

Seized Japanese Vessel Hit by Suspension

In October, the Japanese Fisheries Agency gave a 100-day fishing suspension to the owner of the trawler *Mitsu Maru No. 30* (350 GT) seized by the U.S. Coast Guard on September 16, 1973 for illegal fishing operations off the Aleutian Islands, according to a report in the Japanese publication, "Shin Suisan Shimbun Sokuho," summarized by James H. Shohara of NMFS.

The 100-day suspension is considered as a heavy penalty in Japan since the owner not only has to keep his vessel idle but must continue paying wages to the crew members in order not to lose them. Three salmon vessels were subjected to similar penalties earlier in 1973 for violations of

the international agreement subscribed to by Japan.

The owner of *Mitsu Maru* appealed for consideration of extenuating circumstances. The Agency, however, expressed the hope that the suspension would help restore Japan's international trust and ensure orderly fishing operations.

Earlier the *Mitsu Maru* was released by the United States after payment of fines totaling \$230,000 (\$30,000 master and \$200,000 ship fines). The vessel's fish catch reportedly was also confiscated. Since the *Mitsu Maru* was not insured against seizures, its owner made full payment of the fines.

New Zealand, Japan Go for Squid

New Zealand has, for several years, been after an alternative fishery and had hoped that the type of squid it had would be the edible variety prized by the Japanese. However, from research so far, New Zealand squid (*Nototodarus sloani sloani*) is of the "arrow" variety, only some of which is suitable for human consumption, and which brings a lower price than the "broad finned" variety, according to the World-wide Information Services, Inc.

Some "broad finned" squid are in New Zealand waters inshore or in the North Island areas. More plentiful arrow squid is ideal, however, for tuna bait, and is used by Japanese longline fishermen. New Zealanders want to catch arrow squid in their own waters and compete against squid caught in New Zealand waters by Japanese and shipped to Japan or American Samoa for sale to tuna longliners (mostly South Korean and Taiwanese).

Research has, so far, found that arrow squid in New Zealand waters breed over a longer period than in

Japan, a point which is important when one remembers that the financial reward is greater if the size is right. Japanese say that the ideal size for arrow squid is 20 centimeters (8 inches) and up to 250 grams (9 ounces).

Squid in the 6-7 ounce range, packed 17.6 pounds to the case, with about 40 pieces to the case, command the best price. For this squid caught in Japanese waters, recent prices were: \$5.65 to \$6.00 per case for the 6-ounce squid; squid above 7 ounces packed in the same way (17.6 pounds/case) were averaging \$3.75 to \$4.50; smaller than 6 ounces were bringing \$2.65 and over 10 ounces were bringing up to \$5.65.

Japanese maintain that squid caught in New Zealand waters is of a "cheaper" variety than that which is required for human consumption in Japan. There are, however, from 40 to 50 ways in which squid can be prepared for human consumption.

While New Zealand was considering expansion of squid fishing in its inshore waters, the Japanese have expanded their operations offshore.

The Japanese Fisheries Agency, which in late August 1973 established a government approval system for squid fishing off New Zealand, on September 11 announced the vessel licensing policy for that fishery, according to an article from "Suisan Tsushin" summarized by James H. Shohara, NMFS.

Under the new policy, only large squid vessels (over 100 GT in size) approved by the government for distant-water fishing as of September 30, 1973, and survey vessels chartered by the semi-government Marine Fisheries Resource Research Center, will be permitted to engage in squid fishing off New Zealand. Vessels likely to qualify for that fishery are estimated to number around 140, almost doubling the fleet size which operated off New Zealand in 1972.

Concern was expressed among some Japanese that employment of such a large fleet might disrupt orderly operations, but the Fisheries Agency claims that, besides the grounds worked off New Zealand last year, there are other areas in that region which can be developed for squid fishing.

Japanese Seek Funds for Pollution Studies

The Japanese Agriculture and Forestry Ministry is seeking increased fund allocations for studies to protect the environment for the agricultural and fishery industries, says a report in "Suisan Keizai Shimbun" summarized by James H. Shohara, NMFS.

The Ministry's Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Technical Council, which in fiscal year 1973 (April 1973-March 1974) began conducting technological studies for environmental effects of chemical and thermal discharges into the sea, plans to expand the research in FY 1974.

This year's mercury in tuna study, which includes tracing the course of concentration in the fish, will be expanded in FY 1974 to the investigation

of antagonistic agents in the tuna, such as selenium which recently has been found to counteract the toxicity of mercury. For this program, the Council is seeking a two-fold increase in budget for FY1974, to 24 million yen (approx. US\$91,000).

Norwegians Campaign to Promote Greater U.S. Sardine Sales

A campaign to promote Norwegian canned sardines in the U.S. is in its fourth year. The campaign is funded by the Norwegian canning industry and conducted in cooperation with a San Francisco, Calif. advertising agency, according to Worldwide Information Services, Inc.

The head of the campaign in Norway recently was quoted as saying, "We have worked out a complete plan combining public relations (PR) drives, as well as advertising and sales promotion in shops and supermarkets. On the PR side we will stress the importance of getting recipes for sardine dishes printed in newspapers, weekly and women's magazines with circulations running into millions. Around 200 TV stations have already shown 'Norway Sardine' dishes in connection with their housewife programs. The same is the case with radio stations all over the U.S. Results so far, are much better than we had expected. The first year our main intention was to slow down the tendency of decreasing canned sardine sales. We did that and even more. We are now on the offensive and trying to reach new groups of potential buyers."

Japan to Export Tuna Fishing Vessels

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry has received, as of September 30, 1973, export license applications for sale to Panama of 22 new tuna longliners

Danish Landings Up Slightly: Prices Soar

Danish landings of fish, shellfish, and mollusks in the first six months of 1973 were 1.7 billion pounds, 3 percent more than for the comparable period in 1972, according to Worldwide Information Services, Inc. (see accompanying table).

Value of the landings, however, soared 60 percent. Although cod landings decreased 7 percent, the value of the catch was \$31.7 million, an increase of 48 percent. Cod accounts for about one-third of the total Danish landings.

Sole landings were up 50 percent, prices 113 percent.

Herring landings tripled, as did prices. The only decreases were in salmon, which fell to less than half in

planned for construction from late 1973 to October 1974, according to an article in "Suisan Keizai Shimbum" summarized by James H. Shohara, NMFS.

These vessels, to be exported by several major Japanese trading firms (including Mitsubishi, Marubeni Iida and C. Itoh & Company), range in size from 300 to 450 GT and will be equipped with efficient freezing machines.

The export of this number of vessels is within the legal limits of the government's recently revised vessel export regulations allowing, in the case of tuna vessels, semi-annual sales of 25 vessels to one country or not more than 100 for all countries combined. However, since the longliners for Panama reportedly will be manned by low-paid South Koreans and operated under the so-called "flag of convenience," the Japanese tuna fishing industry is concerned that exports of new vessels with efficient freezing equipment will result in heavy shipments of frozen tuna to Japan for the "sashimi" (sliced fish eaten raw) market, thereby adversely affecting the Japanese fishermen.

Danish landings, January-June, 1972 and 1973.

Species	1972		1973	
	Million pounds	Million dollars	Million pounds	Million dollars
Cod	213.4	21.3	198.0	31.7
Sole	1.3	0.9	2.0	2.8
Flounder	3.7	0.3	3.3	0.4
Plaice	47.3	7.6	40.3	11.3
Herring	35.9	2.9	104.0	12.5
Salmon	1.1	1.6	0.4	1.1
Deep sea lobster	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.4
Deep sea shrimp	5.3	1.8	1.2	0.7
Other	1,307.0	28.2	1,330.3	43.9
Total	1,617.0	66.0	1,680.8	105.8

quantity, and 28 percent less in price, and deep sea shrimp, where the catch decreased drastically and the total value 63 percent.

West Germany Wants More Icelandic Fish

Representatives of Trawler Owners in the Federal Republic of Germany and other parts of the fishing and fish processing industry, met their Icelandic counterparts for discussions in Reykjavik in October. The Germans wanted to import more fresh Icelandic fish on ice. Iceland agreed to try to export 20 thousand tons of fresh fish annually, as well as some frozen, salted, and dried fish to the Federal Republic for the next two years. This will mean a considerable increase in the export of Icelandic fish to Germany as the annual quantity has been in the neighborhood of 12 thousand tons.

The German delegation promised to do its best to lower the landing costs of Icelandic vessels in German ports, which have always been considerably higher than for German vessels.

At the same time, the German delegation promised to do what it could to make the agreement between Iceland and the EEC concerning the removal of import duty on Icelandic fish products fully effective.

South African Hake Sales Increase

The Capetown Trawler Company Irvin and Johnson, is exporting considerable quantities of quick-frozen small hake to the United States and Australia. Hake is the basic fish caught on both sides of the South Atlantic.

However, with the rising cost of meat in South Africa, sales of hake within the country are increasing, according to Worldwide Information Services, Inc. This may reduce the amount of hake available for export.

Abundant hake was caught along the South African west coast in early October 1973. A fishery industry spokesman said that whole hake is bringing an ex-vessel price in Capetown of approximately US\$0.31 per pound.

USSR Aids in Peru Fisheries Complex

On August 20, 1973, the Peruvian Ministry of Fisheries ratified a contract with the Soviet import-export enterprise "Prommashexport" for the construction of the Paíta Fisheries Complex. The full text of the contract appeared in the Peruvian daily *El Peruano* of August 23, 1973, and was translated for the National Marine Fisheries Service. The contract specifies in great detail the services to be performed by the Soviets including preparation of plans for the construction of harbor facilities; supply the required equipment, machinery and material; and provide specialists for supervising the work and for helping install and assemble the equipment. All the construction work will be done by Peruvian firms. The Peruvians will pay the Soviets about 2,300,000 US dollars for services rendered. The translation (22 pp.) is available on loan from the Translation Program, International Activities Staff, Fx41, NMFS, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20235.

Japan Imports More from Mainland China

Japanese imports of fresh and frozen fishery products from the People's Republic of China during January-August 1973 totaled 14,613 metric tons valued at 8,898.6 million yen (approximately US\$33.8 million) on a customs clearance basis, according to an article in the "Suisan Tsushin" summarized by James H. Shohara, NMFS.

This is an increase of about 11 percent in quantity and 33 percent in value over comparable 1972 imports. The leading imports were fresh and frozen shrimp, which totaled 2,647 metric tons worth 3,407.9 million yen (\$12,958,000), and salted herring roe, which recorded 1,595 metric tons worth 3,347.8 million yen (\$12,729,000).

French Seek Live Eels

The Sarl Sete Maree firm is interested in purchasing large quantities of live eels, according to the U.S. Embassy, Paris. The firm imports fresh and frozen fishery products, and sells them to France, as well as other European countries. Interested parties should contact Mr. Fred Domeraji, Manager, Sarl Sete Maree, 81 Grand Rue Mario Roustand 34200 Sete, France.

Fishery Notes

South Carolina Plans Research Buildings

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department has announced plans to construct several new buildings at its Fort Johnson Marine Science Center. Cost of the new construction will amount to about \$3.9 million and funds will be sought from the State, the Coastal Plains Regional Commission, and through a bond issue.

One of the buildings is a 30,000 square foot cooperative research facility

to be added to the present Marine Research Laboratory building.

Plans are also underway for the construction of a new \$2.2 million Seafood Technology Center to be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The NMFS Fishery Products Technology Center is currently located in College Park, Maryland, but the staff is scheduled to move to Fort Johnson upon completion of the new building in late 1975. The laboratory will be owned by the State of South Carolina and will be leased on a long term basis by the Department of Commerce.

Seafood Advisory Laboratory Founded

A Seafood Advisory Laboratory has been established at Texas A&M University through the efforts of Dr. Ranzell Nickelson, II, with support from the Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The facility provides routine quality control testing, particularly for small



Texas A&M University's Dr. Ranzell Nickelson II prepares samples of shrimp for routine quality control testing.