

ICELAND CHARTS FISHERY DEVELOPMENTS

Iceland is a country totally dependent on its fishing industry, and the status of its fish stocks is thus of paramount importance. In 1974, fishery exports constituted 75 percent of the country's total exports. The Regional Fisheries Attache for Europe, Norman L. Pease, visited Iceland last summer and prepared the following report on Icelandic fish stocks.

FISH STOCKS

Iceland's most valuable fish stock is the cod, although haddock, saithe, red fish, flatfish, capelin, Norway pout, and herring contribute significantly to the total catch. The cod stock in Iceland's waters comes from two sources: cod of Icelandic origin and mature cod from Greenland which migrate to the Iceland grounds for spawning. On the average, about 25 percent of mature east Greenland cod have migrated annually to Iceland. Fluctuations occur in this stock in accordance with the size of the year classes. Records indicate that during a period of the 1930's, up to 60 percent of the cod tagged at Greenland were recaptured in Icelandic waters. This also occurred in the 1950's, and during both of these periods the cod catch in Icelandic waters was over 500,000 metric tons (t).

Because of the current poor state of the Greenland cod stocks, migration has been minimal in recent years and is not expected to improve appreciably in the immediate future. In addition, the fishing effort has increased with the result that more of the catch is made up of immature fish.

MAXIMUM COD YIELD

It is believed that the maximum yield from the cod stock could reach 500,000 tons per year, if the following steps were taken: 1) reduce current fishing efforts by one-half; 2) prohibit fishing for cod younger than 3 years old; and 3) substantially reduce the catches of 4-year-olds.

Implementation of these steps can be accomplished in several ways. First, there is general acceptance that the

number of fishing vessels will be reduced either by selective government intervention or because of natural attrition as fish stocks decline. This will produce economic hardships but appears to be inevitable. Several suggestions have been made to implement a reduction in the fleet. The most acceptable seems to be a new vessel tax, based on gross tonnage, which the government feels will force inefficient vessels out of the fishery. Another proposal will restrict the size of vessels to within specified tonnages. This latter proposal is aimed at the larger (over 1,000 GRT) of the fleet's stern



trawlers which, because of the extended length of their trips, sometimes land cod of substandard quality. To date, no definitive action has been taken on these proposals.

Another method of improving stocks is to close certain coastal regions to fishing, either permanently or at specific times of the year. In this connection, the Icelandic parliament on 5 May 1976 passed legislation which will permit the Ministry of Fisheries to regulate the opening and closing of fishing grounds based on the results of their scientific research.

A third method would be to enforce stricter regulations on the mesh size in the cod end of trawls. Present proposals are to increase mesh from 135 mm to 155 mm. Icelandic fishery inspectors have found both foreign and Icelandic vessels with a small mesh liner in their 135 mm cod ends. An increase in mesh size will permit a regulation to increase the minimum

size of cod from the present 43 cm to either 45 or 50 cm.

Finally, the Icelanders want absolute control over the fishing effort of foreign vessels. By summer 1976, agreements had been negotiated with West Germany, Norway, Faeroe Islands, and Belgium. In each instance the cod quotas were considerably reduced from their respective past catches. An announcement on 2 June 1976 of a negotiated settlement between Iceland and the United Kingdom brought the end to their so-called "Cod War". This agreement now effectively brings all Iceland's marine resources firmly under their control.

All evidence indicates that a reduced cod TAC (total allowable catch) for the next few years is essential to the recovery of the stocks. A TAC of 230,000 t has been set for 1976; if this is not followed and the 1974 catch of 340,000 t continues, a drastic decline in stocks, which could undermine the Icelandic economy, could occur by the late 1970's or early 1980's. A TAC of around 280,000 t would be beneficial, but could prolong the recovery of cod stocks up to 10 years.

HADDOCK LANDINGS

Haddock landings have fluctuated widely over the years. This has been due to changes in fishing effort and the rate of recruitment. During the years 1928 to 1937, landings decreased from 60,000 t to 28,000 t. World War II interrupted fishing operations, allowing haddock and other demersal species to recover, but increased fishing after the war soon caused over-exploitation. In 1952 Iceland closed many important nursery grounds to trawling. Haddock stocks soon began to recover and, together with an increase in mesh size and very good recruitment in 1956 and 1957, the catches rose to a peak of nearly 120,000 tons in 1962. Since then, the landings have diminished to 45,000 t in 1974. It has been estimated that the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of haddock is about 70,000 t. Further reduction in the stock will occur if the fishing effort is not reduced immediate-

ly. Therefore, Icelandic scientists have recommended some reduction in effort and a catch quota of 38,000 t in 1976.

Pollock catches have also fluctuated, from an initial peak of 118,000 t in 1948, down to 47,000 t in 1960. Another upswing occurred in 1971 when 134,000 t were caught. By 1974 the catch decreased to 97,000 t. The MSY is now estimated at 100,000 t and scientists have recommended a TAC of 75,000 t in 1976. There are three causes for the variations in the quantity of those stocks: 1) changes in the year-class strength, 2) changes in effort, and 3) migratory behavior of the species.

Tagging experiments off Iceland, Norway, the Faeroe Islands, and in the North Sea have shown that immigration of pollock from Norway and the Faeroes takes place, at times on a substantial scale. Emigration from Iceland also occurs. The peak production years mentioned above coincided with a large immigration of stocks to Iceland.

The capelin is the most important pelagic species in the Icelandic fisheries today. In 1974 the landings amounted to 462,000 t and scientists indicate only about 10 percent of the spawning stock is being fished. Although the stock is not fully exploited, it has a short life-span with great annual variations in yearclasses. Scientists recommend caution with this species for now and a fishery is not permitted for immature capelin.

Three herring stocks occur off Iceland. These are identified as summer spawning stock, spring spawning stock, and the adults of the Norwegian spring spawning herring which have migrated to Iceland. Due to over-exploitation, all herring fishing was stopped in 1971 except for a small drift net fishery. By 1976, the summer spawning stock showed some signs of recovery and a catch of 12,000 t (possibly to be doubled if condition of stocks warrant) will be permitted in 1976. The spring spawning stock and the Norwegian herring unfortunately have still not shown any signs of recovery nor does any seem possible in the immediate future.

EC TRADE PROTOCOL

Following the British/Icelandic agreement about the cod fishery off Iceland, the European Communities (EC) Commission proposed that the fisheries

agreement between the Common Market and Iceland be effective as of 1 July 1976. The EC Council then approved the implementation of the protocol. It expired 1 December 1976. The fisheries agreement is part of the so-called "protocol 6" of the Free Trade Agreement between the EC and Iceland signed in 1972. Because of Iceland's unilateral extension of its fisheries jurisdiction, the agreement was never put into effect. This led to serious problems for Iceland's most important industry, as sales possibilities in markets such as the United States were adversely affected. After adoption of the protocol, it was expected that the duty level for Icelandic fish landed in EC ports would drop from 10-30 percent to 2-3.7 percent for certain species and 10 percent for canned goods. *Morgunbladid*, a Reykjavik newspaper, estimated that failure to implement the trade protocol cost the Icelandic fishing industry \$2 million in 1974.

Implementation of the fisheries protocol with Iceland was expected to

serve as an incentive for the EC to finalize its own common fisheries policy. Formerly, an individual EC member could block the adoption of the fisheries protocol, but consensus among the nine member states is now mandatory in order to suspend an agreement. Without a common EC fisheries policy, such a consensus will be difficult to obtain. (Sources: *Børsen* and *Morgunbladid*.)

Japan's Marine Biology Research Units Listed

A listing of 157 different marine biological institutes and laboratories in Japan, including institutes affiliated with universities, government-funded institutes, and private institutes, is available from the International Fisheries Analysis Branch (F411), National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20235. Please include a self-addressed mailing label if you would like a copy of the list.

Papua New Guinea Grabs Taiwanese Fishing Vessel

A Papua New Guinea (PNG) coastal patrol observed the Taiwanese fishing vessel *She Lon* on 17 July 1976, inside PNG territorial waters near Nuguria Island (see map on the next page). The vessel's master, Cheung To Ming, was charged with illegal entry into PNG territorial waters and with operation of a fishing vessel within PNG waters without having stowed and secured all fishing equipment. The vessel was seized and escorted to Simpson Harbor, Rabaul.

At the time of seizure the ship's radio officer, Wu Hong Ceng, posed as the captain, and the PNG enforcement officer, upon realization, charged the radio officer with perjury. The two men were arraigned in the Provincial Court at Rabaul. The captain and radio officer pleaded not guilty and throughout the proceedings stated that their vessel had been having engine trouble and had entered PNG's waters for shelter while undergoing repairs. The vessel broke down enroute to Port Moresby. The master and radio officer were both found guilty, fined US\$619 and US\$309 respectively, and the

vessel was forfeited to PNG authorities. Although it is not certain what the PNG Government will do with the vessel, in the past confiscated vessels have been offered for sale to their owners.

The *She Lon* carries a crew of 18. At the time of seizure only the captain and two crew members were on board. The remaining 15 men were located on 18 July by a search patrol, on a small uninhabited island, not far from where the vessel had been intercepted. According to the *She Lon*'s master, the men had gone ashore in search of food while the ship was being repaired.

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, PNG achieved its independence from Australia in September 1975. In November 1975, it concluded a fisheries agreement with Japan (see next article). Soon after, in December 1975, PNG seized, confiscated, and then released a Japanese vessel for violating PNG's 3-mile territorial waters.

In related incidents, the Australian Government has been seizing a large number of Taiwanese fishing vessels in

an effort to enforce its territorial waters. Between January 1975 and April 1976 about 32 Taiwanese vessels were either seized or detained by Australian authorities. Of these, 12

were confiscated by the Australian Government during the period from November 1975 through April 1976; four of these vessels had been sold back to their original owners, three were in

the process of being readied for resale, one was of interest to both the Australian industry and its original owners, and four were undisposed of. (Source: U.S. Embassy, Port Moresby.)

Japan Assists Papua New Guinea Fisheries

Japan and Papua New Guinea signed a fisheries agreement in Port Moresby on 26 November 1975. Under its terms, Japan will give \$2.2 million to finance a fisheries training center on New Ireland Island (see map). In return, Papua New Guinea agreed to permit Japanese longliners to fish for tuna in designated areas between 3 and 12 nautical miles off its coasts until 27 November 1976. Papua New Guinea allowed Japanese longliners port privileges at Rabaul, Madang, and Kavieng until the end of 1976 and port fees were increased nearly 500 percent to \$675 per vessel.

According to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries, in 1968, Japan and Australia signed a 7-year fisheries agreement concerning the operation of Japanese tuna longliners in waters near Australia and allowed them port privileges at Brisbane, Fremantle, Hobart, and Sydney. At the time the agreement was signed, Papua was an Australian territory and New Guinea was a United Nations Trust Territory. Both were administered jointly by Australia and fishing in their waters fell under the general provisions of the agreement.

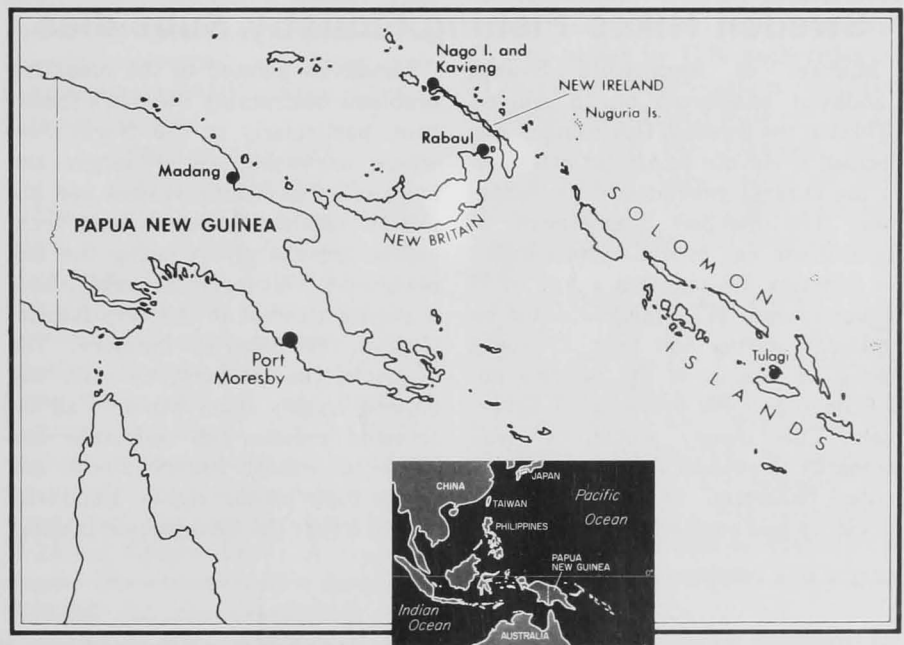
Papua New Guinea became an independent state on 16 September 1975, and thus negotiated the extension of the fisheries agreement as a sovereign nation. When Japan and Papua New Guinea signed their bilateral fisheries agreement in November 1975, its terms were similar to those of the pre-existing Japan-Australia agreement. In a separate action, Australia and Japan also extended their bilateral agreement to 27 November 1976. Fishery resources of Papua New Guinea waters include shrimp and tuna, both available in commercial quantities, and such other marine products as shells and pearls. Papua New Guinea shrimp and tuna exports in 1970-71 amounted to \$1.4 million (Table 1).

Tuna fishing in the Papua New

Guinea area is conducted almost entirely by pole-and-line vessels using live bait. Between 1970 and 1973, there were 60 Japanese vessels, 2 Australian vessels, and 1 U.S. vessel in the tuna fishery. By November 1975, Japanese effort had grown to 100 vessels. Baitfish resource surveys have shown that *Stolephorus* anchovies are abundant, but that good baitfish grounds are limited. Anchovies and other baitfish are fragile and preventing high baitfish mortality has proved difficult.

company. Bait fishing is done with bright lights at night and tuna vessels generally restrict their operations to grounds within a 90-mile radius of the six bait fishing areas.

Private Japanese fishing companies have been operating in Papua New Guinea since 1967 when Nihon Kinkai Hoge Co. financed the South Sea Fishing Co. which began fishing for shrimp, tuna, barramundi, and other reef fish. In 1970, Kyokuyo and the Australia-based firm, Gollin Invest-



Baitfish operations are regulated to prevent overfishing by reserving areas for the exclusive use of one fishing

Table 1.—Value of Papua New Guinea's fishery exports, 1969-72.

Commodity	Value ¹			
	1969	1970	1971	1972
Fresh fish	85	245	1,992	4,227
Shrimp and lobster tails	380	935	1,242	2,910
Total	465	1,180	2,234	7,137

¹ Value given in US\$1,000. Australian dollars are converted at the 1972 rate: A\$0.7047 = US\$1.00.

ment, Ltd., established the joint company, Gollin Kyokuyo, followed in 1971 by the joint ventures Kaigai Gyogyo-W.R. Carpenter (Carpenter Kaigai) and that of Hokoku Suisan-Nippon Suisan-C. Itoh Co. and an Australian firm (New Guinea Marine Products, Ltd.). In addition to Japanese joint ventures, the U.S. company Starkist established a Papua-based company in 1971.

In 1972, Kyokuyo began a tuna smoking/drying plant on Nago Island, and Kaigai Gyogyo began a skipjack processing plant at Kavieng. In 1974,

the Japanese and U.S. firms agreed to the formation of the Papua New Guinea Canning Company, to construct a cannery in Madang. The companies stated that 50 percent of the catch would be processed in Papua New Guinea and the rest exported frozen round by the end of 1977. Until completion of the cannery, all the catch is being exported frozen.

In recent years, skipjack catches have decreased. Hokoku Suisan terminated its Papua New Guinea skipjack fishery in August 1975, because of exceptionally low catches. For that year, it reported a total catch of 1,800 metric tons (t), more than 50 percent below the 1974 catch. Kaigai Gyogyo and Kyokuyo reported lower average June-July catches also: Kaigai Gyogyo's catch dropped from 1,313 t to 922 t (-30

percent); Kyokuyo's from 2,066 t to 794 t (-62 percent). These declines may be due to the difficulty the Japanese have experienced in holding baitfish and in locating concentrations of skipjack in waters near Papua New Guinea.

While not directly involved in Papua New Guinea, Taiyo Gyogyo of Japan has been active in the nearby Solomon Islands. In 1972, Taiyo established a joint venture there and reported a June-August 1973 catch of 3,900 t. In 1974, a fleet of 10 pole-and-line vessels aimed at a catch of 10,000 t. Taiyo built an 800-t capacity cold storage at Tulagi in 1973 and also operates a tuna cannery there which can produce 1,300 standard cases a day. (Sources: Japanese press reports; *Fishing News International*; and *Marine Fisheries Review*.)

everything possible to protect and safeguard the interests of Swedish fisheries, not least with regard to the matter of fishing limits.

The Minister of Agriculture, however, emphasized that the future of Sweden's fisheries must not be wholly reliant on how much support the Government can provide. The industry itself must review its organizational structure to ascertain what form could best further its interests and provide greater security for its employees. Lundkvist stressed the need to improve distribution and marketing techniques and stimulate consumer demand for fish. He urged fishermen to cooperate more closely with one another in their planning and promised that their trade organizations could, in that case, reckon with the Government's support.

Lundkvist did not detail the measures which the Government would take in support of the industry. It is likely that they will, among other things, include grants to fishermen for purchasing better vessels and nets, minimum price guarantees and other forms of price support, purchases of surplus catches, and loans at favorable terms. (Source: U.S. Embassy, Stockholm.)

Approximately \$4 million was allocated to the fishing industry for price supports, unemployment compensation, and vessel subsidies in the 1976 Swedish budget. This allocation represents a substantial increase in Government subsidies which were only approximately \$2 million in 1975. (Source: *Peche Maritime*.)

Sweden Hikes Fishing Industry Subsidies

Minister of Agriculture Svante Lundkvist announced on 15 August 1976 that the Swedish Government has decided to devote particular attention to the current problems of its fishermen. The Swedish Department of Agriculture has overall responsibility for fisheries. He said that a sum of 50 million kroner (\$11.4 million) would be budgeted during the next 12-month period in support of the nation's approximately 5,000 professional fishermen. This money would be used primarily to support fish prices and to assist fishermen to increase their efficiency and competitiveness.

Lundkvist pointed to the mounting problems confronting Sweden's fishermen, particularly in the North Sea, where increasing use of larger and more efficient fishing vessels and improved catching methods and techniques are sharply reducing the fish population. This trend, he emphasized, is posing a threat to the very foundation of the fisheries industry. The future of the industry, he said, will depend largely upon whether all interested nations can cooperate and agree to protect fishery stocks and divide their fishing rights. Lundkvist stressed that the Government is doing

HALIBUT VIOLATION SNAGS JAPANESE STERN TRAWLER

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Confidence* observed the Japanese stern trawler *Tomu Maru No. 85* (499 GRT) fishing off Cape Yakataga, Alaska, on 25 August 1976. Noting the steep angle of the trawl lines, the *Confidence* sent a boarding party to inspect the Japanese vessel's catch for possible retention of crabs or for other violations of U.S. laws regarding Continental Shelf Fisheries Resources (CSFR).

Inspection of the freezer holds of the *Tomu Maru No. 85* revealed halibut, a possible violation of the 1952 Inter-

national Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean (INPFC). Under the terms of this Convention, Japan agreed to abstain from halibut and salmon fishing east of long. 175° W.

ESCORTED TO KODIAK

The *Confidence* escorted the *Tomu Maru No. 85* to Kodiak when the U.S. vessel was unable to establish contact with a Japanese Fisheries Agency (JFA) patrol vessel at sea. In Kodiak, National Marine Fisheries Service Enforcement Agents sampled the catch in

the freezer holds of the Japanese vessel and discovered some 60 halibut, weighing an average of 40 pounds each. The halibut were stored in holds with the rest of the catch, approximately 200 metric tons of red rockfish. Although no crab or other CSFR was discovered, NMFS agents found a sea lion head.

On 30 August 1976, the *Confidence* escorted the *Tomu Maru No. 85* to a rendezvous with the JFA patrol vessel *Konan Maru No. 20*. The JFA will investigate the circumstances of the

apparent halibut violation and the Government of Japan will fine the vessel's owner if the charges are substantiated.

The 197-foot long *Tomu Maru No. 85* is a modern 499 GRT stern trawler built in 1972 and owned by the Kanai Fisheries Co., Ltd., of Nemuro, Japan. Detention of this vessel brings to nine the number of enforcement incidents involving fishing vessels of Japan off U.S. coasts in 1976, according to the NMFS Office of International Fisheries.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

In March 1976, the *Eikyu Maru No. 81* was seized for violating the U.S. Contiguous Fishing Zone (CFZ) off Alaska and fined \$580,000. In April, the *Kohoku Maru No. 12* was seized off Alaska for retaining CSFR and fined \$700,000. In July, the *Okuni Maru* was seized off the New Jersey coast for a CSFR violation and fined \$200,000. In the same month, the *Yamasan Maru No. 85* was seized off Alaska for violating the U.S. CFZ and fined \$625,000.

The other detentions of Japanese vessels took place in July 1976 when four Japanese salmon gillnet vessels were transferred to the custody of JFA patrol vessels for fishing salmon east of long. 175° W an INPFC violation. (Source: National Marine Fisheries Service, Law Enforcement and Surveillance Division.)

Peru Issues Ultimatum To Anchovy Fishermen

Peruvian anchoveta fishermen were scheduled to begin the second phase of the 1976 fishing season on 18 October. The Peruvian Government fishing company, PESCAPERU, estimates that up to 1 million metric tons (t) of anchoveta could have been obtained by the end of the year, bringing the total 1976 anchovy catch to above 4 million t, or over 0.5 million t more than was caught in 1975.

According to the Peruvian Government, however, the Fishermen's Federation (formerly the bulwark of the Government's own trade union, the CTRP) pressured its affiliated unions and fishermen to stay in port. The Government further charged that the Fishermen's federation has threatened new owners of fishing boats and in-

dividual fishermen, forcing them also to stay in port. The Fishermen's Federation had opposed PESCAPERU's recent sale of its fishing fleet as well as a projected personal cutback affecting many fishermen who have been on the PESCAPERU payroll.

Faced with what the Government considers Federation intransigence amounting to a sabotage of production, the Fisheries Ministry issued a communique on 18 October giving fishermen 48 hours to put their boats to sea or be summarily fired by PESCAPERU.

FISHING VESSEL SEIZURES NOTED

Listed below are some of the more important fishing vessel seizures as of September 1976, and related incidents. These incidents are a demonstration of international tensions in coastal areas and of the increasing competition for fisheries resources and have been compiled by the NMFS Office of International Fisheries.

SEIZURES BY THE UNITED STATES

The Japanese stern trawler *Eikyu Maru No. 81*, seized 31 March for a Contiguous Fishing Zone (CFZ) violation off Alaska, was fined \$580,000 on 12 April. Another Japanese stern trawler, *Kohoku Maru No. 12*, (349 tons) was seized on 14 April off Semisopochnoi Island, Alaska. On inspection, 30 pounds of frozen processed king crab and 7 whole female crabs were found. The vessel is owned by the Hokkaido Gyogyo Kosha of Sapporo, Japan. The owners paid a penalty of \$700,000 for the Continental Shelf Fisheries Resource (CSFR) violation. The U.S. Coast Guard took custody of the vessel after the CSFR case was settled, because of violations of International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC) regulations. After case documentation, the vessel was released from U.S. custody 28 May.

The Spanish fishing vessel *Anna Maria Gandon* was seized 26 miles off the U.S. coast for a CSFR violation on 5 April. The vessel was fined \$100,000 and released 19 April.

The Japanese stern trawler *Yamasan Maru No. 85* was released from U.S.

Coast Guard custody on 24 July after its owners paid a fine of \$625,000 for a 10 July CFZ violation near Amlia Island, Alaska.

The Korean stern trawler *Kyung Yang Ho* (5,377 GRT) was seized 30 miles south of Unimak Pass, Alaska, on 21 July. King crab, halibut, and marine mammals were found on board in violation of U.S. laws and bilateral agreement. The vessel departed U.S. waters on 21 August after paying a fine of \$575,000. Three Japanese land-based gillnet vessels were detained during July 1976 by the U.S. Coast Guard for suspected violations of the INPFC Convention which prohibits salmon fishing east of long. 175° W.

The Korean longliner *Dong Won 707* (620 tons) was seized off Baranof Island, Alaska, for a CSFR violation on 1 August. King and golden king crabs were found when the vessel was inspected by NMFS enforcement agents. The Italian vessel *Amoruso Quarto*, seized by U.S. authorities on 21 July for a CSFR violation, was fined \$100,000 and released from custody on 4 August and the Japanese stern trawler *Ookuni Maru*, seized off New Jersey on 28 July for a CSFR violation, was fined \$200,000 and released on 3 August.

A Mexican shrimp trawler, the *Casitas I*, was seized by the U.S. Customs Bureau for a territorial sea violation off Texas on 20 July. Criminal and civil charges were dropped by the Assistant U.S. Attorney in Houston, Tex., and the vessel was released. The owner of the vessel was reimbursed \$1,740 for the value of the shrimp which had been impounded and sold at public auction.

The Greek side trawler *Atlanticos II*, seized on 18 June by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Marine Fisheries Service for a CSFR violation, was fined \$115,000 and released on 18 August. The captain was also fined \$115,000 and given a 2-year suspended sentence.

The Canadian halibut longliner *Alaska Queen II*, seized by U.S. authorities on 6 August for a territorial sea violation, was released from custody on 9 August. The catch of 16,500 kg, valued at \$46,000 was seized, and the master and crew were fined \$33,750, which was suspended.

Trinidadian waters.

A British trawler was seized on 15 May by a Danish inspection vessel for fishing within the 12-mile limit of the Faeroe Islands. The vessel was fined \$10,000 and its gear and catch were confiscated.

A Romanian trawler was seized in Ireland's 12-mile territorial sea on 25 May and charged with illegal fishing. The 273-foot stern factory trawler *Negoia* had 27 metric tons of fish on board.

Indonesia reported seizing the Taiwanese trawler *Wan Cheng Shiang* on 3 June for fishing in North Sulawesi waters without a permit. The vessel was towed to Tahuna port for further investigation.

The Spanish fishing vessel *Caridad* was boarded by a Moroccan patrol on 4 June. Members of the patrol vessel searched the Spanish ship and confiscated 300 kg of fish. The ship was then released.

Spain seized four Portuguese fishing vessels near Cadiz on 11 June, for fishing within Spanish waters. Their catches were confiscated and auctioned.

The People's Republic of China (PRC) seized two Republic of Korea (ROK) fishing vessels in separate incidents on 11 and 13 June. While the PRC has protested numerous violations of its "territorial waters" by ROK vessels since April, the ROK insisted that its vessels were operating on "the high seas" and demanded the immediate release of the vessels and crews. The ROK stated its willingness to negotiate with the PRC, despite the lack of bilateral diplomatic relations, and to conclude a fishing agreement relating to operations in the East China Sea. The PRC released both vessels during the week of 21 June.

Ireland seized two trawlers, one British and one French, in the first week of July for fishing inside Irish territorial waters. Both captains were fined and had their gear and catch confiscated.

The Soviet Union seized the Japanese fishing vessel *Koei Maru No. 8* (28 GRT) on 20 July for violating Soviet-claimed waters off Kunashir Island. The vessel, the nineteenth detained by Soviet authorities in 1976, was released 25 July.

A Vietnamese patrol vessel attacked and sank two Thai fishing trawlers on 13 August, about 20 miles off Pulowai Island. Some 32 crewmen were reported dead or missing.

The Soviet Union seized three Japanese fishing vessels in the disputed waters north of the Japanese island of Hokkaido, taking the *Hakuyo Maru No. 5*, the *Chosei Maru*, and the *Koryu Maru No. 22* last summer. While in Soviet custody, the master of the *Hakuyo Maru No. 5* committed suicide and Japanese authorities have requested details from the Soviet Government. Another vessel, the *Chiyo Maru No. 2*, (99 GRT) was seized 25 August.

The United Kingdom seized the Soviet trawler *Arinas* in July, 10 miles off the British coast for a violation of fishing limits. The captain of the vessel was fined \$360 and his catch was confiscated.

A Malaysian Navy patrol craft apprehended a foreign trawler in Malaysian waters 10 miles north of Mukah off the coast of Sarawak on 17 July. Malaysia said the trawler was towed to Sibu and handed over to the police. Two other trawlers were also reported in the area, but they were outside Malaysian waters.

An Ethiopian gunboat reportedly entered territorial waters of the Yemen Arab Republic on 18 August and arrested three Yemeni fishermen. The incident took place between Hanish Island and Port Al-Mukha.

Australia seized a 285 GRT Japanese trawler for fishing inside the 12-mile fishery limit lines off the east coast during the week of 23 August, fined its master \$1,000 (US\$1,237), then released the vessel. This was Australia's first seizure of a Japanese vessel, although between January 1975 and April 1976, 32 Taiwanese fishing vessels were either seized or detained.

North Korea seized a South Korean squid vessel and its crew on 30 August. The South Korean vessel crossed into North Korean waters, just above the Military Demarcation Line apparently because of heavy fog. Attempts to contact Red Cross officials in North Korea were futile because phone lines linking the two Koreas had been cut in the wake of incidents in Panmunjom.

U.S.-Polish Fisheries Conciliation Board Acts

The U.S.-Polish Fisheries Conciliation Board was established by executive agreement, signed in Warsaw on 2 June 1973, and began to function in New York in May 1975. The Board was created to facilitate the settlement of claims resulting from damage or loss to the fishing vessels or fishing gear belonging to nationals of either State. Although the initial agreement specified that the Board would operate for 2 years after the signing date, the Board has continued to function through two extensions in May 1975 and May 1976.

The four members of the Board are appointed by their respective governments, but they actually operate as independent judges of the facts placed before them. In settling claims, the Board examines evidence submitted by fishermen of

both countries and determines whether it is sufficient to make recommendations as to who is responsible for the damages incurred.

By November 1976, the Board had examined eight allegations of loss or damage to American fishing vessels or gear by Polish vessels. The Board made recommendations in six of these cases, four of which were favorable to the U.S. claimants for a total of \$10,500. In two claims the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the responsibility of Polish vessels for the damages incurred. The Board was unable to consider two other claims since the incidents occurred prior to the period which the Board may consider. (Source: *Report of the U.S.-Polish Fisheries Conciliation Board*, 1976.)