

# FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE

## Imports and Exports

**GROUND FISH IMPORTS:** From January 1 through October 31, 1946, there were 43,204,271 pounds of fresh and frozen groundfish imported into the United States, under the tariff classification, "Fish, fresh or frozen fillets, steaks, etc., of cod, haddock, hake, cusk, pollock, and rosefish." This was 7,356,678 pounds greater than the groundfish imports for the corresponding period in 1945, according to a report from the Bureau of Customs of the Treasury Department. The reduced tariff quota for the year is 20,380,724 pounds.

Commodity	Oct. 1-31, 1946	Sept. 1-30, 1946	October 1945	Jan. 1- Oct. 31, 1946	Jan. 1- Oct. 31, 1945
Fish, fresh or frozen fillets, steaks, etc., of cod, haddock, hake, cusk, pollock, and rosefish	6,803,251	3,344,057	3,710,490	43,204,271	35,847,593



## Canada

**IMPROVED HANDLING OF FISHERY PRODUCTS:** In a new move to assure proper handling of fishery products, the Saskatchewan Fish Board and the provincial government filleting plants will market all commercial fish caught within a 75-mile radius of Beaver Lake, Lac la Ronge, and Meadow Lake, according to the Assistant Supervisor of Fisheries in Prince Albert, the Saskatchewan News announced on November 11.

Private fish dealers will not be allowed to operate in these areas, but with the necessary licenses they can operate outside the government district. Approximately 13,000,000 pounds of fish are caught in the province each year, and the areas serviced by the government represent only a small fraction of the total annual catch.

A new regulation requires all fish in the province to be routed through the government bonded warehouses if possible. At these warehouses they will be checked for weight, quality, and lake of origin. After grading, dealers will be permitted to market their own fish providing it came from areas outside of the exclusive government district.

According to the announcement, it is the intention of the government to see that Saskatchewan fish are properly handled and that exporters comply with the United States pure food laws.

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**COLD-STORAGE:** Canadian holdings of frozen fishery products totaled 44,822,000 pounds on November 1, according to a preliminary report received from the Department of Trade and Commerce, Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Compared with stocks held on October 1, this was a decline of 174,000 pounds, but was 5,921,000 pounds greater than November 1, 1945.

## Costa Rica

**FISHERY INDUSTRY:** The fishing industry in Costa Rica plays a relatively small part in the economy of the country, participation in it being limited to people living along the littorals and in isolated areas where river fishing provides a partial means of sustenance, according to a report dated October 1 to the U. S. Department of State from the American Embassy at San José, Costa Rica.



Excerpts from the report follow:

Even in the areas where fish provide a portion of the diet, their consumption is not high, as Costa Ricans in general rely mainly upon agricultural products such as beef, poultry, vegetables and fruits, corn, beans, and rice for their food.

Prior to 1935, fishing as an occupation and as a source of food in Costa Rica was important only to a few families who derived their livelihood from selling small quantities of fish to dealers in the ports, chiefly Puntarenas on the Pacific coast. During that year, however, a company was organized with American capital for the establishment and operation of a cold-storage plant and canning factory in Puntarenas, with the object of utilizing the rich tuna banks of the Pacific. Fishing fleets from San Diego immediately became active and started to bring large quantities of tuna into the port which were first stored in the cold-storage plant and then shipped to West coast ports of the United States. Since 1939, however, transportation of frozen tuna has been effected mainly by American merchant vessels whenever available, but in most cases, tuna fishermen have been forced to carry their catch direct to San Diego in brine or ice. The curtailment of steamship services with refrigeration space brought about by the war and the consequent decrease in quantities of fish brought to the plants in Puntarenas caused a slump in business which noticeably affected the economy of Puntarenas. The refrigeration plant, after a few changes in management and ownership, finally passed into the hands of a seafood company at San Diego, Calif.

Shark fishing for the utilization of the vitamin-rich liver oil was not seriously undertaken until about 1943.

Turtle fishing for export has been in progress along the Atlantic coast for many years, but the catch continually declines, and the species is believed to be in danger of extermination for lack of conservation measures.

Fishing in the Pacific is carried on from populated places along the west coast of Costa Rica, but at least 90 percent of the commercial fishing industry is concentrated in Puntarenas and Boca Barranca, both in the Gulf of Nicoya; and in Golfito, farther south in the Dulce Gulf. The catch in the aforementioned areas consists of fish sold in Puntarenas and San José for local consumption, while tuna and sharks are caught off the west coast and as far south as Cocos Island. On the Caribbean side, turtles are found especially at Tortuguero and Barra del Colorado, close to the Nicaraguan border. Fishing in the Atlantic (Caribbean), therefore, is more active north of Port Limón, but Limón is the marketing place for most of the catch.

Fishing for corvina, red snapper, jewfish, and other commercially profitable types is more favorable in the Pacific during the rainy portion of the year; i.e., from May through October and November. During the dry season, the catch is much smaller, but in every case, such fish are found at 10 to 15 miles off Puntarenas or Golfito and at depths which run from 50 to 100 fathoms. In the Gulf of Nicoya, sardines and other fish caught for tuna and other bait are generally found in the gulf inlets and about 5 miles off the coast, where the sea depth is generally well under 10 fathoms.

Larger catches such as tuna and shark require deeper waters than those just mentioned. Consequently, vessels engaged in this trade usually travel from 25 to 100 miles from Puntarenas to find the required fish at depths varying between 300 and 500 fathoms.

Turtles lay their eggs on the sandy beaches stretching between Port Limon and Barra del Colorado. They have been noticed to observe two seasons, one from January to April and the other from July to October. Other catches, consisting of lobsters and shrimp, are exploited on a small scale from grounds located close to the shores on both sides of the country.

There are no fresh-water fisheries of commercial importance in Costa Rican rivers or lakes.

There are no statistics available on the number of people actually engaged in the fishing industry. From a survey made among leading dealers, however, it was estimated that at least 650 persons are employed in the canning plant and in actual fishing operations.

Fishing as a full-time means of support is undertaken by only a small number of people on the Pacific coast. Most fishermen seek other occupations as an additional source of income whenever the fishing becomes scarce or difficult. It has been estimated that no more than 75 or 100 people exclusively depend on fishing for their living.

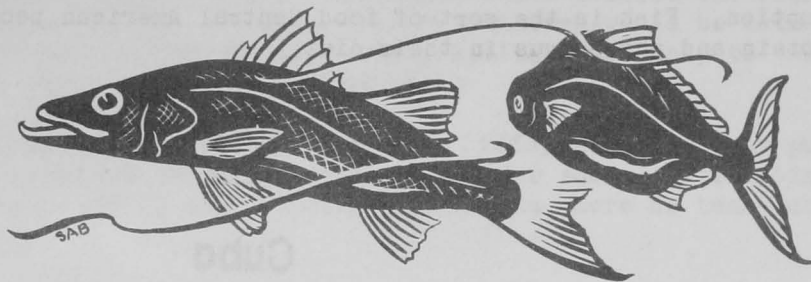


No vessels (as distinguished from small boats) are employed for fishing on the Atlantic coast. In fisheries along the Pacific zone, only three vessels are registered under Costa Rican law for the specific purpose of fishing. Dugout canoes, carrying either oars or sails, probably do not total more than 100 units in the trade. In addition, there are about 15 tuna and shark-fishing boats of American registry now using Puntarenas as a source of bait and supplies.

Local demand for fresh fish is lagging because of the high price to the consumer. Demands of the packing and freezing industry are met by a combination of American and Costa Rican vessels.

Both inshore and offshore fishing is practiced in Costa Rica. Inshore methods are more frequently employed in the vicinity of Puntarenas and Golfito, inside the gulfs of Nicoya and Dulce. Tuna and shark, on the other hand, require offshore fishing methods.

On the Atlantic side, where depths of 20 or more fathoms are not unusual close to shore, such fish as mackerel, red snapper, jack, kingfish, and snook are generally caught in nets along the beaches during the fishing season in September and October. Hooks and lines are preferred in the off season, when the catch includes a few red snappers and jacks.



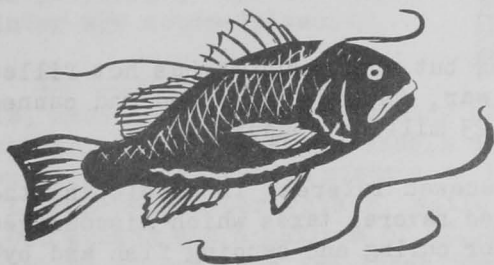
Net fishing prevails along the open beaches of Puntarenas, Boca Barranca, Caldera, and other places where the nets can be maneuvered on sandy bottoms free of rocks and vegetation. Most fish of commercial value, except tuna and sharks, are caught in the way described unless the waters are found to be filled with obstacles.

Sharks are caught with hook and line, for which porpoise and skipjack and other tuna are used as bait. The catching of tuna is effected by jig fishing with live squid or sardines as bait.

Lobsters, squid, shrimp, and oysters are caught in small quantities along both shores of the country and shipped to San José in ice or brine for consumption in hotels and bars.

No statistics are available showing fish landed for the period 1937-46. There are likewise no reliable data showing the catch by principal species.

Fresh fish consumed in the domestic market is shipped whole from Limon and Puntarenas and customarily sold as received in the fish markets. There are, however, two small establishments in San José which cut fillets when orders are specifically placed by certain customers.



A packing company at Puntarenas processes and packs yellowfin and skipjack tuna in 7-ounce tins for distribution; but there are no reliable production statistics showing annual output of canned fish.

There is no production of fish meal for animal and poultry feed in Costa Rica. Fish fertilizers were not produced before mid-1944, but at that time the tuna canning plant at Puntarenas started the manufacture of this byproduct by utilizing tuna residue and processing it by an oven and sun-drying system, after which the material was ground, and distributed through fertilizer dealers.

The freezing and canning of tuna is likely to continue at the present level and perhaps to increase despite a certain amount of labor trouble and a current shortage of equipment. Lack of sufficient cold-storage space, however, is a factor limiting shipments of frozen tuna to United States ports.

Fishing for fresh fish, including turtles and even sharks, may be expected to continue at about the present rate of production.



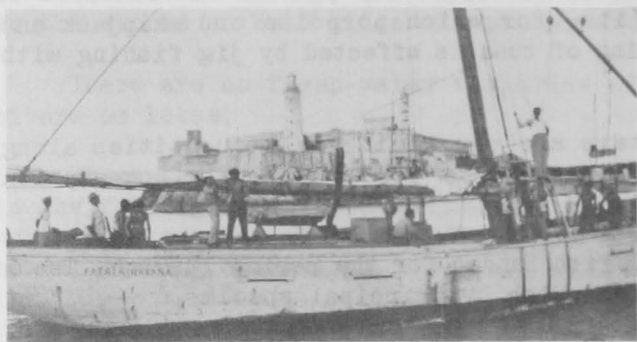
Canned tuna is priced somewhat high in relation to the general wage level. Fresh fish is even farther out of line. Even so, more fresh fish could be sold than is offered, and a price reduction on tuna would undoubtedly increase consumption. Fish is the sort of food Central American peoples especially need for protein and phosphorus in their diet.



## Cuba

**ECONOMIC REVIEW:** The economic importance of the fishing industry in the economy of Cuba has been reviewed in a report, dated September 20, to the U. S. Department of State from the American Embassy at Habana, Cuba.

Extracts from the report follow:



The economic importance of Cuba's fishing industry may best be gauged from its commercial production, estimated at 40 million pounds annually before the war, 25 million pounds during the war, and 30 million pounds since the end of the war.

Approximately 9,000 men are employed permanently in the fishery industry alone, while 7,000 more are employed in allied and subsidiary industries. Although fish is an important item in the Cuban diet, the total wholesale value of fish production is considerably less than 1 percent of Cuba's national income.

Cuba's fish resources are exceedingly rich, but the industry has not filled the needs of its own population. Before the war, imports of cured and canned fish and other seafood amounted to about 20 to 23 million pounds.

The Cuban Government has recently shown renewed interest in developing the country's fisheries. It has eliminated or suspended several taxes which discouraged production; it is erecting a plant at Batabanó for curing and canning fish and by-products; it has repaired vessels damaged by the hurricane of 1944; it is distributing a limited quantity of lines, hooks, and small fishing craft among fishing cooperatives which it fosters; and it has sought amicably to remove obstacles heretofore imposed by Mexico against fishing in its waters, but all these efforts hardly constitute a fraction of what needs to be done.

Large fishing companies look askance upon the Government's aid to fishing cooperatives. Although the companies need modern nets and other equipment for fishing and refrigeration, they are reluctant to make new investments.

The fishing industry in Cuba dates back to Columbus' discovery in 1492, and it has evolved from the primitive stages peculiar to each succeeding period. Cuban salt fish was well known during the expeditions for Mexico's conquest and later when the Spanish flotillas assembled at Habana for the return voyage to Spain.

Prior to 1926, fishermen were content with receiving two-thirds of the wholesale price of the catch, usually fixed by the outfitter at about 5 or 6 cents per pound. In 1926, however, social legislation was introduced which stirred the fishermen to demand that a written contract be drawn whereby fishermen would be termed employees of the outfitters rather than catch-sharers, entitled not only to two-thirds of the catch but to certain other social benefits.

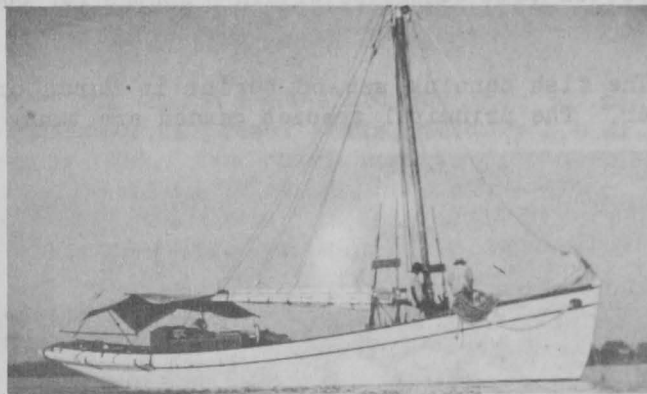
In 1927, there developed a new type of fishermen (independent). They put out to sea, brought their catch and sold it without regard for social legislation or taxation. At present there are 17 such fishermen in Habana, more or less subject to Government control.

The principal fishing centers are Habana,<sup>1/</sup> Batabano, Caibarien, Manzanillo, and Cienfuegos. The relative importance of these and other ports shifts from time to time, depending on the runs.

There are practically no commercial fresh-water fisheries in Cuba, although some fish are caught in rivers or lakes by country folk for their own consumption.

The exact extent of subsistence fishing in Cuba is not known, but it is assumed that it constitutes a source of occupation and income for a great many unorganized fishermen along Cuba's long coastline.

According to a compilation prepared by the Cuban Navy in September 1946, the vessels actively engaged in fishing at the present time number 2,505. Nine-tenths are less than 5 tons. About seven-tenths are sail-propelled, and the remainder are motor-driven.



The fleet of about 60 vessels, used for deep-water fishing off the Mexican coast, is centered in Habana and consists of 31 ice-laden vessels and 29 tank-boats. The ice-laden vessels have been reported to bring a minimum of 10,000 to 12,000 pounds and a maximum of 15,000 to 18,000 pounds per voyage, while the tank-boats bring a minimum of 20,000 to 25,000 pounds and a maximum of 30,000 to 35,000 pounds. All the vessels are sail-propelled except five ice-laden boats, which are motor-driven.

The Cuban fishing fleet and its gear, according to reports, are fairly adequate to meet present demands of the industry, although there is still some difficulty in securing fishing equipment. The Cuban Government hopes to increase production by increasing and modernizing the country's fishing fleet.

The offshore fish are taken as deep as 35 fathoms, but 20 is the average. Fish taken from greater depths do not survive the trip back to consumption centers. Individual hand lines with three hooks are used for fishing deep-water grouper, red snapper, and kingfish off the Mexican coast. Fish caught by this method comprised about two-fifths of Cuba's total consumption prior to the war, and has amounted to approximately one-fourth since then. Fish for canneries (tunnyfish, albacore, and bonito) are caught by the Japanese method of individual line and hook similar to that employed on the Pacific coast of the United States.

<sup>1/</sup> The landings at Habana come mostly from the Gulf of Mexico and consist of red grouper, red snapper, and kingfish.

Practically all the fish caught within Cuban jurisdictional waters are fished at less than 20 fathoms. Coastal deep-water fishing and trolling account for only a small fraction.

Beach seining is the method most commonly used at small depths for fishing muttonfish, lane snapper, and other commercially important species, while trap nets are used inshore at greater depths for catching the same kind of fish and lobsters and morro crabs.

Fish landed for consumption as fresh fish dropped from an estimated annual average of 40 million pounds from 1937-41 to about 25 million pounds during the war and 30 million pounds at present. The principal species taken are, by order of importance, red grouper, lane snapper, and muttonfish.

Fish caught exclusively for canning are tunny, albacore, bonito, and some sardines, while those for salting are grouper, snapper, mullet, shark, and some sardines.

Fish was canned in Cuba for the first time in 1940 at a lobster cannery at La Coloma. New fish canneries are reported to be under construction on the south coast of Cuba, and the Government is also building a large plant at Batabanó, which is expected to be completed within 6 months for operation by a fishermen's cooperative.

The fish canning season begins in March or April and ends in September or October. The principal species canned are tunny and a small quantity of albacore

and bonito. The fish are packed in peanut oil, or oil and tomato sauce.



Fishing for Tunny

There is no production of pickled fish, and the quantity of dry salted fish produced is undetermined. Only small quantities of grouper and snapper caught off the Mexican coast are salted.

Consumption of fresh river crawfish and shrimp since 1937 has averaged approximately half a million pounds annually. That of clams, turtles, squid, and octopus aggregated almost 200,000 pounds in prewar years and less than half that quantity in recent years.

Consumption of Cuban-packed tunny, bonito, albacore, and sardines has increased considerably in Cuba since 1940, when production first began, and present indications are that it will increase further. Except for small exports, Cuba's production, which in 1946 consisted of 20,830 cases of tunny, albacore, and bonito and about 5,000 cases of sardines, has all been consumed locally.

Consumption of imported canned fish and seafood during the war was regulated mostly by Combined Food Board allocations.

Prior to the war, Cuba's annual consumption of imported dry salted fish was estimated at 20 to 25 million pounds.

The scarcity of oil and lard has influenced the consumption of fish. Most Cubans cook fish by frying and are faithful to the local adage that "good fish must swim three times--in water, in oil, and in wine." Considerable quantities, however, are used in baking and some in soup.

Of the imported fish, codfish is preferred to all others, because it is cheaper and because the population, through years of usage, has become accustomed to it. During the war, the salting of shark meat and swordfish developed to some extent, and these, as well as salted grouper and snapper, substituted for codfish on many tables.

Imports of fish, other seafood, and byproducts constitute only about 1 percent of the value of all Cuban imports.

Codfish, stockfish, and canned sardines comprised 85 percent (19 million pounds) of the total imports of fishery products in prewar years, but only 51 percent (7.5 million pounds) in 1945. Imports of herring and canned tunny combined increased from approximately 1 million pounds before the war to 2.4 million pounds in 1945. Substantial quantities of canned squid, oysters, shellfish, and cod-liver oil were also imported.

Imports of fishery products from the United States dropped from 5.7 million pounds, or 25 percent of the total imports in prewar years, to only 1.9 million pounds, or 18 percent of the total in 1945. The chief imports from the United States in 1945 were canned sardines (the volume of which, however, declined considerably below preceding years); herring in brine, smoked, salted or pickled; oysters and shellfish; cod-liver and other oils for medicinal use; and canned squid not stuffed.

Imports of fishery products from Canada rose from 17 percent of the total weight of imports in prewar years to 40 percent in 1945.

Norway, Iceland, Great Britain, and Newfoundland, prior to the war, supplied 56 percent of Cuba's total imports of fish, other seafood, and byproducts.

Imports from Portugal and Spain declined during the war years, but in 1945 they rose above prewar levels and accounted for 16 percent of the total imports by weight. These two countries supplied chiefly canned and dry and compressed sardines, stuffed and unstuffed squid, tunny, and anchovies.

Fishery products are not very important in Cuba's total exports.

Sponges, prior to the war, comprised 37 percent of the total weight of fishery products exported. Shark skins, meat, livers, liver oil, and fins, all together, rank third in fishery exports. Smaller fishery exports from Cuba include fresh, salted, and canned fish; morro crabs, raw and cooked; miscellaneous fresh and canned seafood; and sea shells.

Neither the markets nor the suppliers have refrigeration facilities. Distribution of fish, is, therefore, haphazard and the turn-over must perforce be rapid. It has been reported that approximately 30 percent of the catch is lost owing to lack of suitable refrigeration and the delay in bringing the catch to market.



Most of the fish in Habana are sold at retail in the two large wholesale markets, but many street peddlers buy from these markets and sell directly to homes throughout the city. Fish is also sold at produce markets in various parts of the city.



Street Peddler

Unless the Cuban fishing fleet is enlarged and modernized and refrigeration is introduced, it is unlikely that production of fresh fish during the next few years will increase beyond 30 or 40 million pounds. Production of canned tunny, albacore, bonito, and sardines probably will increase and, in time, may compete with sardines and tuna fish imported from the United States and Latin American countries.

The Cuban Government, on October 3, 1946, authorized 3 million dollars for agricultural development, according to a report issued by the American Embassy at Habana, Cuba, on October 4. The program announced, as approved by the cabinet, is divided into six major divisions, two of which are: the construction of refrigerated warehouses for beef and fish and the purchasing of equipment and creating of cooperatives for the fishing industry.

In order to develop the fishing industry, the Government proposes the following:

A center for developing the Cuban fishing industry, including ice plant, canning factory, byproducts factory, refrigerated trucks, etc.

Radio-telephones for 60 fishing vessels and central station at Habana.

Establishment of fishing cooperatives in 11 of Cuba's principal fishing ports.

The new program does not include improved communication and transportation, except for fishing.



## Germany

**FISH RATION:** The basic fish ration for Germany has been set at 12.5 kilograms<sup>1/</sup> per head per annum, the American Consulate General at Hamburg announced on October 14. With a total population of 66.8 million for all four zones of Germany, the total annual requirement of fish would accordingly be approximately 798,000 tons. Of this total, about 439 tons are to be supplied from domestic catches, in accordance with a fixed plan, while about 225,000 tons must be imported from abroad. The difference of about 134,000 tons is to be covered by catches of the 100 new fishing vessels, which have recently been authorized for construction.

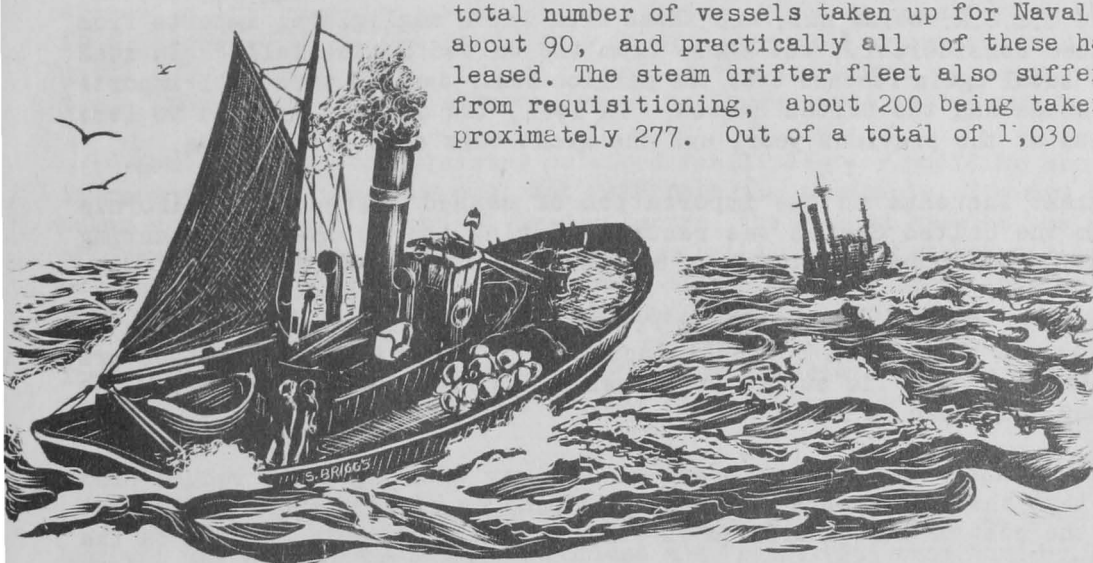
<sup>1/</sup> One kilogram equals 1,000 grams or 2.2046 pounds avoirdupois.

## Great Britain

FISHING INDUSTRY, 1939-1944:<sup>1/</sup> Nearly throughout the course of World War II Britain's fishing industry, in contradistinction to other food-producing countries, was fighting a battle for existence. The reduction in the number of steam trawlers available for fishing, due to the requisitioning of practically all the newer and larger vessels; the progressive curtailment of the fishing areas by the laying of mine fields and losses by submarine and aircraft attacks and by mines, all combined to reduce the British-caught fish supplies to a very low figure.

In 1939, fishing operations and imports were fairly normal up to the outbreak of the war, when a drastic reduction of fishing by British vessels took place, with the result that the British bottom fish landings fell to 81 percent of the 1938 figures. In 1940, the full effect of war conditions became manifest. English landings dropped to 25 percent of normal, Scottish to 62 percent, and landings in Great Britain as a whole to 31 percent. There was a great increase in foreign landings, due mainly to increased supplies from Iceland and to the fact that many vessels from the occupied countries found refuge in Great Britain and fished from British ports. The total supply from all sources amounted to 48 percent of the supply in 1938. Conditions became worse in 1941, when the landings by English vessels fell to 18 percent of the 1938 total, and landings by British vessels as a whole to 24 percent. In 1942, there was a recovery to almost exactly the 1940 standard. Very little change was shown in 1943, when the total was 1 percent higher, the chief increase occurring in cargo landings from Iceland. In 1944, the total supply rose to 55 percent of the 1938 total, a slight improvement being shown in direct landings by British vessels and a greater one in imports. In general, the great and inevitable decrease in landings by British vessels was counterbalanced, to a considerable extent, by a large increase in the landings of fish taken by foreign vessels, principally from the Icelandic grounds, with the net result that the total annual supply of bottom fish in 1942-43 was nearly one-half of normal, and in 1944 more than one-half.

The inshore fishing fleet in England and Wales suffered less than the larger sections of the industry through requisitioning. The total number of vessels taken up for Naval service was about 90, and practically all of these have been released. The steam drifter fleet also suffered severely from requisitioning, about 200 being taken out of approximately 277. Out of a total of 1,030 steam trawl-



<sup>1/</sup> This article is an extract from Fisheries in War Time, a report on the sea fisheries of England and Wales for the years 1939-1944, incl., published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1946.

ers available at the outbreak of the war, about 816 were requisitioned at one time or another.

The effect of requisitioning was, however, less serious in the case of the herring industry than was the almost complete closure of the North Sea to fishing, which restricted herring fishing to waters off the northwest and north coasts of Scotland. More herrings could certainly have been caught if more vessels had been available, but the principal factor in the decline of the herring catch was the lack of available fishing grounds rather than the lack of ships.

Although the day-to-day work of keeping the fishing fleet at sea, or, rather, that limited part which had not been requisitioned for Naval service, was the main preoccupation of the small staff of the Fisheries Department during the war years, every effort was made throughout that period to prepare the ground for dealing with the many problems of reconstruction which it realized would present themselves immediately on the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

Before the war, imports of fresh fish were regulated by quota, but this restriction was quickly removed, and imports, especially from Iceland, rapidly increased, supplemented by direct landings by foreign vessels working from British ports. Imports from the occupied countries naturally ceased in the spring of 1940, cutting off, in particular, the considerable quantities of herring normally imported from Norway and of plaice imported from Denmark. Imports from Eire showed a considerable increase.

Imports of shellfish, except from Eire, practically ceased by 1941; oysters were no longer obtainable from France, but in 1942-44 a few millions were imported from Portugal.

In 1939, over a million hundredweight<sup>2/</sup> of canned salmon were imported: approximately 40 percent from Japan and the rest from the United States, Canada, and the U.S.S.R., in that order. In 1940, the total dropped a little, a large increase in the imports from the United States and a small increase in the imports from Canada nearly counterbalancing heavy falls in the imports from Japan and the U.S.S.R. In 1941, the total quantity fell to little more than half of the 1940 figure, imports from the U.S.S.R. being nil, and those from Japan negligible; imports from Canada increased considerably, but those from the United States fell. In 1942 and 1943, the total again reached over the million hundredweight mark, all imports coming from Canada and the United States. In 1944, the imports dropped to less than half those of the previous year, and the great bulk came from Canada.

A very great increase in the importation of canned pilchards (California sardines) from the United States was recorded during the war years, amounting to over 1 million hundredweight in 1943, but falling off greatly in 1944.

The imports of canned sardines from France and Morocco practically came to an end in 1940, but those from Portugal increased. Imports of canned lobsters were minimal after 1940. The supply of canned crabs from Russia ceased in 1939 and from Norway and Japan in 1940.

It was inevitable that the outbreak of the war would greatly reduce fish supplies and that the maintenance of as large stocks as circumstances would permit, even at the cost of some sacrifice in other directions, would have to be the guiding policy.

<sup>2/</sup>One hundredweight is equal to 112 avoirdupois pounds in England.

The first step in this direction was to suspend the prewar limitation on the quantities of fish that could be imported into Great Britain, so that those foreign countries which were in a position to continue to send fish should be free to send as much as they could. The necessity for taking this step had been foreseen and, accordingly, the suspension of the Sea-fishing Industry (Regulation of Landing) Order, 1936, under which imports had been controlled, was among the provisions contained in an Order of September 3, 1939, entitled the Import of Goods (Prohibition) (No. 1) Order, 1939. Fresh fish imported into Great Britain continued, however, to be subject to import duties. This was not encouraging to exporters, and the question soon arose as to whether the import duties should not also be suspended. In most cases they were covered by guarantees given to various Dominions, and the consent of these Dominions had to be obtained before the duties could be lifted. These consents were duly given, and by the Import Duties (Exemptions) (No. 2) Order, 1940, the duties on all fresh or frozen fish, other than herrings, halibut, salmon, migratory trout, and shellfish (which were excepted for various reasons) were suspended for one year to May 22, 1941. This suspension has been renewed annually.

The immediate effect of the end of the war in Europe emphasized the urgent necessity of getting back into fishing the many trawlers and other fishing vessels which had been required for Naval service, combined with the almost equally urgent necessity of freeing the many fishing grounds which, for one reason or another, had been closed to fishing owing to the exigencies of the war. The first of these problems involved a number of ancillary problems. In the first place, the release of requisitioned vessels involved extensive reconditioning, which took as much as 6 months to complete. Then, before the vessels could begin fishing, the necessary crews had to be found and, finally, the resultant landing of increased quantities of fish at the ports to which the vessels were returned necessitated the provision of more labor at the ports.

The general release of requisitioned vessels actually began in a small way a year or two before the end of the war in Europe, but bulk releases, especially of the larger vessels, did not really begin until after VE-day. Although, with commendable promptitude, the Admiralty was able to open a large area in the North Sea to fishing soon after VE-day, it was not anticipated that any substantial increase in British landings would occur before the late summer or early autumn of 1945, especially, as the first trip to the Bear Island grounds was not possible until July of that year. But the landings by Icelandic vessels, reinforced by those from Denmark and elsewhere, began to be reported in increasing quantities.

Early in 1944 the Ministry obtained facilities for building about 12, later increased to 25, new trawlers; but, although the available slipways were readily taken up by a small number of trawler owners, the general view of the associations of trawler owners was generally against new building. This was partially on account of the prevailing high costs and because of the general uncertainty of the future. They favored the alternative of bringing back to fishing, as soon as possible, the many requisitioned vessels capable of returning to their previous occupation. The months, therefore, immediately before and immediately after VE-day were mainly devoted to the many problems associated with this policy.

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IMPORTATION OF OYSTERS AND EELS: Arrangements have been made to import into England 510 tons of oysters from Holland and France (255 tons from Holland and 255 tons from France). This is equivalent to about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  million oysters. The trade is



scheduled to start immediately, according to an announcement in the November issue of Fish Trades Gazette.

The Dutch Oyster Importers' Group, London, has been granted a license to import the supplies from Holland and has undertaken to allocate a fair share to prewar importers of Dutch oysters who are not members of the Group.

From November until the end of March 1947, 200 tons of live eels will be available for import from Holland by prewar importers of eels from that country.

The exporters will endeavor to spread supplies evenly over the period and are ready to begin exporting immediately.



## Iceland

**SKAGASTROND PROJECT:** From a little fishing village with scarcely 350 inhabitants, Skagastrond, situated on the eastern rim of Hnufloi Bay on Iceland's north coast, is destined, in the next few years, to develop into a model industrial and agricultural community of at least 3,000 persons, according to the American Legation at Reykjavik in a

report dated October 1 to the U. S. Department of State.

Excerpts from the report follow:

No gold or oil has suddenly been discovered at Skagastrond, but there is plenty of fish in the neighboring waters. The adjoining farm land is fertile, the climate is relatively agreeable, the site is easily reached by land, sea, and air, and the region is topographically suited for town building.

According to plans for the development of the new town, fish processing plants will provide the major share of onshore industrial employment. In winter, catches of cod will be filleted and quick-frozen, while herring oil and herring meal will be produced from summer catches of north coast fat herring. Model farms will pro-



vide butter, eggs, meat, and other agricultural products for Skagastrond's residents.

The project for developing the town dates back to 1942, when the Icelandic Government passed a law concerning the expansion of the herring processing industries of the country and encouraging the construction of new herring oil and meal factories. Among the proposals contained in this law was the building of a herring factory at Skagastrond.

It was not, however, until February 1945 that the question of building suitable dwelling units in this area was taken up for consideration. Following discussions of the subject, the Reconstruction Board decided that the Icelandic Government should be the party to take steps to construct residences and build a complete social and economic community around the herring plant. A group of specialists was selected by the Government to inspect the site and to investigate whether it had all the qualities necessary for a modern industrial, fishing, and agricultural town; and to investigate such technical requirements for developing the project as the availability of water, adequacy of the harbor, and the potentiality of electrical power production.

The necessary investigations were completed in July 1945. The report made to the Icelandic Government recommended the building of a new town for about 5,000 inhabitants at Skagastrond.

In the town's plan, stress has been placed upon separating the industrial and factory region from the residential section. A 100-meter wide park-like area will separate these two sections. The harbor, when completed, is expected to be approximately the same size as Reykjavik harbor. It will be divided into two areas. In one area, fishing vessels will unload their catch, while in the other, passenger and cargo vessels will land supplies for the town's inhabitants and maintain embarkation and debarkation of passenger traffic between Akureyri to the east and Reykjavik to the south.

Beyond the park bank separating the factory from the rest of the town, the first line of buildings will house government and business offices. Beyond these will be two-storied dwelling units. To the south, there are to be a group of apartment houses, each containing from 4 to 6 apartments, and further to the south there are to be a number of small farms. There will be two schools: a high school and a grade school. A church will be located in the center of the residential area. To the east of the town, an athletic field and a modern swimming pool are to be built.



Being favored with the fine fat herring during the summer months and the un-failing fishing banks of Hunafloi Bay that produce great quantities of white fish during the wintertime, it would seem that Skagastrond has fine possibilities for developing into a prosperous modern Icelandic community.



## Newfoundland

**FRESH AND FROZEN FISH INDUSTRY:** Newfoundland is placing more and more emphasis on the marketing of fresh and frozen fish, an industry that has grown enormously in the last few years. Some 30 million pounds of fish, mostly cod, were filleted and quick-frozen during the past year, the American Consulate General at St. John's, Newfoundland, reported on October 14.

Regulations were made by the Commissioner for Natural Resources and approved by the Governor in Commission on August 29, which specify methods of filleting, freezing, and packaging of fish to improve the quality and create standards that will make Newfoundland's frozen fish readily acceptable. The market to which it looks principally is that of the United States.



## Norway

**GERMAN TRAWLING OFF NORWAY:** According to a report dated October 11 to the U. S. Department of State from the American Embassy at Oslo, Norway, German trawlers, this year, were permitted to carry on trawling off the Norwegian coast because of the difficult food situation in the British zone and in view of the fact that Great Britain is making an annual expenditure of 80 million pounds sterling to keep the Germans alive. These trawlers were instructed to land on the Norwegian coast in cases of emergency only. But the Germans also land to get water and ice. It has been reported, however, that Norway will object to German trawling on the Norwegian banks when she makes peace with Germany and signs the peace treaty.

