

FEDERAL LEGISLATION, DECISIONS, ORDERS, ETC.

Department of Agriculture

CANNED FISH: The Department of Agriculture announced that WFO-44, which set aside a portion of the canned fish pack for government purchase, had been terminated on March 9, 1947. Practically all of the 1946 set-aside quotas for canned pilchards and canned salmon--the only types of fish remaining under the order--have now been purchased.

Emergency restrictions on the sale and delivery of canned fish have been in effect since May 1942. These restrictions were instituted in order to insure efficient distribution of canned fish and canned shellfish to meet war and essential civilian needs. After the cessation of hostilities, restrictions were continued to facilitate purchases for military and relief feeding and for our former allies. With military and other demands now reduced, the Department has found it possible to cancel the set-aside order.

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SHORT SUPPLY COMMODITIES: As required by the Price Control Extension Act, Acting Secretary of Agriculture N. E. Dodd, on February 28, certified to the Temporary Controls Administrator the changes, effective March 1, 1947, in the list of agricultural commodities originally certified as in short supply on September 1, 1946. No new commodities were added to the list. The following commodities were removed: Fresh and frozen fish of the following species:

Maine sardines Tuna Yellowtail Bonito Other tuna-like fish Pilchards



Civilian Production Administration

CAN SIZES: All size restrictions on tinsplate and terneplate cans have been removed, the Civilian Production Administration announced on March 7, 1947. Action was taken by amending Order M-81 which retains plate specifications.

The object of the size restrictions in M-81, which was issued in February 1942, was to give the public food in economic packages and at the same time eliminate the use of small and intermediate cans which would have used more tin per volume of food packed.

In announcing the removal of can size limitations, CPA said that an allotment for 1947 of 32,000 tons of tin for the tinsplate industry for all purposes had been tentatively agreed upon, but would not be increased because of the relaxation of can size specifications. Because of the tin supply situation, it now appears doubtful whether the entire amount of the tentative allocation will be available to the tinsplate industry during the year, CPA added.

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HARD CORDAGE FIBERS: Processors' supplies of hard cordage fibers are at a dangerously low level, the Civilian Production Administration announced on February 28, 1947, after a meeting with the Cordage Industry Advisory Committee.

Franklin F. Kidd, Chief of CPA's Wool, Cordage, and Textile Machinery Branch, pointed to the following contrast between the cordage fiber supply position and requirements for December, January, and February (in millions of pounds):

	Supply		Requirements	
	Manila	Sisal	Manila	Sisal
December 31, 1946	25.3	48.2	8.2	17.2
January 31, 1947	21.4	43.5	7.4	18.3
February 28, 1947	14.0	25.1	7.4	18.3

These figures show that the monthly supply is decreasing more rapidly than monthly requirements, CPA said. Although the figures indicate that monthly supply is in excess of requirements, the inventories are at a critically low level because processors should have six months' supply of fiber on hand to carry them over seasonal periods when receipts are light.

At the end of January, Mr. Kidd said, manila on hand or en route was down to 1.8 months' supply, sisal stood at 1.4 months' supply, and the binder and baler twine inventories were at 1.3 months' level. CPA said there was no indication that the fiber supply situation would improve before the end of 1947.

The committee recommended that CPA amend the cordage order, M-84, to raise processors' allowable inventories on abaca from the present 90 days' to 150 days' needs, and that to simplify inventory reporting the date of invoice be considered the date of transfer of fiber from importers to processors.

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TIN: It is estimated that the government's reserve stocks of tin, exclusive of those held for emergency stockpiling, will be exhausted by the end of 1947, the Civilian Production Administration forecast, on February 26, in a report on the tin situation.

Without conservation controls such as those provided by orders M-43 and M-81, the government's tin stocks would be exhausted much more rapidly and consumers soon would be in extreme difficulty because of the lack of adequate imports to replenish stocks, the CPA said.

Total tin stocks in the United States declined by nearly 14,000 tons in 1946. Because industry stocks already were at minimum working levels, the entire drop was in government stocks, which were reduced to 53,337 tons.

Controls on the use of tin were relaxed during 1946 so that the consumption rate was higher in the fourth quarter than the average for the year. This relaxation was not warranted on the basis of 1946 supplies, which were no greater than in 1945, but was made in the hope that large-scale production in the Far East would be resumed in late 1947 or 1948, the report says.



War Assets Administration

SURPLUS PROPERTY: Surplus property disposal activities of the Maritime Commission, with the exception of ships and small vessels, will be transferred to War Assets Administration effective at the close of business April 5, 1947.

In a joint announcement on March 14, 1947, by the two agencies, it was estimated that the total reported cost of the inventory to be transferred would not exceed \$20,000,000, since approximately 85 percent of the marine material declared to the Maritime Commission has been sold.

The Maritime Commission will transfer to War Assets Administration all declarations of surplus property received after March 10, 1947; will stop all sales after March 21, and on April 5 will transfer all remaining declarations and certain personnel. The declarations and other documents such as inspection reports will be sent to the War Assets Administration office of the region in which the property is located. Sales after April 5 will be handled through the War Assets Administration regional offices.

Items included in the transfer are marine engines, ship's turbines, winches, windlasses, navigation equipment, anchors, life saving equipment, etc.

Only the activities of the Maritime Commission Materials Disposal Section are to be transferred. The action does not affect activities of the Maritime Commission relating to large and small vessels nor the owning agency sales by its Surplus Property Division.



FISH REFRIGERATION

When fish are frozen and stored at a low temperature, the action of the bacteria is almost entirely arrested, and, for all practical considerations, this type of spoilage is eliminated so long as the fish are held in a frozen condition. There are some types of bacteria which are able to resist extremely low temperatures by remaining in a state of hibernation. These types may cause considerable damage through spoilage if the temperature of the storage room is for any reason raised to a point favorable for growth, or if defrosting occurs during transit from one point to another.

The oxidation of the oil or fat is another source of spoilage of frozen fish, even in cold-storage rooms at low temperature. Low temperatures usually employed in the storage of fish retard but do not entirely prevent the chemical combination of oxygen and the oil or fat of the fish. If the fish are stored over long periods of time, the development of rancidity in the oil or fat is more likely to occur than when the storage period is only of short duration.

This and additional information relating to fish refrigeration is contained in Fishery Leaflet 214, which may be obtained, free of charge, from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 54, Ill.