

- marine resources and the effect of commercial fisheries on fur seals;
- 5) for a termination of the Convention one year after any of the Parties gives written notice to the other Parties of any intention to end the Convention; and
 - 6) for representatives of the Parties to meet within 90 days of a request by any of the Parties to consider modifications of the Convention.

The Interim Convention on the Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals was entered into in 1957 by the United States, Canada, Japan, and the Soviet Union to regulate the harvest of fur seals in the North Pacific. Nearly 80 percent of the northern fur seal resource is currently associated with the Pribilof Islands of the United States, located off the coast of Alaska.

University Consortium Studies Marine Problems

A newly formed consortium of the University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire has received a \$860,000 Sea Grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to support studies in aquaculture, ocean engineering, marine resource development, and marine education, it has been announced by Commerce Secretary Elliot L. Richardson.

Matching funds from the two states will raise the total amount of the grant to almost \$1,412,000. Although both universities have received individual Sea Grant support since 1970, this year's funding marks the first time the programs at both are combined.

Because both states share a significant portion of the Gulf of Maine, the two universities will be better able to make a major contribution to solving marine problems there by working together, said Frederick E. Hutchinson, the first director of the cooperative program and Vice President for Research and Public Services at the University of Maine.

Among the most promising of the on-going projects funded this year is a study of the culture of edible blue mussels. Aquaculture researchers at the University of Maine already have set out more than a dozen experimental

rafts along the Maine-New Hampshire coast for growing the mussels, a highly-regarded shellfish whose production world-wide exceeds 250,000 tons annually. In cooperation with Abandoned Farm, Inc., the Sea Grant-supported aquaculturists will examine the growth and survival of mussels on the experimental rafts and will monitor the development of mussels reared in the warm-water effluent of an electric power plant in Maine.

In related work at the University of New Hampshire, research will center around the rearing of coho salmon. Special strains of these salmon, adapted to northern New England waters, will be developed and work will continue on improving the diets and disease-resistance of the fish.

Other scientists will pursue work aimed at improving oyster aquaculture, evaluating commercial seaweed production, and understanding

Foreign Fishery Developments

Soviets Report Views on Law of Sea Issues

The United Nation's Law of the Sea (LOS) Conference convened its third substantive session in New York City on 15 March 1976. Many of the major issues of this Conference were presented in the Soviet daily *Pravda* in a February article entitled "Detente and the World's Oceans" by S. Pavlov.

According to Pavlov's article, the Soviet Union's official policy in regard to international law of sea stems from the increasing use of the oceans by all countries of the world. The development of international cooperation on the high seas depends largely on the procedure for law and order that is established to control the world ocean environment. To establish such a procedure is the main task of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference.

Among the most important LOS issues is the problem of extension of the Territorial Sea. The Soviet Union, according to the *Pravda* article, advocates a 12-Mile Territorial Sea for every country. Worldwide claims of a 200-Mile Territorial Sea would result in 40 percent of the total ocean area being removed from general use by all

the cause of the so-called "red tide" outbreaks that threaten shellfish beds along the New England coast. This latter project is particularly important, since red tide poisoning has forced the closing of large numbers of commercially valuable shellfish areas several times in the past. Investigators so far have identified three of the poisons found in affected shellfish, and are attempting to develop a method to inactivate the poisons and detoxify tainted shellfish.

The combined University of Maine-University of New Hampshire Marine Advisory Service will continue to provide business management information to members of the fishing industry and other users of the marine environment. In addition, a series of seminars, meetings, and special demonstrations is planned this year for students, seafood processors, and the general public.

countries. However, the Soviet Union does support the concept of the so-called "200-Mile Economic Zone" under which the coastal states have sovereign rights to all living and mineral resources within their respective zones. By supporting this concept, the Soviets hope to show their concern for the developing nations of the world.

On the other hand, they are also concerned about the future of their high-seas fishing fleet, which takes the largest percentage of its catch off foreign shores. To reconcile these two concerns, the Soviet Union supports the idea that if a coastal state fishes only part of the resources within its 200-mile Economic Zone (EZ), then fishermen from other countries should be allowed to fish the unutilized portion. "Developing" coastal states, *Pravda* declares, should receive compensation for allowing foreign vessels to fish in their Economic Zones.

Concerning the 50 countries of the world which have limited access to the ocean (no coastline or very short coastline), Pavlov states that the Soviet Union advocates that these countries be granted certain rights

regarding the use of the resources within the 200-mile Economic Zone.

Another extremely important LOS issue concerns the right of unhindered navigation by vessels of all flags through international straits. According to Pavlov, the Soviet Union views the right of free passage through these straits as vital in giving "aid to young independent states which... become the targets of aggressive intrigues by the imperialistic forces." Special care should be taken to preserve the internal security of countries bordering on the straits.

Other important issues discussed in the *Pravda* article include pollution, marine research, and the use of the seabed beyond the continental shelf. The Soviet Union has expressed concern that if individual countries are allowed to establish pollution standards and regulations stricter than international controls, the developing nations may find it hard to pay the high costs of meeting such standards. This, according to the Soviet Union, would make it more difficult for these countries to create their own merchant fleets and fishing industries. (Source: S. Pavlov, "Detente and the World's Oceans;" *Pravda*, 12 February 1976.)

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, the Soviet Union views the major issues of the

LOS Conference in the light of its intense involvement in the utilization of the world's oceans. The Soviet Navy is one of the largest in the world, while the merchant marine of the USSR is becoming an increasingly more important worldwide carrier of freight. The Soviet fishing fleet, the largest in the world in terms of gross register tonnage (though not in terms of catch), is a far-ranging and showy advertisement for Soviet planned food production. Because the Soviets use the oceans on such a large scale, it is easy to understand why the Soviet Union has resisted efforts to change international law which would restrict the movement of ocean-going vessels.

Cuban Stern Trawler Seized and Fined

The U.S. Coast Guard seized the Cuban stern trawler *Golfo de Tonkin*, on 7 January 1976 for a continental shelf fisheries resource (CSFR) violation. The Cuban vessel was fishing in the southern part of Georges Bank about 125 miles southeast of Nantucket Island with bottom gear in an area where lobster traps and boats were present. As a result, the Coast Guard cutter *Chase*, with a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agent

aboard, stopped and inspected the vessel.

The inspection team found 22 lobsters totaling 39 pounds, all but one of which were still alive. In the judgment of the inspection team, based upon the location of the lobsters aboard the vessel, the lobsters were not being immediately returned to the seas as the CSFR law requires. In the opinion of the *Chase* boarding officer and the NMFS agent, the lobsters aboard the *Golfo de Tonkin* would not have survived if the crew had carried out their normal operating procedure. As a result, the *Golfo de Tonkin* was seized and escorted to Boston.

The Coast Guard reported that "the Master displayed extreme reluctance to get the vessel under way for Boston until he was faced with the possibility of more stringent measures including his arrest and removal from the vessel." The Master, Hector Gonzalez, finally agreed to proceed to Boston, but noted that he wished to lodge a protest. The Master's belligerency followed radio communication with Havana.

CSFR seizures are based on the Bartlett Act which prohibits foreign fishermen from taking lobster and other protected species on the U.S. continental shelf. The Act was passed in 1964, but the law was not vigorously enforced until 1975. The new, stricter enforcement guidelines require not only that lobster taken as an incidental catch be returned to the sea immediately, but that foreign vessels reset their trawls in a different location when an "area of concentration" of lobsters is encountered. The U.S. boarding party found that there was no attempt by the trawler's crew to immediately return the lobsters to the sea. The boarding party was still finding lobster in the *Golfo de Tonkin's* holding tank and among the trash fish

Canada, Spain Discuss Fishery Cooperation

Canadian and Spanish representatives met in Ottawa on 19 and 20 February 1976 to discuss their future cooperation in the field of fisheries. The meeting carried forward discussions held in Ottawa on 15 and 16 January.

The Spanish Delegation was led by Victor Moro Rodriguez, Director General of Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce. The Canadian Delegation was led by L. H. Legault, Director General, International Directorate, Fisheries and Marine Service, Department of the Environment.

The meeting followed the understanding reached on 7 August 1975 between Canada and Spain to consider the elaboration of a bilateral agreement on fisheries cooperation that would establish the terms and conditions governing continued fishing by the Spanish fleet in water off Canada's

Atlantic Coast, taking into account anticipated legal and jurisdictional changes in the regime of fisheries management and traditional Spanish fishing in such waters.

The two sides put forward proposals as the possible basis for an agreement on the terms and conditions that would govern continued fishing by Spanish vessels in areas to be brought under Canadian jurisdiction beyond the present limits of the Canadian territorial sea and fishing zones off the Atlantic Coast. On the basis of these proposals they agreed to the terms of an agreement which, if approved by both Governments, would permit Spanish vessels to fish in the area concerned, under Canadian authority and control, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements. The proposed agreement has been submitted for the approval of the two Governments.

Table 1.—Basic specifications of *Golfo de Tonkin*-class vessels.

Gross Register Tonnage	1,276 GRT
Deadweight Tonnage	1,276 DWT
Draft	4.75 Meters
Length	250 Feet
Width (Beam)	12 Meters
Speed (Maximum)	13.5 Knots
Horsepower	2,670 h.p.
Hold	1,600 m ³
Endurance	45 Days
Cruising Range	6,000 Miles

Table 2.—Catch of the *Golfo de Tonkin*, by species.

Commodity	Quantity (metric tons)
Whole, frozen	
Grey Sole	2.3
Silver Hake	6.2
Loligo Squid	5.5
Total, whole frozen	14.0
Cod fillets, frozen	0.8
Total	14.8

3½ hours after the catch came on board.

The *Golfo de Tonkin*, a refrigerated stern trawler of the *Golfo de Tonkin* class, was built in Spain in 1969 (Table 1). It is owned and operated by the Flota Cubana de Pesca (Cuban High Seas Fishing Fleet). At the time of the seizure, the vessel had a crew of 59, including 2 Spanish citizens who assist in the operation of the processing equipment. The vessel's catch consisted of almost 15 metric tons of frozen fish and squid (Table 2). The vessel had recently sailed from Havana and had been fishing on Georges Bank since mid-December 1975.

The Cuban Master appeared before the U.S. Magistrate on 9 January, at which time the case was continued until 28 January. The Master was ordered restricted to the vessel, except for court appearances. A Czech diplomat was designated as the representative for the Cubans. As a result of an out-of-court settlement, a civil penalty of \$40,000 was paid on 29 January, and the criminal charges against the Master were dismissed. The vessel departed Boston on the same day.

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, the seizure of the *Golfo de Tonkin* is further evidence of increased Cuban interest in North Atlantic fisheries. In 1975, Cuban vessels operated off the New England coast for the first time since 1972. Cuban fishing operations commenced in July 1975 with two stern trawlers, and continued with three in August, four in September and October, one in November, and two in December. Cuban vessels also fish off Canada's Atlantic Coast. One Cuban vessel, the *Playitas*, reported a catch of 635 metric tons (primarily hake) during May 1975. On 28 November 1975, Cuba officially joined the International Commission

for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), and obtained a 1976 quota of 21,000 metric tons.

On 17 August 1975 the *Playa Verdadero*, another Cuban stern freezer trawler, was seized for a CSFR violation. It was released, however,

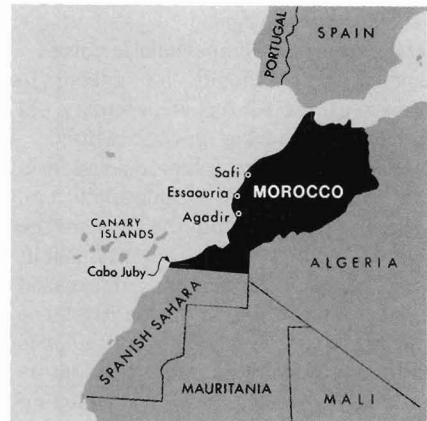
because of the small amount of lobsters found on board. A report on the seizure of the *Playa Verdadero* (#197), of 29 September 1975 can be obtained from the International Fisheries Analysis Division, F41, NMFS, NOAA, Washington, DC 20235.

MOROCCO REPORTS SARDINE DECLINE

Moroccan landings of European sardine, *Sardina pilchardus*, from January through September 1975 amounted to 107,000 metric tons, a decline of 30 percent from the 152,887 metric tons landed during the same period in 1974 (Table 1). Poor weather, partial overfishing, and reduced effort due to the increased costs of fishing operations contributed to the decline in 1975, according to information obtained by the U.S. Regional Fisheries Attaché in Casablanca.

Vessels operating from the Atlantic fishing port of Agadir (see map) where most of the Moroccan sardine fleet is based, reported sardine landings 41 percent below the same period of 1974. The vessels operating from Safi and Essaouria, also located on the Atlantic coast, indicated 1975 catches slightly above 1974 levels. No explanation was given for the increased landings at these two smaller ports.

The sardine fisheries off the Atlantic coast of Morocco are made possible by local currents and upwelling of water producing suitable spawning conditions and rich feeding grounds for dense populations of plankton-feeding fish. The currents, however, also produce



sharp contrasts in surface temperature along the coast, affecting the availability of sardine schools to the fishers. Upwelled waters along the southern half of the Moroccan coast are as cold in summer as in winter, while the surface waters in the northern half warm up to over 68°F and are almost tropical in character. The warm surface water flows southward but is diverted offshore. The principal sardine fisheries are in the southern cold-water belt, particularly from Safi to Cabo Juby, where upwelled water of 57°-60°F occurs. In the winter the contrast decreases; southern waters remain about the same and northern waters become cooler. As a result of these favorable environmental conditions, more than 90 percent of Morocco's sardine catch is taken in the Atlantic Ocean (Table 2).

The waters of the Mediterranean Sea are much less productive than the Atlantic, but some enrichment is provided along the Moroccan and Algerian coasts by a net inflow of surface water through the Strait of Gibraltar. Sardines and other pelagic fish are therefore more abundant in the western than in the eastern Mediterranean.

Morocco's sardine catch is utilized primarily for human consumption. In the first 9 months of 1975, half of the

Table 1.—Moroccan sardine landings by port, Jan.-Sept. 1974 and 1975, in thousands of metric tons.

Port	1975	1974	Percent change
Agadir	67.0	113.7	-41.0
Safi	18.0	17.8	+1.1
Essaouria	22.0	21.4	+2.8
Total	107.0	152.9	-30.0

Source: CEDIES Informations.

Table 2.—Moroccan sardine catch, by major fishing areas, 1971-73, in thousands of metric tons.

Year	Atlantic	Mediterranean	Total	Atlantic as percent of total
1971	172.6	10.5	183.1	94
1972	171.5	13.4	184.9	93
1973	338.1	11.2	349.3	97

Source: FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, 1973.

catch was canned and smaller quantities were frozen or sold fresh. A sizeable portion of the catch was reduced to fish meal (Table 3).

Morocco exports only a limited quantity of canned sardines to the United States. In 1974, such shipments were valued at less than US\$340,000. During the first 9 months of 1975 sardine exports to the United States amounted to only slightly more than US\$230,000 (Table 4).

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, sardines are Morocco's most significant fishery. Since 1961 they have never comprised less than 60 percent of Morocco's total fisheries and were more likely between 70 and 80 percent of the total catch. The record 1973 sardine catch of 349,000 metric tons contributed nearly 88 percent to Morocco's total 1973 catch (Fig. 1).

The 53 percent increase in the sardine catch in 1973 was apparently due to favorable oceanic conditions which occur every 7-8 years. It is anticipated that the declining sardine catches experienced in 1974 and 1975 will continue through 1977 when

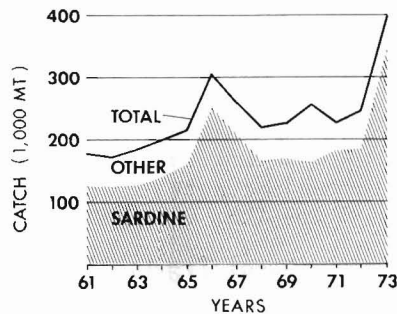


Figure 1.—Total fisheries and sardine catch, 1961-73.

catches are once again expected to increase.

As sardines comprise the bulk of Morocco's fisheries catch, the total landings of all species have also declined (Table 5). As would be expected, the catch of species other than sardines is increasing as the scarcity of sardines forces fishers to harvest other species. Fishers in the three ports harvested only about 15,000 metric tons of fish other than sardines in the first 9 months of 1974. In the same period in 1975 they caught over 40,000 metric tons of other species.

Table 3.—Utilization of Morocco's sardine catch, Jan.-Sept. 1975.

Utilization	Quantity (1,000 MT)	Percent
Canned	53.5	50.0
Fresh	12.3	11.5
Frozen	5.8	5.4
Total, human consumption	71.6	66.9
Reduction (fishmeal)	35.4	33.1
Grand total	107.0	100.0

Source: CEDIES Informations.

Table 5.—Fish landings by port, in thousands of metric tons, Jan.-Sept. 1974-75.

Port	1975	1974	Percent change
Agadir	106.7	125.0	-14.6
Safi	18.8	20.4	-7.8
Essaouria	22.6	22.3	+1.3
Total	148.1	167.7	-11.8

Source: CEDIES Informations.

Table 4.—Moroccan canned sardine exports to the United States, 1974, Jan.-Sept. 1975.

Type of canned sardines	Jan. - Sept. 1975		1974	
	Quantity (MT)	Value (US\$1,000)	Quantity (MT)	Value (US\$1,000)
In oil				
Skinned or boned				
23-30¢/lb	—	—	5.3	7.2
Over 30¢/lb	56.4	103.5	95.1	154.6
Total	56.4	103.5	100.4	161.8
Not skinned or boned				
23-30¢/lb	—	—	17.5	20.0
Over 30¢/lb	95.4	110.5	90.2	89.7
Total	95.4	110.5	107.7	109.7
Total, in oil	151.8	214.0	208.1	271.5
Not in oil	8.0	16.5	44.5	67.9
Grand total	159.8	230.5	252.6	339.4

Fisheries Discussed at U.S., USSR Sea Meeting

A meeting of U.S. and USSR fishery representatives took place on 14 January 1976 aboard the Soviet refrigerated transport, *Antanas Snechkus*, anchored 12 miles off Long Island, N.Y., the NMFS Office of International Fisheries reports. Representatives from the Soviet Western Fisheries Administration (Zapryba) and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Region took part in the meeting, which was organized under the provisions of the U.S.-USSR Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Agreement.

A wide range of subjects relating to Soviet fishing off New England was discussed. Aleksandr Popov, the Fleet Director (Manager) for Zapryba, was the spokesman for the Soviets. The first subject was the 1976 mackerel season which began on 1 January. Forty Zapryba stern factory and freezer trawlers were fishing at the time the meeting took place off the Northeastern U.S. coasts in ICNAF¹ subareas 5 and 6. Popov did not know whether fishing conditions would warrant bringing in additional stern trawlers.

The Ministry of Fisheries in Moscow informed Popov that no formal charges had been made by ICNAF against the Soviets for overrunning their mackerel quota in 1975. Although undersized mackerel (under the 25 cm ICNAF length restriction) had been reported common in 1975, Popov assured the U.S. team that all Soviet captains had been informed of this length regulation. Certain Soviet trawlers are also using a 50-mm mesh size instead of the usual 30-mm one in order to avoid small mackerel. If the experiment is successful, a larger mesh size will be adopted as standard for the entire Soviet mackerel fleet. All mackerel fishing vessels are using mid-water trawls.

In regard to the 1976 herring fishery, Popov confirmed that the Soviets would begin purse seining for herring on Georges Bank again in March 1976. The traditional Georges

¹International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, an international fisheries regulatory commission of which the Soviet Union is a member. Subarea 5 includes Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine; statistical area 6 extends from Rhode Island to Cape Hatteras.

Bank autumn stern trawler fishery for herring did not take place in 1975 because exploratory fishing had revealed the stocks to be in poor condition. Light fishing for saury on Georges Bank has proved unprofitable in comparison with the Soviet saury fishery in the Pacific, so the Zapryba fleet abandoned this fishery in 1975.

Popov anticipated a sizable squid fishery in 1976, and believed that the ICNAF squid quota allowed the Soviet Union would be taken in its entirety. The Soviets catch and process squid mainly for export, since the demand for this species in the USSR is low.

The U.S. team asked how a Soviet Fleet Manager knows when the fleet has reached an ICNAF quota. According to the Soviets, their catches are radioed daily to Moscow via Riga. When a quota has been reached, the Fleet Managers are advised of the fact and the fishery for that species is ended at once.

Since the Soviet trawler *Zaraisk* was seized off New Jersey in August 1975 for retention of lobsters, all Soviet captains have been informed once again of the U.S. regulations concerning Continental Shelf Fisheries Resources². Creatures of the continental shelf such as lobsters and crabs must be returned to the sea either dead or alive immediately upon removal from the net.

On the issue of fixed lobster gear areas, Popov agreed to report daily, via Radio Boston, the positions of his fleet. He asked if his vessels would be permitted to pass through lobster gear areas providing all fishing gear were stowed. No U.S. laws prohibit such passage, but Popov was advised his vessels should exercise extreme caution when steaming through reported fixed-gear areas.

The U.S. team asked why the Soviet vessels have not used the port privileges they are allowed under the U.S.-USSR Mid-Atlantic Bilateral Agreement. According to Popov, the regulations involved are simply too

excessive to make such port calls worthwhile. The Soviet ICNAF inspectors who took part in the meeting were invited to come ashore to meet with their U.S. counterparts. The Soviets accepted the invitation, and a meeting is planned later in the year.

Both the U.S. and USSR teams

agreed that the contact between the two groups was useful and informative. In the future, the two sides hope to hold such meetings more often, perhaps ashore as well as at sea. Popov remarked that he would welcome the opportunity to visit the United States.

Multilateral Trade Negotiations Held in Geneva

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, the current multilateral trade negotiations (MTN) began in Tokyo in September 1973, with a declaration by participating nations "(To) achieve the expansion and ever greater liberalization of world trade and improvement in the standard of living and welfare of the people of the world...through the progressive dismantling of obstacles to trade and the improvement of the international framework for the conduct of world trade...(and to) secure additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries..." This MTN round, called the Tokyo Round, is the seventh series of tariff-cutting talks held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) since 1948. The last one was the Kennedy Round which lasted from 1962-1967, and since 1965 world trade has grown from \$188 billion to \$806 billion in 1974. The Tokyo Round plans to go beyond simple tariff-cutting and examine the full gamut of trade barriers.

WORKING GROUPS

The Tokyo Declaration, signed by 105 countries, also created the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) which met in February 1974 and organized six working groups: 1) The Tariffs Group; 2) The Nontariff Barriers (NTB) Group; 3) The Agriculture Group; 4) The Tropical Products Group; 5) The Safeguards Group; and 6) The Sector Group. Fisheries are currently directly involved in or affected by all of these groups except the "Sector Group."

The "Tariffs Group" is charged with further reducing tariffs. Reductions averaged 35 percent during the Kennedy Round, and the average level of tariffs is presently about 9 percent in the European Community (EC) and the United States, and 11 percent in Japan. The problem in this group is that while the average tariffs are not

very high, there are relatively high tariffs on a few items—especially in the United States. There is also a high protection afforded finished manufactured goods relative to semi-processed goods.

There are five broad categories in the "NTB Group:" 1) Government participation in trade (export subsidies, government procurement, countervailing duties, etc.); 2) Customs and administrative entry procedures (duty valuation, customs classification, consular and customs formalities, etc.); 3) Standards and packaging regulations; 4) Specific limitations on trade (quotas, export restraints, licensing, etc.); and 5) Charge on imports (prior deposits, variable levies, etc.). One or more fishery products are affected by each of these categories.

While there are no fishery items in the "Agriculture Group," the results of this Group will greatly affect fisheries. The issue here is the universal political impact of farmers and the equally widespread reluctance to become overly dependent on foreign food sources. In the EC these forces have resulted in a Common Agricultural Policy which is an inherent component of the Community and highly protectionist in a net food-importing area. The EC Common Fisheries Policy is very similar to their Common Agricultural Policy. In the United States these forces have resulted in a net food-exporting area interested in free trade of food items except dairy products.

The "Tropical Products Group" was established because of the increased negotiating leverage of the less developed countries (LDC's). The recent commodity shortages and the fear of more cartels like OPEC created part of the climate for this Group. The Group is discussing specific commodity requests of the LDC's for unilateral liberalization of tariffs and NTB's by the industrial countries.

²Under the Bartlett Act, U.S. Code 1081-1086, a vessel seized for a Continental Shelf Fisheries Resource (CSFR) violation is subject to forfeiture together with its gear and cargo. In addition, the captain of the vessel can be personally fined up to \$100,000, or be imprisoned for up to 1 year, or face both fine and imprisonment.

The "Safeguards Group" is examining GATT Article XIX, which is generally agreed to be too nebulous. Under this Article, countries which perceive that increased imports of a given commodity are injuring, or threaten to injure domestic producers, may take temporary, unilateral action to restrain the inflow of such imports. The "Safeguard Group" is developing a more specific and effective system which could be universally adhered to.

In the "Sector Group," all of the trade issues in a specific industrial sector are examined collectively and simultaneously. Ores and metals (including iron, steel, and aluminum) is the first sector receiving study where all trade barriers occurring anywhere during the processing stage will be discussed.

ISSUES

While there is general agreement that work in a comprehensive series of trade negotiations is preferable to economic warfare and that a reduction of trade barriers would result in a more efficient allocation of resources and an

increase in real income, there remain major differences of opinion. Most of these differences are between the EC and the United States and a table of these differences is shown below.

The current Tokyo Round, now underway in Geneva, and all previous rounds of GATT negotiations are a

process of institutionalizing trade interdependence. Some tariffs and NTB's to fishery and other products will continue to exist when this Round is completed, setting the stage for future negotiations. (Source: *European Community*, "The ABC's of the MTN's" by Stephen D. Cohen.)

Item	Position	
	European Communities	United States
Agriculture		
Protection	Common Agriculture Policy (Protectionist and food independent).	Free access to food markets except dairy.
Control	International commodity price agreements for cereals, rice, sugar, etc. Formal price floors and ceilings and a concerted stockpiling program.	Systematic and regular exchange of information on worldwide trends in the supply of and demand for agricultural goods.
Tariff reductions		
Approach	Harmonization (greater reduction of high tariffs).	Linear (uniform percentage cuts across-the-board).
Extent	Retain nominal tariff on most imports.	Total elimination of duties which are 5 percent or below and up to 60 percent cut in higher duties.
Timing and staging	Simultaneous conclusion as in the Kennedy Round.	"Early harvest"—piecemeal approach.
Procedure	Has not received an approved negotiating position from the nine member countries through the Council of Ministers.	Limited by what Congress has demanded or is likely to approve.

Fishing Vessel Seizures, Claims Settlements Told

The information below is a listing of the more important fishing vessel seizures and related incidents in recent months, as compiled by the NMFS Office of International Fisheries. The incidents are a demonstration of international tensions in coastal areas and of the increasing competition for fisheries resources.

SEIZURES BY OR OF UNITED STATES VESSELS

The South Korean longliner *Don Won No. 709* was seized on 19 February 1976 less than 12 miles off White Sisters Island, Alaska. The 629-gross-ton vessel is owned by the Dong Won Ice Company of Pusan, Republic of Korea, and had 250 tons of black cod on board at the time of seizure. The vessel was moored in Sitka pending settlement of the case. The U.S. fishing limits extend 12 miles seaward and no foreign vessels may fish there.

The Cuban stern trawler, *Golfo de Tonkin*, which was seized by the U.S. Coast Guard on 7 January 1976, for

having continental shelf fishery resources (CFSR) on board, was released on 30 January after the payment of \$40,000 in fines. Criminal charges against the master were dropped. Mexico seized a U.S. sport fishing boat on 2 February approximately 2-3 miles off North Coronado Island in the Pacific Ocean. The vessel was apparently fishing for croaker (corvina) without a Mexican license.

OTHER SEIZURES

Australia seized 8 Taiwanese vessels during the 1975-1976 fishing season that were fishing in the Gulf of Carpentaria (as of 27 January 1976). Queensland's commercial fishers accused the Taiwanese vessels of ignoring conservation measures and asked that the Gulf be declared Australian territorial waters.

Costa Rica seized a Nicaraguan fishing vessel on 29 January off Cocinera Island. Five other Nicaraguan vessels escaped. The Nicaraguan

vessel was confiscated by Costa Rican authorities on 1 February.

Danish authorities seized a Scottish trawler off the Faeroe Islands on 8 February 1976, for a violation of the Faeroese 12-mile limit, and fined it \$13,000. Its gear and catch were confiscated. Danish newspapers also reported several violations by British, Dutch, and Belgian vessels. India seized a Pakistani fishing trawler and its crew of 11 on 4 January 1976 in the Arabian Sea off Gujarat. No further details were available.

Indonesia released a Japanese tuna vessel, the *Akihisa Maru No. 11* and its 15 crewmembers, at the end of December. The vessel had been seized on 3 November 1975.

The Mexican Navy seized a Cuban fishing vessel 8 miles south of Cayo Arcas off the coast of the state of Campeche, according to a Mexican press release of 21 January. The Cuban vessel was being detained in Ciudad del Carmen. The Campeche Banks are one of Mexico's richest shrimp grounds.

The Philippines seized a Taiwanese fishing vessel and its crew of 17 for illegal entry into central Philippine

waters on 15 January 1976 and impounded 5 tons of fish. The Taiwanese claimed that their vessel, the *Hsin Tun Po*, had drifted into Philippine territory due to bad weather.

Libya seized 5 Greek trawlers on 24 and 25 October 1975. Four vessels were seized in the Gulf of Syrta and 1 near Bengazi. Sri Lanka seized a Taiwanese vessel for fishing within Sri Lankan waters, according to a 3 February report from Colombo, and Tunisia seized two Italian fishing vessels on 6 January 1976. They were released after payment of fines totaling \$50,000.

SETTLEMENTS OF CLAIMS

Japan has paid South Korea \$194,000 to settle claims for damages filed by Korean fishers against Japanese vessels in the joint fishing area between the two nations. Of 168 claims filed by South Korea since 1966, 155 have been settled, eight have been dropped, and five are pending.

Japan protested to the Soviet Union the damage done to Japanese fishing gear off the northeast coast of Japan. Parliamentary testimony in Tokyo on 16 December 1975 reported 79 cases amounting to 17,830,000 yen (US\$60,000) had occurred since 23 October, the date Japan ratified the Soviet-Japan Fisheries Operations Agreement. During his sojourn in Tokyo on 9-12 January 1976, the Soviet Foreign Minister promised to free 32 Japanese fishers seized off disputed islands just northeast of Hokkaido and to advise restraint to the Soviet fleet fishing off Japan's coast.

OTHER INCIDENTS

A Chinese freighter rescued nine Japanese fishers from the *Mitsu Maru No. 5* (59 gross tons) who abandoned their tuna vessel after it ran aground on a shoal on 18 December 1975 near the Hainan Islands. The Japanese fishers were taken to Canton where a patrol vessel of Japan's Maritime Safety Agency picked them up on 23 December.

South African shrimp fishers have complained of harassment by Mozambique gunboats in waters off that newly-independent state. As a result, a number of South African fishers have converted their vessels for lobster trapping off the South African coast.

INADEQUATE PORTS SLOW ARGENTINA'S FISHERY EXPANSION

The NMFS Office of International Fisheries reports that Argentina's plans for increasing fish exports and the domestic consumption of fishery products are being impeded by inadequate port facilities which cannot service all of the vessels comprising the Argentine fishing fleet, or efficiently process and distribute the quantity of fish currently being caught.

The most important fishery ports in Argentina are: Mar del Plata, Necochea, Bahia Blanca, San Antonio Oeste, Madryn, and Rawson (see map). The port of Mar del Plata is by far most important as 90 percent of the total Argentine catch is landed there. Despite its inadequate infrastructure, this port is in better condition than the other Argentine ports. There has been a significant increase in the number of vessels in the Argentine fishing fleet¹. The increased number of vessels has exceeded the capacity of the piers at Mar del Plata, causing many difficulties. There is a shortage of fresh water and the pollution of the harbor makes it difficult to use salt water. Expensive fuel is trucked in at great cost. Additionally, many old vessels in repair congest the fishing wharves since no area is specifically set aside for vessel maintenance. The lack of covered wharves compels workers to process fish catches in the hot sun, causing a loss in quality and price.

The Argentine Government plans to promote the exploitation of coastal resources south of Mar del Plata by developing ports in that area. The plan to develop the port at San Antonio Oeste, for example, provides for the construction of a filleting plant, a freezing plant with cold storage, and a fishmeal plant having a capacity to process 50 metric tons of fish daily. Industry sources maintain that it is also necessary to establish a fishing port north of Mar del Plata, where the Rio de la Plata River empties into the Atlantic Ocean, to enable the exploita-

¹ In the last 2 years, more than 60 vessels have been added to the high-seas fleet which now numbers 120 vessels. This expansion of the Argentine fleet was made possible by a law which allowed the importation of used fishing vessels without payment of import duties. The law expired in 1975.



Table 1.—Argentina's fisheries catch, 1960-73 (Source: FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, 1973).

Year	Quantity (1,000 MT)	Year	Quantity (1,000 MT)
1960	104.6	1967	241.3
1961	101.9	1968	223.6
1962	101.4	1969	203.4
1963	130.5	1970	214.8
1964	169.0	1971	229.0
1965	205.2	1972	238.2
1966	251.3	1973	302.1

tion of the large concentrations of anchovies which occur there during winter². This new port could also service the high-seas fleet which catches hake in winter and the coastal fleet which fishes for bonito. (Sources: *Tecnica Pesquera* and *Industrias Pesqueras*.)

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, in 1973, the Argentine fisheries catch exceeded 300,000 metric tons for the first time (Table 1). Following 3 years of decline, the Argentine catch has increased 98.7 metric tons, or by 49 percent between 1969 and 1973. Over 50 percent of the 1973 catch, or 151,000 metric tons, was Patagonian hake ("merluza"). Sizeable quantities of hawk fish, anchovy, and chub mackerel were also caught.

² In Argentina winter lasts from 21 June to 21 September.

Poland Studies Antarctic Krill Fishery

The Government of Poland has organized its first scientific expedition to study Antarctic krill resources, according to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries. Research scientists and Polish fishers have been searching for krill concentrations and investigating the feasibility of harvesting krill for Poland's expanding fishery markets.

Two Polish vessels were sent to Antarctica in December 1975. One of them, the large research vessel *Professor Siedlecki*, had previously studied fishery resources in the coastal waters off southern Africa. The vessel has sophisticated scientific equipment operated by 31 scientists. The second vessel, the *Tazar*, is a smaller, recently-built fishing trawler of the B-417 class. In addition to a crew of 85, the *Tazar* has 6 scientists on board.

The expedition is a joint project organized by the Sea Fisheries Institute of Gdynia and the Polish Academy of Sciences. Associate Professor Stanislaw Rokusa-Suszczewski of the Institute of Ecology of the Polish Academy of Sciences is the senior scientist in charge of the research program.

Krill research was slated to be conducted in the Atlantic part of the Antarctic in the Drake Passage, Weddel Sea, and off Bouvet Island. While the expedition conducted its studies, Polish scientists also anticipated a number of exchanges and meetings with scientific personnel of other research vessels operating in the Antarctic region. However, the two Polish vessels had no foreign scientists on board.

Krill are a shrimp-like crustacean measuring about 5 cm in length and are an important source of food for whales. Due to rapid depletion of whale stocks there is presently an overabundant supply of Antarctic krill. Since krill has a high protein content, its large Antarctic resources could contribute to the protein supplies for the growing world population.

There exist, however, major problems in the harvesting and processing of krill. The Soviet Union and Japan, early pioneers in krill fishing, have largely overcome these problems by developing innovative catching and

processing techniques. Soviet technologists have developed a tasty krill paste that is sold in tubes and spreads like butter.

Poland, a latecomer to krill fishing, is now eager to develop its own krill industry and is already planning to introduce large-scale processing lines for production of krill pate in Swinoujście, Hel, Gdynia, and Kolobrzeg.

FAO Notes Gains in South Vietnam Fishery

Statistics compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) show that the fish catch in South Vietnam has been on an almost steady rise since the mid-1950's (Table 1), according to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries. Constant input from projects funded by such agencies as AID (Agency for International Development) doubtless contributed much to this increase, despite the disruptive conditions prevailing in the country during the last decade. In 1974, the South Vietnamese catch of marine fish totalled 510,000 metric tons, while freshwater fisheries production totalled only 100,000 metric tons. The grand total, 610,000 metric tons, shows a decrease of over 100,000 metric tons from the total catch of the previous year.

The fishing industry in South Vietnam reportedly deploys 43,929 motorized fishing boats, although only 30 of these are high-seas vessels of 100 horsepower or more. Gear, such as nets, ropes, and buoys, is manufactured locally with imported materials. Seven canneries, 62 freezing plants, 293 ice-

Table 1.—Fisheries catch of South Vietnam, 1955-74 (Source: FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, 1973).

Year	Quantity (1,000 MT)	Year	Quantity (1,000 MT)
1955	120.0	1965	375.0
1956	130.0	1966	380.5
1957	135.0	1967	410.7
1958	143.0	1968	410.0
1959	153.0	1969	463.8
1960	240.0	1970	517.4
1961	250.0	1971	587.5
1962	255.0	1972	677.7
1963	378.6	1973	713.5
1964	397.0	1974	610.0

¹Hanoi Radio.

making plants, and hundreds of smaller enterprises make up the bulk of the South Vietnamese processing industry. Exports of fishery products in 1974 totalled 11,718 metric tons and were worth over US\$30 million. Exports of frozen products alone were valued at US\$24 million.

The new government in South Vietnam is interested in improving production in the fishing industry to increase both domestic consumption and exports. However, the fishing fleet is badly in need of overhaul. Although 60 percent of the fleet is motorized, the vessels, for the most part, have engines with a capacity of only 7-13 horsepower and are therefore unsuitable for profitable high-seas operations. About 91 percent of the vessels are small wooden boats of less than 5 tons. The motors, which were imported over the last 10 years, now need to be overhauled or replaced. Port facilities are also old, outdated, and unsuitable for large-scale fishing operations requiring deep harbors and modern loading equipment. In spite of these drawbacks, the South Vietnamese government has declared its intention to develop a profitable fisheries sector on the basis of the already existing, traditional industry.

Japanese Fish Company Enters Kamaboko Market

When one of Japan's major fishing companies, Nihon Suisan, began manufacturing and selling yakichikuwa, a kamaboko¹ product, about 7 years ago, other Japanese companies, already in this business, protested vigorously. Without recourse to the courts, Nihon Suisan and the existing manufacturers and sellers negotiated a settlement that allowed Nihon Suisan to produce and market this kneaded fish product under a quantitative limitation. Thus Nihon Suisan was allowed to enter the market gradually without causing

¹Kamaboko products include Kamaboko itself, yakichikuwa, hampen, and agekamaboko. These Japanese terms have no exact English equivalents though they are sometimes translated as fish cake or fish sausage. The basic ingredient for kamaboko products is minced fish (surimi) which is washed, bleached, homogenized, and mixed with seasonings. This product is pressed, rolled, and shaped into the various products listed. The taste of kamaboko products is rather bland, they have a spongy consistency, and they are often eaten at room temperature for snacks.

extreme dislocation to existing manufacturers and sellers. The 1974 production of kamaboko fish products is estimated at 1,150,000 metric tons and the industry is a billion-dollar industry in Japan.

As Nihon Suisan expanded its sales network for yakichikuwa, it continued to study ways of increasing the number of kamaboko fish products it could manufacture and market. In November 1975, Nihon Suisan announced plans to cooperate closely with other manufacturers and sellers in test-marketing other products such as hampen and agekamaboko. Nihon Suisan's expansion into the kamaboko fish product market apparently has been accepted by existing companies on the condition that they obtain orders for production from Nihon Suisan. They will act as subcontractors, supplying products for the diversification of Nihon Suisan's product line. Nihon Suisan's operation is marking time as the cooperative network is coordinated. The company plans substantial production beginning in 1976. (Source: *Nikkei Sangyo Shim-bun*.)

Canada Halves Redfish Quotas in St. Lawrence

Canada's Minister of State for Fisheries, Romeo LeBlanc, announced on 3 March that immediate conservation measures will be brought into force to protect the depleted redfish spawning stock of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Thus, a quota of 30,000 tons was established for the 1976 Gulf of St. Lawrence redfish fishery compared to a 1975 catch of 60,000 tons. In addition, the Gulf of St. Lawrence was closed to all vessels fishing for redfish effective noon March 6 until midnight April 30.

During the closure, vessels conducting fisheries in the Gulf for groundfish species other than redfish could not catch more than 5,000 pounds or 10 percent by weight of redfish per trip. The Minister said that this incidental catch allowance for redfish may be adjusted if a change is found necessary in order to permit continued fishing directed toward other species such as cod and flounder. These new regulations were contained in the Atlantic Redfish Fishery Regulations.

LeBlanc said that scientific assess-

ments indicated the adult spawning stock had declined to a level of about 100,000 tons and that further decline may endanger future productivity of the Gulf redfish. "Consequently, our scientists are recommending that catches be kept as low as possible in order to stabilize the stock at its present level," said LeBlanc. He emphasized that the situation results from natural fluctuations in redfish abundance; in particular low survival of those age groups of redfish which would normally be supplementing the adult spawning stock during the next four to five years.

LeBlanc explained that in recent months Departmental officials held a series of meetings with representatives

of the major fishing companies involved, fisher's unions and associations, and the provinces to explain the situation with respect to the Gulf of St. Lawrence redfish stock and to develop a plan to deal with this difficult problem. The problem was first identified at a meeting held in St. John's on 6 February 1973, when the industry was informed that there was already a decline in the redfish stock which would likely be accelerated and that the age groups on which the fishery was based would likely be depleted by 1975. It was recognized at that time that some future control of the fishery would, in all likelihood, be required in order to protect new age groups entering the fishery.

Panama Again Bans February and March Shrimping

Panama's Director of Marine Resources, Carlos Arellano Lenox, announced on 8 January 1976, a seasonal closure on shrimping during February and March 1976 for the white, sea bob, and carabali varieties. This was a repeat of last year's attempt to protect these varieties during the spawning season and reflects the Panamanian Government's concern over the continuing decline in shrimp landings, traditionally a major export commodity. The Government indicated that violators would be heavily fined.

Last year's ban was successful, and the April 1975 catch in Panama was 20 percent larger than in April 1974. Although the suspension period was

used for boat maintenance and crew vacations, continuing pressures on the shrimp industry from high fuel costs and low shrimp prices make the potential benefits of the closure seem illusory to many Panamanian shrimp fishers.

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, Panama's shrimp catch increased from 3.7 million pounds in 1954 to a peak of 15.6 million pounds in 1964. The catch has since decreased, suggesting that the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for this fishery has been reached. In 1974, the shrimp catch was 11.7 million pounds, a little less than the 12.3 million pounds landed in 1973. Table 1 provides

Table 1.—Panama's shrimp catch¹, by species, 1954-74, in thousands of pounds.

Year	White	Pink	Sea bobs	Carabali	Solenocera	Fidel	Cabezon	Total ²
1974	3,841	3,021	3,667	364	104	147	507	11,651
1973	5,144	3,062	2,885	288	89	207	592	12,266
1972	5,120	2,983	3,133	219	189	—	—	11,643
1971	4,240	2,950	6,485	202	104	—	—	13,982
1970	4,359	2,568	8,045	209	20	—	—	15,200
1969	4,248	2,266	5,541	176	232	—	—	12,231
1968	4,346	4,211	4,357	286	—	—	—	13,200
1967	5,448	2,805	5,709	215	—	—	—	14,177
1966	5,239	2,499	4,308	326	—	—	—	12,372
1965	4,991	2,841	4,162	831	—	—	—	12,825
1964	5,034	2,510	7,119	893	—	—	—	15,556
1963	3,463	2,901	5,287	659	—	—	—	12,310
1962	4,558	3,402	4,814	510	—	—	—	13,284
1961	4,625	2,586	4,444	461	—	—	—	12,116
1960	4,068	1,843	4,365	324	—	—	—	10,602
1959	4,298	1,000	5,228	781	—	—	—	11,307
1958	3,737	293	4,952	319	—	—	—	9,306
1957	4,268	3,183	2,095	195	—	—	—	9,721
1956	4,455	399	1,286	69	—	—	—	6,209
1955	3,319	34	780	3	—	—	—	4,136
1954	3,288	4	367	—	—	—	—	3,659

¹Source: Direccion General de Recursos Marinos, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Panama.

²Figures may not agree because of rounding.

statistical data on Panama's shrimp catch, by species, for the period 1954-74.

A report on Panamanian fisheries, containing a detailed description of the shrimp fishery has been prepared by the Office of International Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Copies can be obtained by requesting Foreign Fisheries Leaflet 75-1: "Fisheries of Panama, 1973," from the Services Branch, D825, ESIC, EDS, NOAA, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20235. All requests must include two self-addressed labels to facilitate mailing.

Baltic Fishery Group Proposes Regulations

The following is a summary of the results of a 6-8 January 1976 meeting in Warsaw, Poland by an ad hoc group of the Baltic Fisheries Commission, prepared by the U.S. Regional Fisheries Attaché in Copenhagen.

1) The ad hoc group recommended that the Commission should appeal to the member states to limit their 1976 sprat, herring, and cod catches to the level indicated in the following table.

Country	Sprat	Herring	Cod
(Metric tons)			
Denmark	13,600	29,274	66,050
Finland	5,500	73,066	160
GDR	22,800	70,855	25,979
FRG	6,100	24,036	25,081
Poland	63,500	61,457	68,440
Sweden	10,600	61,388	29,582
USSR	152,900	125,900	43,610
Total	275,000	445,976	258,902

2) The group recommended that a uniform mesh size for sprat (either 10 or 11 mm bar length) and a standard method of measurement of each mesh be defined at the next session of the Commission. Denmark received approval for the option to transfer 10 percent of their herring quota to sprat should they so desire. Finland's by-catch of sprat in their herring fisheries will be excluded from their sprat quota.

3) The group recommended that Finland's herring quota be increased to 80,000 tons because of relatively good herring stock condition currently in area adjacent to Finland. They also expressed deep concern as to the possible effect on the herring stocks because of the high catches of juvenile

herring, and although they were unable to reach a unanimous opinion on any protection measures at this meeting, they recommended discussions on this problem be continued at the next Commission meeting. Based on the preliminary 1975 cod catch statistics, the group recommended that the 1976 cod catch in the Baltic Sea should not exceed 266,000 tons.

4) The group recommended that a total allowable catch and national quotas for herring and cod should be introduced on 1 January 1977.

5) The Chairman of the group said that the Baltic Salmon Commission would like to include its regulatory measures for salmon and trout fisheries into the fishery rules of the Baltic Fishery Commission. This subject will be included on the agenda at the next Commission meeting. They also agreed to discuss at the next session a possible enforcement scheme for the Baltic fisheries and asked delegates to bring their proposals for enforcement to the next Commission meeting (scheduled for September).

Japan's Salmon Returns Are Unexpectedly High

The number of salmon returning to the rivers of northern Honshu and Hokkaido has been reported to be exceptionally high in the fall 1975-winter 1976 season. Individuals connected with salmon hatcheries in Hokkaido predicted that 7 million fish would be caught in coastal and river fisheries, but the actual figure approached 15 million salmon. This is an increase of 50 percent over the 1974-1975 season. Although the rate of return of salmon fingerlings usually lies between 1 and 2 percent, economically, the "rate of return" is much higher. The annual investment of ¥1 billion (US\$3.3 million at ¥305 = \$1) results in ¥50 billion (US\$164 million) of landings.

While the unexpectedly high return of salmon is not completely understood, Japanese experts say the 1975-1976 season coincides with the best year of a 4-year cycle and that the improved efficiency of hatchery techniques is partly responsible. Six hundred million salmon fingerlings were released in 1971 and this year-class

makes up the major share in the 1975-1976 catch. The Japanese are able to delay the time of release slightly so that the size of the fingerlings and water temperatures are better suited for growth. The experts admit that even such improvements in technique are inadequate to explain this season's catch. (Source: *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*.)

More than 60 salmon hatcheries operate in Hokkaido and the budget of Japan's Fishery Agency for fiscal 1976 (April 1976-March 1977) includes \$3.42 million for their operation, according to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries.

Fishery Violations Noted in the Faeroe Islands

A Scottish trawler has been seized and fined \$13,000, and its gear and catch confiscated for fishing within the Faeroese 12-mile limit. Danish newspapers reported on 7 and 8 February that other vessels, predominantly British, but also Dutch and Belgian, have been fishing within the Faeroese limit. There were reportedly 25-30 United Kingdom vessels operating off the islands.

Newspapers have accused foreign vessels of fishing within the 12-mile limit at night to avoid detection, and have theorized that Iceland's extension of its fisheries limit to 200 miles is causing fleets which would normally fish in those waters to look for other grounds. The Faeroese are also concerned that a large spawning area north of the islands and outside of the 12-mile limit will be fished, even though the area has been declared a conservation zone. Fishing is prohibited in this area from February to April and it is patrolled by Danish vessels.

Poul Olsen, Chairman of the Faeroese Legislative Assembly, recently told the press he was concerned about foreign fishing, and hoped existing fishery patrols would control illegal fishing operations. He stressed that the Faeroese wish to maintain good relations with nations which have traditionally fished in Faeroese waters, but mentioned that a new patrol vessel would be added to the fleet in April.

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France,

Norway, and Poland signed an agreement in January 1974 regulating fishing within Faeroese waters. It limits catch by species, season, vessel, and gear, and bases quotas on catches

in 1968-72, and applies to all fishing in waters adjacent to the Faeroes.

The Faeroese economy is totally dependent on fish, as over 95 percent of all exports in 1974 were fishery

products. Continued incidents, like that of the Scottish trawler violation, may lead to renewed pressures for the Faeroese to extend their fisheries jurisdiction.

EC Sets New Fishery Product Guide Prices

The Council of the European Communities (EC) by Regulation Nos. 3304/75 and 3305/75 of 16 December 1975 has established 1976 guide prices on fishery products (see table, right).

By Regulation No. 3306/75 of 16 December 1975, the EC has established intervention prices for the following fresh or chilled items:

Species	Commercial specifications			Intervention price ¹	
	Freshness	Size	Presentation	1975	1976
Atlantic sardines	Extra	2	Whole	\$232	\$232
Mediterranean sardines	Extra	2	Whole	131	144
Anchovies	Extra	2	Whole	216	227

¹US\$ per metric ton.

The Community producer price for yellowfin tuna intended for the canning industry has been maintained at the 1975 level of 657 units of account (u.a.) per metric ton (US\$769) for the first 2 months of 1976 according to Regulation (EEC) No. 3307/75 of 16 December 1975. These are for whole fish, not weighing more than 10 kg each.

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, guide prices and Community producer prices for 1976 were increased on 15 out of 18 fishery items. On the other three items prices were maintained at 1975 levels. The simple average increase on all 18 items was 12.5 percent. The guide and Community producer prices are based on the average prices recorded on representative wholesale markets or in representative ports during the three fishing years immediately preceding. These guide prices are used to determine the intervention prices, withdrawal prices, reference prices for imports, and the level of financial compensation in these activities.

Intervention prices are between 35 and 45 percent of the guide price and

Species	Commercial Specifications			Guide Price ¹	
	Freshness category	Size	Presentation	1975	1976
Herrings	A	1	Whole fish	241	266
Sardines (<i>C. pilchardus</i> Walbaum)					
Atlantic	Extra	2	Whole fish	515	515
Mediterranean	Extra	2	Whole fish	291	321
Redfish (<i>Sebastes marinus</i>)	A	2	Whole fish	500	559
Cod	B, 2	2	Gutted fish with head	544	626
	or A, 3	3	Gutted fish with head		
Saithe	B, 2	2	Gutted fish with head	319	358
	or A, 3	3	Gutted fish with head		
Haddock	A, 2	2	Whole fish	406	467
	or A, 3	3	Gutted fish with head		
Whiting	A, 2	2	Gutted fish with head	445	498
Mackerel	Extra, 2	2	Whole fish	246	259
	or A, 2	2	Whole fish in original boxes		
Anchovies	Extra, 2	2	Whole fish	481	505
Plaice	A, 3	3	Gutted fish with head	509	611
Hake	A, 2	2	Gutted fish with head	1,170	1,310
Shrimp (<i>Crangon sp.</i>)	A, 1	1	Simply boiled in water	1,049	1,259

¹US\$ per metric ton, converted from units of account (u.a.) at one u.a. = US\$1.17.

are fixed at a level which contributed to the stabilization of market prices without leading to the formation of structural surpluses within the Community. When market prices are below the intervention price for three successive market days, the Commission

declares the market to be in a state of serious crisis. The product is then purchased for nonhuman use at the intervention price. Withdrawal prices and reference prices for imports are between 60 and 90 percent of the guide prices.

Canada Tightens Rules for Lobster Fishing

Romeo LeBlanc, Canadian Minister of State for Fisheries, has announced new measures designed to exclude part-time fishers from the Canadian lobster fishery. The measures consist of a temporary freeze on the issuance of new licenses, effective on 31 December 1975, and a review and probable revocation of existing licenses

held by those who are not dependent upon the lobster fishery for their income. By reducing the number of licenses it is expected that the lobster catch will increase for full-time fishers.

The tighter license controls and other management changes are in accordance with recommendations of a task force on lobster which was established in 1974. In interviews with this group, fishers demanded protective measures to reduce competition

from "poachers." Minister LeBlanc, describing the results of the task force, said "The fishermen demanded strongly that we exclude 'moonlighters' from this fishery... We have no intent to disturb the part-time fisherman with real dependence on the lobster fishery or the man using his boat in more than one fishery." Twenty thousand people now take part in the Atlantic Coast lobster fishery, which yielded C\$37 million (C\$1.00 = US\$1.006) in 1974,

EC Plans Small-Scale Inshore Fishery Changes

The Commission of the European Communities (EC) has submitted to the Council of Ministers a two-part proposal for restructuring their small-scale inshore fishing industry. The first part involves modernization of the fleets and shore installations for preserving, processing, and marketing fish, together with the development of the aquaculture sector including fish, crustacean, and mollusc breeding.

The second part involves the withdrawal of old, uneconomic vessels and encouragement of fishers 55 years and older to retire. Funds for both of these activities (estimated to be \$138 million for 5 years) would come from the European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

Aid from the EAGGF would be in the form of capital grants (of up to 25 percent) to producers with 5 years experience whose vessels do not exceed 24 meters and who have been involved in breeding fish, crustaceans, or molluscs. The beneficiaries would have to provide at least 50 percent of the capital and the member states would have to contribute at least 40 percent of the sum granted by the EAGGF. Maximum rates from both sources would be \$1,050 per year for married fishers, \$700 per year for unmarried fishers, and \$230 per gross registered ton (GRT). The Commission estimates that during the first 5 years of the scheme, 26,000 fishers could retire and vessels totalling 80,000 GRT could be scrapped. The total funds would be about \$60 million for the first 5 years of life annuities and \$20 million for vessel scrapping.

The Commission proposed that the member states prepare multiannual regional plans to guide the restructuring of the small-scale inshore

the highest for any Atlantic Coast fishery.

The new controls are the first step in the process to strengthen the whole Atlantic coast fishery. Part-time lobster fishers were to have received notification by January 20 that their fishing privilege had been called into question. Those engaged in other full-time occupations will lose their privilege to fish lobster. (Source: Environment Canada.)

fishery. These plans would be examined by the Standing Committee for the Fishing Industry and approved by the Commission. Projects selected under these plans must contribute: 1) toward reorienting production and improving the quality of fishery products; 2) to adjusting catch sizes and storage, packaging, and processing capacity to market requirements; 3) to improving working conditions and safety of personnel; and 4) to protecting both the environment and consumer's interests. Priority projects will be those helping to resolve difficulties following adjustments to extended jurisdiction. Those carried out in regions in which the European Regional Development Fund may intervene, or those implemented by recognized producers' organizations or associations.

Iceland Axes Diplomatic Ties with U.K.

Iceland formally severed diplomatic ties with Britain on 19 February 1976, becoming the first NATO nation to do so since the organization was founded in 1949. The Icelandic Government said the continued presence of British warships in its waters was the chief reason for the action. The United Kingdom had withdrawn its warships from Icelandic waters on 20 January, after Iceland had threatened to break diplomatic relations, but ordered their return on 6 February, after Icelandic gunboats continued to harass British trawlers.

The United Kingdom has made several attempts to negotiate a settlement recently, but Reykjavik has not responded. Britain's fisheries treaty with Iceland expired in November

1975, and the Icelanders, faced with growing economic problems at home and increasing concern about the depletion of their fish stocks, proposed a reduced British catch of 65,000 metric tons of fish, compared to a 1975 quota of 130,000 metric tons. Britain has reportedly suggested compromises, including a lower quota of 85-100,000 metric tons, or a percentage of the total catch in Iceland's waters. The decision to sever ties with the United Kingdom demonstrates Iceland's unwillingness to move from its 65,000 metric ton offer.

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, both nations will be confronted by serious economic and political consequences as a result of the eventual negotiations. Iceland is suffering from a high inflation rate and general economic discontent, which led to a general strike by the country's largest union, which lasted from 16 February through 28 February 1976. Since the country is highly dependent on its fishing industry, there is strong public pressure to reduce or eliminate foreign fishing in its newly-claimed 200-mile fishing zone. Britain, on the other hand, is faced with growing unemployment and economic problems in its fishing industry and the government does not wish to present the appearance of giving in to what it feels to be unfair demands. The British distant-water fleet reportedly consists of only 260 vessels, 100 less than in 1974. Unemployment among fishers along England's east coast fishing towns is extremely high: a U.S. news magazine claimed that 2,500 of the 4,000 fishers in the port cities of Hull and Grimsby were unemployed in February.

Soviet Trawler Runs Aground off Alaska

The *Samarga*, a Soviet *Maiakovskii*-class large freezer stern trawler, ran aground about one mile northwest of Kayak Island in the Gulf of Alaska on 31 December 1975. The vessel was transiting the Kayak Island loading zone¹ in heavy snow squalls when the accident occurred. Initial refloating attempts by two other Soviet stern trawlers were unsuccessful, and the *Samarga's* captain requested U.S.

¹Areas west and east of Kayak Island are designated as loading zones for the Soviet fishing fleet under the U.S.-USSR Pacific Fishery Agreement.

Coast Guard assistance. The Coast Guard cutter *Confidence* arrived on the scene 2 January 1976 to give aid.

The *Samarga*, hard aground on a rocky bottom, remained aground for over 2 weeks while repeated attempts to refloat it failed. U.S. Coast Guard observers were concerned about the possibility of oil pollution, because the vessel was in a vulnerable, unstable position and likely to break up in heavy seas. About 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel were removed from its hold to

alleviate the danger of an oil spill. All other loose ballast was also offloaded, including 100 metric tons of frozen fish, in the hope that the lightened vessel would float free. The Soviet fish carrier *Ostrov Shmidta* and trawler *Belkino* remained alongside the *Samarga* with cables attached to steady it and prevent further damage.

Although Soviet fishery officials brought salvage equipment to the scene for a refloating attempt, under U.S. law (46 USC 316D), no foreign

vessel may conduct salvage activities in U.S. territorial waters unless no U.S.-owned vessels are available to do the work. The Soviets were obliged, therefore, to negotiate with U.S. salvage firms for a contract to refloat the *Samarga*. However, before a salvage contract could be signed, the *Samarga* floated free at high tide 17 January with the assistance of the two Soviet vessels steadying it. All three vessels departed U.S. territorial waters with the *Samarga* in tow.

Fishery Developments Around the World

The NMFS Division of International Fisheries Analysis, which follows trends in world fisheries for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), has prepared the following summary of the recent significant developments in world fisheries.

Mexico published a constitutional amendment establishing the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the *Diario Oficial* on 6 February 1976. The Amendment entered into force on 4 June 1976.

Soviet-Canadian fishery talks ended in Ottawa on 9 February 1976. The two sides agreed to one-year extensions of the Soviet-Canadian Northeast Pacific Fisheries Cooperation Agreement, and the Navigation and Fisheries Safety Agreement.

Sovhispan, a company representing the Soviet fishing fleet in Spain, has announced plans to build a \$1.8 million complex to service Soviet fishing vessels based in the Canary Islands. Sovhispan already manages extensive port facilities for the fleet in Las Palmas, Canary Islands.

Fransov, the first joint Soviet-French fisheries company, was formed on 14 October 1975, through an agreement signed by the Soviet Minister of Fisheries and representatives of the French fishing company Casacrus. Fransov vessels will operate in the Far East, off Africa, and off South America.

The USSR and Somalia, as part of a continuing fisheries cooperation program, have agreed on a project to develop the Somali fish-processing industry. In addition, 20 specialized fishery cooperatives will be established.

The Republic of Korea will extend its

territorial waters to 12 miles and its fishing rights to 200 miles, according to a report from Seoul. An official decision will be delayed until after the New York Law of the Sea meeting. Such an extension would lead to renegotiation of the Japan-Korea agreement of 1965 which was based on 3-mile territorial sea.

Fishery Notes

California Dungeness Crab Fishery Gets Good Start

The 1975-76 California Dungeness crab (*Cancer magister*) fishery has experienced its best beginning in 4 seasons. From 11 November 1975 through January 1976, California crabbers landed an estimated 5 million pounds. Crabs were abundant, easily caught, large, and in excellent condition, and the weather was excellent through January. Landings might have been even greater if limits had not been imposed for boats in some areas because of the large volume crossing the docks.

The Dungeness crab is found only in the Pacific Ocean ranging from Baja California north to the Aleutian Islands. It is considered rare south of Point Conception in California.

Dungeness crabs are harvested commercially in California from Avila to the Oregon border. Prior to the 1944-45 season, the fishery was centered around San Francisco. The average annual statewide production, up to then, was 2.6 million pounds. The fishery expanded into the Eureka-Crescent City area toward the end of World War II, which increased statewide landings.

Peru and Poland agreed to extend a 1971 scientific and technical agreement providing for increased cooperation in the fisheries sector. Poland agreed to build four factory trawlers for Peru, and the first is due in Peru in January 1977. Poland also agreed to study Peruvian requests to grant 10 fishery scholarships, provide a research vessel, and supply food fish to Peru.

Introduction of the crab pot in the early 1940's replacing the hoop net also improved the landings. Since the 1945-46 season, the average annual statewide production has been 10.7 million pounds, a fourfold increase over the pre-1945 average. Most of that increase can be credited to expansion of the fishery in the northern part of the state.

Landings declined from 15.4 million pounds in 1970 to 685,000 pounds in 1974. This was a decrease of 14.7 million pounds during the five year period and a decrease of 18.4 million pounds from the record 19.1 million pounds in 1957.

Unlike most other fishery products, Dungeness crabs are marketed in a rather small geographic area. During years of abundance, crab marketing is a problem since the regular market has difficulty absorbing the product. These years of unusual crab abundance have a tendency to cycle; there is no assurance the abundance of crab will occur again the following season.

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