestic supply of matured eels totaled about 20,000 tons (17,000 tons of

cultured and 3,000 tons of native eels), and imports from South Korea and Taiwan recorded about 5,000 tons. The domestic elver supply in 1970 was 41 metric tons and imports totaled 213 tons. To supplement the dwindling domestic elver supply, the Japanese are actively seeking foreign sources. Live young eels are being air-freighted from Spain, and until recently shipments were also regularly coming from South Korea and Taiwan.

In early 1973, however, South Korea put an export ban on elvers to protect the resources, and Taiwan from this year began prohibiting their exports until July. Thus, the Japanese began focusing attention on imports from the People's Republic of China. One trading firm, Maruichi Shoji, which has been importing young eels from that country in recent years, in April and May this year successfully shipped 170 kilograms from Shanghai to Nagasaki in two shipments aboard the new freighter, "Taisei Maru No. 8" (300 gross tons) at the import price of 160-170,000 yen per kilogram (approx. US \$274-292 a pound). For the first time, no die-offs occurred during the 47-hour journey. Because of improvement in shipping technique, as well as better capturing methods developed in mainland China, elver imports from that country in 1973 is expected to sharply increase. The eels from China are of the species *Anguilla japonica*, the same as that which occurs in Japan. ("Minato Shimbun," May 18, 1973 & other sources.)

JAPANESE EXPERIENCE GOOD SQUID FISHING OFF NEW ZEALAND

A fleet of 69 large Japanese squid vessels, which fished off New Zealand for about 60 days, terminated operations in early March this year with a fleet catch of 14,300 metric tons. The catch surpassed the goal of 12,000 tons. In terms of cases, the production was 1.69 million cases (8.5 kilograms/case), which was considered generally good, with high boats producing 42,000 cases and even the low boats recording 20,000 cases.

The average catch per day of fishing was 3,000 cases. The fishing expedition is reported to have confirmed that the squid resource off New Zealand is not in a dangerous state and that the potential is promising. The Japanese are planning to send squid vessels to that region again at the end of the year. The squid are packed for tuna bait as well as for human consumption. The producers are selling the edible squid in Japan at the price of 1,000-1,200 yen (US \$3.78-4.53) per case and the bait squid at 1,300-1,500 yen (\$4.90-5.66) per 8-kilogram case (packed 35 to the case) ("Katsun-maguro Tsushin," May 21 and "Minato Shimbun," May 17, 1973.)

Source: Summarized from the Japanese press by James H. Shohara.

FREEZE ON CANADIAN SCALLOP FISHING

Halifax, N.S.—A freeze on Canada's east coast offshore scallop fishing fleet and a limit on the size of scallops taken in the fishery went into effect June 1, the federal Fisheries and Marine Service announced today. Both measures are intended to protect valuable scallop resources concentrated on Georges Bank south of Nova Scotia. Fishing industry representatives and vessel owners have been consulted on plans for their implementation.

No new vessels will be permitted entry into the scallop fishery. The fleet now totals 72 vessels, 15 of which are new entrants within the past two years. There has been marked increase in interest in the fishery following a rapid rise in scallop prices. In one area prices jumped from \$1.09 per pound in 1970 to \$1.75 this year.

Size restrictions on scallop catches are set at a maximum of 60 "meats per pound" (the number of scallops needed to yield one pound of scallop meat).

Introduction of these measures is in conformity with commitments made by Canada to the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

Source: News Release, Environment Canada

Korean Oyster Culture Studied

A team of four oyster specialists from Hiroshima Prefecture—one of Japan's major oyster culture sites—recently concluded a study of oyster culture in the Republic of Korea (ROK). They made the following observations:

(1) Longline culture accounts for 75 percent of all oyster cultured in the ROK and raft culture 25 percent.

(2) At the present time only 2,760 hectares are used for oyster culture, but plans are being made to expand this area to 26,151 hectares in the near future.

(3) Oyster culture technology in the ROK is just as advanced as in Hiroshima Prefecture.

(4) Spawning occurs one month earlier in the ROK than in Hiroshima Prefecture, thus giving ROK oyster producers a marketing advantage.

(5) The price for oysters, for canning, is US \$0.18 to \$0.21/lb, slightly below the Japanese price of \$0.26/lb.

(6) Wages paid to Korean women workers range between \$0.07 to \$0.08 per hour, or one-tenth the price for Japanese workers.

(7) Korean oyster production in 1972 was 11,700 metric tons, or 43 percent of the 27,000 tons harvested in Hiroshima Prefecture during fiscal year 1971 (April 1971-March 1972).

(8) ROK production plans call for harvesting 15,000 tons in 1973, and 30,000 tons in the next two or three years, which will exceed Hiroshima's total production.

("Suisan Keizai," April 23, 1973)

Source: NMFS International Activities Staff.

CANADIANS MAY CLOSE EAST COAST PORTS

Ottawa.—A special study is to be made into the possible effects of closing Canadian East Coast ports to foreign fishing fleets.

Fisheries Minister Jack Davis has asked Dr. Ernest P. Weeks of Ottawa, Chairman of the Canadian Saltfish Cor-

poration, to carry out the study. His main task will be to assess the economic consequences of port closures upon Canadian merchants on the one hand and the Canadian fishing industry on the other.

"Our own fishermen have been asking us to close our ports to foreigners, especially those who fish indiscriminately near our shores", Mr. Davis said. "Two-thirds of all the fish caught in the North Atlantic are taken by foreign fishermen. Their big fleets are heavily subsidized. They'll be even

Publications

WORLD FISHERIES EXAMINED IN NEW BOOK

"World fisheries policy: multidisciplinary views," a book in which 16 distinguished scientists, economists, and government and United Nations officials evaluate the effectiveness of past fisheries policy and outline the concepts and attitudes that will shape the policy of the future, has been published by the University of Washington Press. The book was edited by Brian J. Rothschild, Director, NMFS Southwest Fishery Center, La Jolla, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Several present and past members of the NMFS staff contributed to the volume, which is the sixth of a series of University of Washington books on Public Policy Issues in Resource Management. The NMFS contributors are:

Dayton L. Alverson, Director, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Center, Seattle, "Sciences and fisheries management;"

John C. Marr, Program Leader, United Nations Development Program/Food and Agriculture Organization's Indian Ocean Program, "Indian Ocean fishery development;" the drift from the goal of maximum sustained yield to more complex social-welfare goals; and the necessity of evolving new methods of fishery man-

more costly if they can't get into our ports to buy supplies and make repairs. Closing them, or even the threat of closing them, may cause them to back off our Shelf".

Vessels from fifteen countries fish regularly in the Northwest Atlantic. They frequently call in at St. John's, Newfoundland and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Occasionally they also call in at Sydney, N.S. as well.

Source: News Release, Environment Canada.

agement, which will utilize systems analysis and computer technology. The price of the book is \$9.50.

J. L. McHugh, Professor of Marine Resources, Marine Sciences Research Center, State University of New York, Stony Brook, "Jeffersonian democracy and the fisheries;"

Donald L. McKernan, Coordinator of Ocean Affairs, Department of State and Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Fisheries and Wildlife, "World fisheries—world concern;"

Brian J. Rothschild, "Introduction," and "The need for analysis in the development of United States fisheries policy;"

William F. Royce, Associate Director for Research, NMFS, "The gap between theory and policy in fishery development;" and

The late William M. Terry, at the time of his death Director of International Affairs, NOAA, "Fisheries and the national interest."

Areas discussed in the book include territorial conflicts; the needs and desires of developing countries; the question of whether existing regional conventions can assure adequate conservation and equitable allocation of catches in today's fisheries.