

## OTHER FISHERY NOTES

### Additions to the Fleet of Fishing Vessels

A total of 101 vessels received their first documents as fishing craft during September 1947, compared with 105 in the same month the previous year, according to information received from the Bureau of Customs, Treasury Department. The State of Louisiana led with 19 vessels documented during the month, followed by California with 15 vessels, and North Carolina with 9 vessels.

Vessels Obtaining Their First Documents as Fishing Craft

Section	September		Nine mos. ending with September		Twelve Months
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1946
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
New England .....	7	6	65	53	86
Middle Atlantic .....	5	9	55	52	74
Chesapeake Bay .....	9	5	77	50	71
South Atlantic and Gulf.	47	55	363	260	351
Pacific Coast .....	26	25	344	318	375
Great Lakes .....	4	2	63	59	76
Alaska .....	3	2	28	19	19
Hawaii .....	-	1	18	8	17
Unknown .....	-	-	12	13	16
Total	101	105	1,025	832	1,085

Note: Vessels documented by the Bureau of the Customs are craft of 5 net tons and over.



### Alaskan Fisheries Hearings

The Report (Part 2) of the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, House of Representatives, which held hearings on the Alaskan fisheries during August 6, 7, and 12, 1946, has been printed. Copies may be obtained from the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, House Office Bldg., Washington 25, D. C.



### Canadian Import Restrictions

The Canadian Government has placed a wide range of goods under import control by an order in Council passed on November 12, 1947, and effective on November 18, 1947. Complete import prohibition will apply to one large group of goods and restrictions on a quota basis will apply to another group. Included in the list on which complete import prohibition applies are:

Crabs, clams or shrimps in sealed  
containers (canned)  
Turtles

Oysters, shelled, in bulk (shucked oysters)  
Oysters, shelled, in cans (canned oysters)  
Oysters in the shell

The national "quota" which will apply to the goods permitted importation on a quota basis is arrived at by taking, as a base, the average total dollar value of imports for each category of merchandise during the years 1937, 1938, and 1939.

This average total dollar value is then doubled and becomes the national "quota" for total imports of each category. Some of the items under quota are:

Rubber clothing and clothing made from water-proofed cotton fabrics -	Quota percentage - 400 percent
Gloves and mitts of all kinds, n.o.p. -	Quota percentage, 200 percent
Rubber boots and shoes	" " " "
Trawls, trawling spoons, fly hooks, sinkers, swivels, sportsmen's fishing reels, bait, hooks, and fishing tackle, n.o.p. -	Quota percentage, 200 percent



## Citizens Food Committee

Those members of the fishing industry who pledged support of the Citizens Food Committee's program with respect to fishery products have received the following letter dated November 10, from Mr. Luckman, Chairman of the Committee:

Dear Member of the Fish Industry:

Please allow me to give you my warm thanks for your fine pledge of cooperation to the Citizens Food Committee. It is typical of the splendid spirit shown by the entire fish industry, if I can judge from the scores of similar letters and telegrams that I have received in the past two weeks.

I want you to know that all of us on the Citizens Food Committee appreciate your splendid attitude, and your willingness to help.

As I have promised, the Citizens Food Committee is going to do all it can to stress the importance of fishery products in the food savings program. With such really fine cooperation from you and your associates, I am sure we will succeed.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Charles Luckman



## Fats and Oils Situation

Production of oils and fats from domestic materials in the year beginning October 1947 is likely to be somewhat larger than a year earlier, according to the October issue of The Fats and Oils Situation. Output of vegetable oils will be larger, owing to sharply increased production of cottonseed and flaxseed in 1947. Output of animal fats probably will decline moderately, partly because of the substantial reduction in the 1947 corn crop.

Export supplies of oils and fats in world surplus-producing areas are likely to continue to increase in 1947-48, although probably not as rapidly as in 1946-47. Last year, exports of Philippine copra, Antarctic whale oil, and Chinese tung oil increased sharply over a year earlier. Increases in 1947-48 probably will come mainly from the Netherlands Indies and Africa.

European import demand for fats, oils, and oilseeds is continuing strong. Poor crops in Europe this year have increased European import needs for foods, and fats and oils are a relatively inexpensive source of calories. Demand for oils and fats in the United States also remains strong, as consumer income and industrial activity are at record peacetime levels. Prices of oils and fats in the United States will remain high as long as these conditions continue.



## United States Fish Supplies

The United States civilian demand for fish during the remainder of 1947 and in 1948 probably will be strong as a result of prospects that supplies of meat, poultry, and eggs will be tight, according to the October-December 1947 issue of The National Food Situation.

Total supplies of fish for the remainder of 1947 are expected to be about the same as in the same period of 1946 despite smaller cold storage stocks on October 1 than on the same date a year ago. If market prices continue firm and fishing weather is favorable, production of fresh and frozen fish may increase more than seasonally between now and the spring of 1948. Canned fish supplies in the coming year will be larger than in 1947. Compared with the 1946 production, the 1947 pack of canned salmon is slightly larger, the tuna pack about 20 percent greater, but sardine production is smaller.



The price of fish between now and the middle of spring of 1948 maybe somewhat higher than in the early part of 1947 depending on the extent to which consumers in the United States will substitute fish for meat, poultry, and eggs, and on supplies and

prices of these agricultural commodities.

Prices of fresh and frozen fish began rising in September and are expected to reach the levels prevailing in the last few months of 1946. The prices of the major species of canned fish--salmon, sardines, and tuna--might rise somewhat above the records of recent months.

Imports of fresh and frozen fish, principally groundfish fillets (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, and rosefish) are expected to be much larger this winter and in 1948 than in the past year. Canned fish imports next year may not be much larger than they have been in 1947.

Military requirements for canned salmon, sardines, and tuna out of the 1947 pack probably will total about 14 million pounds as compared with a million pounds out of the 1946 pack. The United States Army may procure about four million pounds of canned whiting, herring, and mackerel for civilian feeding programs in conquered areas. Exports of fresh and processed fish in 1948 are expected to be less than in 1947.

## Mission on Science and Technology

A Mission on Science and Technology will shortly be established in the United States Embassy in London. The Mission will consist of a small staff of scientists and engineers, headed by Professor Earl A. Evans, Jr., Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Chicago. The activities of the Mission will cover the fields of organic chemistry, biochemistry, physics, engineering, biology, and agronomy, and the personnel will be assigned for short-term periods on a rotating basis.

The principal duty of the Mission will be to supply to interested persons and agencies in Great Britain information concerning current developments in science and technology in this country, and to acquire for distribution to interested Government agencies and scientific societies in the United States similar information developed in Great Britain.

The Mission is charged with the following specific duties:

1. Aiding and facilitating the exchange of scientific personnel and information between the United States and Great Britain;
2. Developing and maintaining close personal contact with British governmental agencies and other research institutions in the United Kingdom;
3. Answering inquiries originating with United States Government departments and scientific agencies in the United States with respect to particular developments in Great Britain;
4. Stimulating the exchange of scientific and technical reports, especially where these are not generally available through usual channels. The results of the Mission's work will be furnished to interested Government agencies and to scientific and engineering societies in the United States for further dissemination to the whole scientific and engineering community.



## Saskatchewan Fisheries Survey

"The Report of the Royal Commission on the Fisheries of the Province of Saskatchewan," recently issued by the Provincial Government is the work of a Commission appointed in May 1946. It was headed by Professor W.A. Clemens of British Columbia and held hearings during the summer. The report is divided into four parts—introduction, commercial fisheries, sport fishery, and general.

The introduction includes the background of the investigation, the names of the fishes, and a description of the general topography of the Province.

The second and main part of the report covers the commercial fisheries, their history, production,



processing and marketing, and the relation of fishing to the economic and social life. Since 90 percent of the fish taken commercially in Saskatchewan are marketed in the United States, the latter's prices and regulations influence the success of the Provincial fisheries. The Province has a difficult problem in getting its fish marketed on account of the high parasitic infestation of certain fishes in a number of the lakes, the long distance to markets, and the scattered population. Production is now controlled by closed seasons, mesh size and net length regulations, limits on the poundage which may be taken from each lake, and inspection of the fish for quality. Other methods of management are being tried. Marketing is being assisted by the building of filleting plants and by the establishment of the Saskatchewan Fish Board.

The sport fishery section discusses its size and importance, and its relation to commercial fisheries. The last part of the report covers the organization of the Fisheries Branch, the need for statistics and additional scientific investigations, and ends with 75 recommendations for the improvement of production and marketing of fish in Saskatchewan. A short bibliography is included.

Copies may be obtained at \$1.00 each from the Administration Branch, Department of Natural Resources and Industrial Development, Provincial Natural Resources Building, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.



## Scientists Tag 20,000 Seal Pups

Scientists of the Department of the Interior, aboard the motorship Black Douglas cruising in the north Pacific have "tagged" nearly 20,000 seal pups in their investigation of the migration routes and food habits of the Alaskan fur-seal herd, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced on November 16. The pups were marked with metal tags attached to their flippers.



Recoveries of the tagged seals at sea during the coming months or years will yield specific information on the migration habits of the seals. In 1950, when this year's pups will be ready for killing, a statistical study of the recoveries of marked 3-year-olds on the killing grounds will make possible a check on the accuracy of seal censuses taken by other methods.

The investigation was started in 1941 on recommendation of the Department of State, after Japan notified the U. S. Government that on October 23, 1941, it would abrogate the Fur-Seal Treaty of 1911 which prohibited the killing, capturing or pursuing the animals at sea. The Japanese Government claimed that the fur-seal herd, at least in part, was damaging its fishing industry. Early investigations did not agree with this contention and the State Department recommended that the Fish and Wildlife Service bring up-to-date its scientific data on seals to determine the validity of Japan's claims. Great Britain, Russia, Japan, and the United States were signatories to the 1911 treaty.

The Black Douglas, a schooner yacht, was purchased in 1941 by the Service and was refitted at Savannah, Ga., but before it reached Seattle, war was declared

and the expedition was suspended. The vessel was requisitioned by the Navy and during the war was in the patrol service. It left Seattle to resume the investigation last spring.

Dr. Victor B. Scheffer, in charge of the biologists on the Black Douglas, now plans to chart the passage of the seals from their breeding grounds on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea to ascertain what they eat and to analyze the hazards the herd encounters during the nine months they spend at sea.

On the first trip of the Black Douglas, from May to August, the scientists observed the seals traveling northward along the coast of British Columbia and Alaska, but only when they neared the Pribilofs were any large groups of seals seen.

During the killing season from June 10 to July 31, a total of 61,447 fur-seal skins were taken. Included were nearly 10,000 from the 4-year-old class, taken experimentally this year to determine whether they are significantly more valuable to the fur trade. Ordinarily, only 3-year-old bachelor seals are killed. Not until these 4-year-olds have been processed and sold will the results of this experiment be known.

Since 1910 when the Government assumed direct control of the fur seals 1,367,322 sealskins have been cropped for market, worth approximately \$40,000,000.

In mid-November, the vessel will leave St. Paul Island to travel westward in the wake of the migrating seals, as far as the International Date Line, to observe particularly how far they venture into the waters of the western Pacific. Toward the end of November the expedition will turn southeast and observe the seals on their southbound journey.



## State Department Consultant

The Department of State announced on October 17 the appointment of Frederick L. Zimmermann of Forest Hills, Long Island, N. Y., as consultant in the Fisheries and Wildlife Branch, International Resources Division. Mr. Zimmermann is being added to the staff to assist in the development of an international fisheries conservation program for the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. Funds for this specific project were appropriated by Congress for the 1947-48 fiscal year.

Mr. Zimmermann is at present special adviser to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a member of the faculty at Hunter College in New York and is also Research Director of the New York Joint Legislative Committee on Interstate Cooperation. He is a native of Brooklyn and a graduate of Columbia University.

Following completion of his college training, Mr. Zimmermann served the term 1930-36 as a member of the New York State Assembly. During most of 1943 he was a member of the staff of the Department of State assigned to fishery programs.



## U. S. Aids Venezuela Fish Industry

A fishery mission headed by a biologist of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will explore the coastal waters of Venezuela during the next year in an effort to help this South American country increase its production of aquatic food, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced on November 19.

The mission is being undertaken at the request of the Government of Venezuela, which approached the State Department of the United States with a request for technical aid in developing its fishery resources. The expenses of the mission are being borne by Venezuela.



Two representatives of Venezuela came to Washington to complete arrangements for the fishery mission. They were Sr. Julian Veroes, Chief of the Division of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, and Dr. Werner Mora, a fishery biologist of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has detailed Robert O. Smith of its Office of Foreign Activities to the Venezuelan survey for one year, after which the work will be continued by Dr. Mora. Sr. Veroes, Dr. Mora, and Mr. Smith left Washington for Louisiana to purchase a fishing vessel for use in the survey. They were then to proceed to Venezuela.

The cooperative survey now being undertaken will result in better knowledge of the extent and distribution of the fishery resources, and will aid in determining how large an annual yield they can provide, Mr. Day said.

The annual catch of fish by Venezuelan fishermen is now at least 100,000,000 pounds annually. Because of the nature of the offshore currents and the ocean bottom adjacent to the coast line, it is believed that fishery resources may be extensive enough to support considerably larger catches.

Fertility of the Venezuelan waters is influenced by the equatorial current which sweeps northward from the Brazilian and Guianan coasts, bringing quantities of nutrient salts washed down by the large rivers of the area--the Amazon, Maroni, Couranti, Essequibo, and Orinoco. These nutrient salts induce a rich growth of the microscopic sea life which provides food for fishes.

The largest Venezuelan fishery is the one for several species of sardine-like fishes, almost the entire production of which is canned. Large fisheries also exist for Spanish mackerel, and for red snapper, groupers, and other reef fishes.

A large portion of the Venezuelan population is dependent on fish for food, and increased production is needed to supply domestic demand. According to a report of the Venezuelan Ministry of Development, about 20 percent of the population of the country lives from the fish in marine and fresh waters.



## Purchases of Fish by Department of Agriculture

The U. S. Department of Agriculture purchased 247,158 actual cases of fishery products valued at \$818,249 during September. It became necessary, after contracts had been signed for the purchase of 175,000 cases of hake, to amend the contracts to permit the substitution of herring in order to complete the fulfillment of the contracts.

### Purchases of Fishery Products by USDA

Commodity	Unit	September 1947		July thru Sept. 1947	
		Quantity	F. O. B. Cost	Quantity	F. O. B. Cost
<b>FISH</b>					
Hake, canned	Cases	45,000	137,700	65,838	200,214
Hake, " 1/	"	175,000	540,000	175,000	540,000
Herring, "	"	18,858	126,185	79,179	291,829
Mackerel, "	"	-	-	36,798	143,309
Minced tuna, canned	"	7,800	12,564	7,800	12,564
Shad, canned	"	500	1,800	500	1,800
Total .....	"	247,158	818,249	365,115	1,189,716

1/Contract was later amended to permit substitution of herring on undelivered balance.



## Wholesale and Retail Prices

Average wholesale prices of foods rose 0.7 percent during the week ending August 16, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

Consumers' food prices rose 1.8 percent between July 15 and August 15, according to the same source. For the second successive month, higher prices for

### Wholesale and Retail Prices

Item	Unit	Percentage change from--		
		August 16, 1947	July 19, 1947	August 17, 1946
<b>Wholesale: (1926 = 100)</b>				
All commodities	Index No.	152.7	+1.6	+19.0
Foods	do	172.3	+2.6	+15.7
<b>Fish:</b>				
		August 1947	July 1947	August 1946
Canned salmon, Seattle:				
Pink, No. 1, Tall	\$ per doz. cans	4.309	+13.0	+98.8
Red., No. 1, Tall	do	5.582	- 1.4	+37.4
Cod, cured, large shore, Gloucester, Mass.	\$ per 100 pounds	13.50	0	0
Herring, pickled, N. Y.	¢ per pound	12.00	0	0
Salmon, Alaska, smoked, N. Y.	do	35.00	0	0
<b>Retail: (1935-39 = 100)</b>				
All foods	Index No.	196.5	+1.8	+14.8
<b>Fish:</b>				
Fresh and canned	do	262.4	+0.7	+10.4
Fresh and frozen	¢ per pound	38.2	0	- 4.8
Canned salmon:				
Pink	¢ per pound can	42.4	+1.9	+66.2

meats, eggs, and dairy products were chiefly responsible for advancing the Retail Food Price Index to a new high of 196.5, 110 percent above August 1939.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish as a group, increased 4 percent during the period reaching a level of 139 percent above August 1939. Over the month consumers paid 4 to 7 percent more for beef and pork cuts and 1 percent more for veal and fish.