

FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE

Imports and Exports

GROUND FISH IMPORTS: Imports of fresh and frozen groundfish (fillets, steaks, etc., of cod, haddock, hake, cusk, pollock, and rosefish), within quota limitations, under the reduced tariff provided under trade agreements, totaled 2,146,915 pounds during July, according to a preliminary report from the Bureau of Customs, Treasury Department. This was less than half the quantity imported during July 1946. The total for the first seven months of this year is likewise far behind the total for the corresponding period in 1946. Last year, the quota was exceeded before the end of June, but even at the end of July this year, the total of 13,961,852 pounds is nearly 10 million pounds short of the 1947 quota of 23,906,000 pounds, which can be imported at the reduced tariff of 1-7/8 cents per pound.

Country	1947		1946	
	July	7-month Total	July	7-month Total
Canada	1,784,195	10,663,060	4,417,707	24,052,066
Newfoundland	362,720	2,354,320	713,710	2,838,940
Iceland	-	944,472	245,340	3,008,184
Norway	-	-	-	1,756
Total	2,146,915	13,961,852	5,376,757	29,900,946



Africa

GOLD COAST FISHERY RESEARCH PROGRAM: Joint fishery research is under way in the British West African Colonies of Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia under Dr. Herbert H. Brown as Director of Fishery Research. Fishery departments in each of the Colonies will do extension work and collect statistics. There are also plans for a Fishery Research Institute and a research vessel.

There appear to be some interesting possibilities in the area. There is a fish uncommonly like porgie or menhaden called the "Bonga" (*Ethmalosa dorsalis*). It is caught in considerable quantities by cast nets in West Nigeria and Sierra Leone near the estuaries of big rivers. There is also a sardine, *Sardinella aurita* and *Sardinella cameronensis*, which is caught in the Gold Coast by quite highly developed gill nets (100 fathoms by 12 fathoms) worked both as drift nets and in the run-around fashion. Trawling is quite an unknown quantity, but the indications are rather more promising than in most tropical areas. Yellowfin tuna have been seen, too.



British West Indies

BARBADOS FISHERIES: Fish landed throughout the Island during the month of June 1947 showed a marked increase over that of preceding months. Catches passed through the Bridgetown Fish Market amounted to about 52,778 pounds. This was 20,000 pounds in excess of the May figure. It may be noted that Fish Market statistics can give only a bare indication of the amount of fish landed in Barbados

as only about 16 boats use the Market and there are numerous independent fishermen.

During the same month, the Executive Committee passed regulations requiring all boat owners to register their craft annually, according to the American Consulate, Barbados, British West Indies.

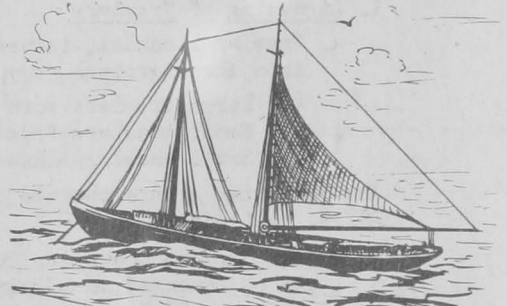
More fish has been landed this year than in the past due to effective 1946 legislation whereby fishermen are granted loans from the Peasant's Bank under Agriculture Department supervision. Last year, £5,943 (\$23,980)^{1/} were issued in loans to fishermen, and recently another sum of \$12,000 was provided for this purpose. The aforementioned Fish Market was built in 1946 by funds made available through the Colonial Development and Welfare Office.



Canada

FISH LANDINGS BELOW LAST YEAR: Total landings of sea fish by Canadian fishermen during the first seven months of 1947 amounted to 538.7 million pounds compared with 599 million pounds in the same period of 1946, according to Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, July 1947.

Reduced prices to fishermen, particularly for cod, following a decline in export demands for frozen fish is reflected in the July statistics of fish landings. The catch of Atlantic cod in July 1947 amounted to 47.4 million pounds compared with 67.7 million pounds in the same month of 1946. The decline is most noticeable in Quebec and Nova Scotia. On the Pacific Coast, the salmon run has commenced in volume with landings of 28.3 million pounds in July of this year compared with 20.9 million pounds last year. The total catch of salmon to the end of July is substantially above that of last year. The West Coast halibut catch was also better this year.



FISHING SCHOONER

The value of the catch to fishermen during the first seven months of 1947 amounted to \$24.7 millions, a drop of \$5.6 millions from the returns of the same period of 1946. The decline was largely on the Atlantic Coast where returns from the cod and lobster catch have been sharply lowered as a result of the reduced catch and lower prices. Returns to fishermen in British Columbia are somewhat higher than last year.

In response to the strong demand for salted fish both from the traditional export markets and from the Government's relief purchase program, a substantially greater percentage of the catch of Atlantic cod, hake, and pollock is being processed in the salted forms. This represents a diversion from frozen products. Freezings of cod fillets in July of 1947 were sharply below those of the same month of 1946. As a result, stocks of cod fillets were comparatively low on August 1. There were no significant changes in the forms of sales of the main Pacific species, salmon and halibut.

^{1/}Pound sterling equals \$4.035.

Little change occurred in the price to fishermen or at retail during the past month. The composite index number of wholesale prices increased by 11.1 points over that of June largely as a result of higher quotations for halibut.

The total value of exports of fishery products up to the end of July at \$38.3 millions was close to the 1946 figure, although there were considerable changes in the position of individual products. The value of exports of fresh and frozen cod fillets, whitefish, and lobsters show reductions, while the value of exports of fresh and frozen halibut and salmon were substantially greater.

Total stocks of fresh, frozen, and smoked fish on August 1 at 42.7 million pounds was only slightly above the total on August 1, 1946. Reduced holdings of fresh and frozen cod fillets were offset by higher stocks of smoked cod fillets, fresh haddock fillets, and frozen halibut. Stocks of fresh-frozen salmon and whitefish were also higher than on the same date in 1946.



Japan

FISHING LICENSES: The following excerpts are taken from the "Weekly Summary No. 92 of the Natural Resources Section," of General Headquarters Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers:

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

1. Licensing of Trawlers

a. Trawler licenses, issued by Japanese Bureau of Fisheries, are divided into three groups:

- (1) Large trawlers more than 200 gross tons;
- (2) Small trawlers from 40-180 gross tons; and
- (3) Small trawlers less than 50 tons.

The first two groups operate only west of 130° E. longitude and north of 25° N. latitude.

b. The Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers has authorized the issuance of 60 licenses of 10 years' duration, for the 200-ton and larger class, of which 59 have been issued; 930 licenses of 5 years' duration for the 40-180-ton class, all issued; 3,200 licenses of 5 years' duration for 50-ton and less class, all issued.

c. Approximately one-fourth of the 40-180-ton class licenses have been issued to two large companies formerly operating in China and Formosa whose employees are now being repatriated to Japan. Two hundred of the present license holders did not operate trawlers before World War II. Licenses cannot be issued for 300 applications now on file, of which 20 percent operated trawlers before the war. There is a large backlog of applications on the 50-ton and less class which cannot be filled.

2. Licensing of Tuna and Bonito Boats

a. A total of 50 companies and associations have been issued 121 permits, of which Showa Gyogyo Company holds 27 and Taiyo Gyogyo Company holds 17. Individual fisherman have been issued 365 licenses, making a total of 486 now in force. Experienced operators hold 278 and inexperienced hold 208. The present plan is to issue 155 additional licenses soon. The Japanese Bureau of Fisheries issues these licenses.

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SEED OYSTERS: The Japanese seed oyster growers in southern Japan had prepared 30 cases of experimental seed for trial shipment to the United States in the spring of 1947, according to the State of Washington's Department of Fisheries. These seed oysters were examined on April 13, 1947, at Vatsushiro Bay in Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan and passed as being free from oyster pests.

The Kumamoto oysters are said by the Japanese biologists to be a variety of *Ostrea gigas* which do not grow as large as the Japanese oysters formerly grown in this country and which have a very desirable flavor. The average adult shell measures 3 inches in length, 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 inches in width, and 5/8-3/4 inches in depth, and the meat is 1-1/2 inches long and 5/8 inch in diameter.



CULTIVATING JAPANESE SEED OYSTERS

The potential seed production of this area is about 30,000 cases per year. The sample shipments were "hardened" by suspending shell strings at a very high tide level for several months stunting their growth and increasing their ability to withstand drying during shipment.

The 30 cases of seed were distributed as follows:

Washington Department of Fisheries	- 10 cases	California Fish & Game Commission	- 5 cases
Oregon Fish Commission	- 10 "	University of Hawaii	- 5 "

Plantings in Washington were in the following locations:

Willapa Harbor - Nahcotta, Stony Point and Naselle areas	Belfair Bay - V. Sheppard's grounds
Grays Harbor - near Bay City	Dabob Bay - Rock Point Oyster Company's grounds
North Bay - State Reserve	Samish Bay - State Reserve, near Samish Is.
Oyster Bay - W. C. Patterson's ground	Vaughn Bay - G. M. Evans' raft

Records are being kept of the growth rate and mortality of these oysters. If these oysters are found to grow as their parents do in Japan they should produce excellent cocktail oysters.



Mexico

FISHING TARIFFS DEFINED: The accompanying order published August 8, 1947, is of interest to American shrimp and snapper vessels as it clarifies the application of the decree published July 2 wherein tariff rates for foreign boats operating in Mexican waters of the Pacific were applied to similar operations in Mexican territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. There are two articles to this order. Article I provides that only those species may be taken by foreign boats which do not have a permanent closed season, and which do not require a special permit for their capture. Those species requiring special permits are:

whales	shrimp	oysters	turtles	seaweed	sponges
lobsters	pearl oysters	abalones	alligators	totoaba	sharks

Shrimp, therefore, do not come within the provisions of the decree published July 2 and, hence, they cannot be taken in Mexican waters by foreign boats.

Article II provides that foreign boats fishing in Mexican territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea must abide by all the provisions of the law of December 26, 1938, covering fishing by foreign boats in Mexican territorial waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California. The law of December 26, 1938, is given in translation in Appendix III of Despatch No. 3886 of June 12, 1947.

ORDER DEFINING THE APPLICATION OF THE TARIFF FOR COMMERCIAL AND SPORT FISHING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO AND CARIBBEAN SEA, BY VESSELS OF FOREIGN REGISTRY

WHEREAS, by the decree of June 20 of this year, published in the Diario Oficial of the Federation on July 2, fixing the tariff for commercial and sport fishing in territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea by vessels of foreign registry, returning to their bases with the products obtained, there were fixed fees which are identical, based on the same principles, and having the same purposes and ends as the tariff for commercial and sport fishing in waters of the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California, dated November 17, 1939, and published in the Diario Oficial of the Federation on December 30 of that year;

WHEREAS, there is no reason to establish preferences nor inequalities with reference to the application of the two tariffs even though one, that covering the Pacific and Gulf of California, was based on the powers granted the Federal Executive by section I of article 89 of the General Constitution of the Republic in accordance with the provisions of articles 3 and 16 of the law of December 26, 1938; and the other, that covering the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, based on the powers granted the Federal Executive by the same section and article of the General Constitution of the Republic and in accordance with the provisions of article 10 of the Fishery Law of August 26, 1932;

WHEREAS, for purposes of the application of the tariff for commercial and sport fishing in territorial waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea by vessels of foreign registry which return to their bases with the products obtained, it is necessary that the persons or companies engaged in fishery activities carry them out in accordance with the legal requirements and provisions of the Fishery Law of December 26, 1938; based upon articles 6 and 7 of the current Fishery Law, dated August 26, 1932, I hereby issue the following

ORDER:

- I. The application of the tariff covered by the decree of June 20 of the current year, published in the Diario Oficial of the Federation on July 2, is effective only when it concerns the exploitation of the fishery products referred to in article 9 of the Law covering Fishing in Mexican Territorial Waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California, of December 26, 1938.
- II. The persons and companies carrying out fishery exploitations for the utilization of the species covered by article 9 of the Fishery Law of December 26, 1938, through the use of vessels of foreign registry which return to their bases with the products obtained, referred to by the tariff fixed by the decree of June 20, 1947, published in the Diario Oficial of July 2 of this year, shall adjust all their operations to

the regulations and provisions applicable, as contained in the Law covering Fishing in Mexican Territorial Waters of the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California, of December 26, 1938.

The above order was signed July 21, 1947.

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GUAYMAS SHRIMP INDUSTRY: The receipt by the cooperative societies of shrimp fishermen of a circular order dated July 15, 1947, from the Director of Fishing and Related Industries at Mexico City prohibiting them from operating with other than their own vessels and equipment caused considerable apprehension at this port, according to the American Consulate, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico.

Guaymas' economy is based on the shrimp industry and while the existing laws (Presidential Decree of July 31, 1934, amended by Presidential Decree of July 11, 1940) restrict the fishing for shrimps in Mexican waters to the cooperative societies. The local cooperative societies have only 18 of the 214 shrimp vessels which operate out of this port. Heretofore, this restriction has been surmounted by a technicality. The independent ship owners have been operating under certain agreements with the cooperative societies whereby the latter sell their catches on a commission basis.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, the Governor of the State, who is himself a large stockholder in many of the independent fishing enterprises of this district, and a representative group of independent ship owners immediately proceeded to Acapulco where President Aleman was spending a vacation in order to present their case to him in an endeavor to have the order in question rescinded or adequate legislation passed to permit them to continue to engage in this industry. It is known already that their mission was successful and that the President requested that, pending the revision of the laws on the subject, orders be issued permitting the independent fishermen to continue to operate as heretofore; that is, under the licenses of the cooperative societies. So far, this new order has not been received in Guaymas.



GULF OF CALIFORNIA

As customary, the shrimp packing plants closed down in June for the duration of the summer closed season and they are scheduled to remain closed until the latter part of September. Fishing for shrimp in protected waters will begin during the first part of August. Although authorized, deep-sea fishing is not practiced by the local fishermen because of their lack of equipment.



Peru

ASSERTS SOVEREIGNTY OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF: Executive Decree dated August 1, 1947, asserts Peruvian sovereignty and jurisdiction over the submarine platform or continental shelf contiguous to the Peruvian coast and over waters extending 200 marine miles off the coast. It also declares with respect to Peruvian islands that the zone of jurisdiction shall extend 200 miles from points of their contour, according to a report received from the American Embassy at Lima, Peru.

A translation of the Decree follows:

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION EXTENDED OVER THE CONTINENTAL AND INSULAR SHELF

The President of the Republic

Considering:

That the submarine platform or continental shelf forms together with the continent one single morphological or geological unit;

That there are in said continental shelf natural resources whose ownership by the nation must necessarily be proclaimed;

That it is likewise necessary for the State to protect, preserve and regulate the use of the fish resources and other natural resources which are found in epi-continental waters which cover the submarine shelf and in the continental seas adjacent thereto, in order that such resources, essential for national needs, may continue to be exploited or may be exploited in the future in such a manner as not to be harmful to national economy, nor to its production of foodstuffs;

That the fertilizing materials deposited by guano birds on the islands along the Peruvian coast likewise require for their conservation, the protection, preservation and regulation of the use of fish resources which serve as a food supply for such birds;

That the right to proclaim the sovereignty of the State and national jurisdiction over the entire extension of the platform or submarine shelf, as well as over the epi-continental waters covering same and over the waters of adjacent seas, throughout the extension necessary for the conservation and care of the resources contained therein, has been declared by other States and admitted in international practice (Declaration of the President of the United States of America of September 28, 1945; Declaration of the President of Mexico of October 29, 1945; Decree of the President of Argentina of October 11, 1946; Declaration of the President of Chile of June 23, 1947);

That Article 37 of the Constitution provides that mines, lands, forests, water and in general, all natural sources of wealth shall belong to the State, except rights acquired legally;

That in the exercise of sovereignty, and for the protection of National economic interests, it is the obligation of the State to fix clearly the maritime dominion of the nation, within which the protection, preservation and vigilance of the natural resources mentioned above should be exercised.

In accordance with the consultative vote of the Council of Ministers:

It is hereby decreed:

1. To declare national sovereignty and jurisdiction over the submarine platform or continental or insular shelf adjacent to the continental or insular coasts of the national territory, whatever the depth and extension of such shelf.

2. National sovereignty and jurisdiction shall likewise be exercised over the sea adjacent to the coasts of the national territory, whatever the depth and extension necessary to reserve, protect, preserve and utilize the resources and natural wealth of all kinds that may be found in or under said ocean.
3. As a consequence of the foregoing declarations, the State reserves the right to establish the boundaries of the zones of control and protection of the national resources in the continental and insular seas which remain under the control of the Government of Peru, and to modify such boundaries in accordance with the circumstances arising from new national discoveries, studies, or interests which may be made known in the future; and consequently, it is hereby declared that (the State) shall exercise such control and protection over the ocean adjacent to the coasts of Peruvian territory in a zone included between those coasts and an imaginary line parallel to them (coasts) and drawn on the ocean at a distance of 200 miles, the line following the geographic parallels. Concerning national islands this boundary shall be drawn to indicate a zone in the ocean adjacent to the coast of such islands, to a distance of 200 marine miles, measured from each one of the points of their contour.
4. The present declaration does not affect the right of free navigation of vessels of all nations, in accordance with international law.

Issued in the Government Palace, Lima, the first day of August of 1947.

José Luis Bustamante Rivero

Enrique García Sayán



JAPAN'S AQUICULTURE

The practice of aquiculture (culture of fish, shellfish, and seaweed) is highly developed and illustrative of the importance attached to fisheries by Japanese. Species raised include carp, eel, oyster, clam, and seaweed as well as trout and other fresh-water fish. The output from this production contributes considerably to the food supply.

--Fishery Leaflet 249