

be more changeable and subject to more direct price reactions when supply changes, and that expansion will not come as easy as during the war and immediate postwar years.

In connection with the marketing of frozen shrimp, it is appropriate to mention that at the present time in the Economics and Cooperative Marketing Section, Branch of Commercial Fisheries of the Fish and Wildlife Service, there is being conducted a consumer preference survey for all frozen fishery products. In this survey, information will be obtained which may be of particular interest to members of the shrimp industry. Some of the items on which information will be obtained are as follows: preference for size of package; preference for shape of package; preference for information, such as nutritional value, recipes, weight, etc. shown on packages; preferences for prepared fish, such as breaded items, prepared fish dinners, etc.; availability of frozen fish and shellfish at store where most of the consumer's shopping is done.

It was previously stated that the material presented would merely sketch broad economic boundaries of production, distribution and consumption. There is much more work to be done of a specific nature to throw further light on the economics of shrimp production and distribution. Some of the more important types of analyses which will receive the consideration of the Economics and Cooperative Marketing Section in the future are as follows: information on per capita consumption of shrimp by various types of processed product; effect of consumer incomes on demand for shrimp; effect of supplies on prices of (a) canned shrimp, (b) frozen shrimp, (c) fresh shrimp, both nationally and in various markets; analysis of effect of advertising programs on consumption, etc.; general survey of present economic status of shrimp industry.

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## Trade Relations of Norway with the Gulf and Caribbean Area

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THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT IN NORWAY is located at about the same latitude as the southern tip of Greenland, or the middle of the Hudson Bay. The northernmost point, Northcape, lies slightly farther to the north than Point Barrow. Notwithstanding her arctic location, Norway has ice-free harbors all along the coast, making it possible to maintain a population of some three million two hundred thousand. That it is at all possible to live in Norway is, of course, due to the influence of the Gulf Stream, whose warm waters cross the Atlantic to sweep along the Norwegian coast, resulting in a temperate climate. The Gulf Stream is indeed the Caribbean's gift to Norway.

Although people can make their living in Norway's ice-free ports and in the mountainous hinterland, stretching to the borders of Sweden, Finland, and the Soviet Union, the natural conditions of life are meager, indeed, most of the country consisting of barren mountains or covered with vast forests. Only 3 per cent of the total area is cultivated, and opportunity for growing grain, vegetables, and other agricultural products is very limited. To maintain its relatively high standard of living, Norway must import many essential commodities. In 1938, Norway's imports per capita were surpassed only by New Zealand. Averaging about 225 Norwegian kroner per

individual, the 1938 imports accounted for close to 50 per cent of the money each family spent for food.

Norway has comparatively few commodities to offer in international trade, and two of the most important are closely linked to the sea. First, is Norwegian shipping, which, with its 5.7 million gross tons, ranks third in the world, carrying goods to and from every port around the globe. Secondly comes the Norwegian fisheries.

Every year, in winter, spring, and early summer, enormous schools of cod and herring seek the warm coastal waters to spawn or to feed. The annual catch by Norway's 80,000 fishermen runs as high, or higher than one million tons. The enormous quantities of fish can not, of course, be consumed by Norway's three million people. Since time immemorial, it has been necessary for Norway to export her surplus of fish.

There has been considerable argument in Norway as to whether fish exports have developed the Norwegian merchant marine or vice versa. In any case there has at all times been a close connection between these two trades. Just when the Norwegian fish exports to the Gulf and Caribbean areas began, is not exactly known, but they go back a great many years, probably following close behind Columbus.

Information available on Norway's trade with the Caribbean and Gulf areas, presents an interesting picture.

In some parts of the area, trade was initiated by Norwegian imports, but gradually building up her exports, Norway sought a balanced trade. In other parts, the picture is the reverse. Before the war, Norwegian exports to the area were far below her imports. Through 1930-35, Norway's annual imports from the area amounted to little more than 9 million Norwegian kroner, in part offset by Norwegian export, totalling slightly more than 6 million kroner. Less than one-third of this consisted of fish products. Figures for 1938, usually accepted as a governing year, show very little difference in the exchange of goods between Norway and the Gulf and Caribbean area. In that year Norwegian imports amounted to 29 million kroner, while Norway's exports to the area totalled only 6.5 million kroner, of which close to 2.5 million or one-third consisted of fish products.

To get a true picture of Norway's trade with the area, we must also consider the role of the Norwegian merchant marine. Of all Norwegian ships calling at foreign ports, nearly one sixth were in the Gulf and Caribbean areas. Ports, such as Curacao, Aruba and Port of Spain, were visited by about one Norwegian vessel every day of the year, and other ports, such as Port Royal, Santiago de Cuba, and Havana, saw at least one Norwegian vessel every second day. Today Norwegian shipping companies maintain five lines linking the area directly with Norway and the other Scandinavian countries. In that way Norway pays for its imports with transport services.

Since the war Norway's trade with the Caribbean and Gulf areas has changed to some extent, owing largely to the abnormal and artificially created foreign exchange situation. Due to the losses suffered during the war and the German occupation, Norway has been obliged to curtail imports of non-essential commodities, just to rebuild the country. Norway is obviously eager to expand its foreign trade, which it must do to attain the pre-war standard of living.

It is felt, that in a not too distant future, the Gulf and Caribbean area will become a major source of Norwegian supplies, and it is sincerely

hoped that, in the years to come, ways will be devised to increase the exchange of goods.

According to Fishery Leaflet 259, issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the production of fish in the Caribbean is about equal to the importation of fish products. The fish consumption in the various Caribbean countries shows an amazing variation, ranging from only one half pound per capita to as much as 180 pounds, the average being 20.2 pounds. The highest fish consumption is found in countries where most of the catch is consumed by the fishermen themselves, and very little is sold through commercial channels. This situation would suggest that others of the Caribbean countries could develop their fish consumption through up-to-date marketing methods. Additional demand for fish may result from the recent withdrawal of the Bull of the Crucades, decreed about five hundred years ago. Real progress, however, can come only as a result of concerted efforts by the trade itself. By so doing, the trade will also help to promote a higher standard of living in the respective countries.

Recent reports from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization indicate that the sub-standard food consumption prevailing in many countries today is due to inadequate supplies. The first task of every country, should be to develop its own resources, a field in which international cooperation can be of material assistance. Equally important, however, is the promotion of a free flow of goods between the different parts of the world. In this connection the urgency of avoiding the creation of artificial trade barriers to support a small and comparatively insignificant domestic production is emphasized.

It has been a pleasure for Norway to take part in the constantly closer international cooperation, designed to promote throughout the world the technical aspects of fisheries and conservation of known resources. Norway looks forward to an application of the same spirit of international cooperation in regard to the distribution of fish and fish products in all world markets, on the basis of free and unfettered competition.

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## **The Interest of the Office of Price Stabilization In Southern Species of Fish**

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THE ONLY INTEREST OF THE OPS in southern species of fish, is to stabilize prices. To quote Mr. Edward Phelps, Director of the OPS' Office of Price Operations, the immediate program of OPS is "to build quickly a more stabilized price structure to guard the nation against the heavier inflationary pressures anticipated in the winter and spring."

Those dealers, who are in the fresh and frozen fish trade, know that fresh and frozen fish and shell-fish are exempt from price control. At the present time canners of fish or shell-fish know that most canned fish items are controlled under CPR 22, except canned salmon and canned Maine sardines. These last two items mentioned are now under individual regulations setting dollars-and-cents ceilings.

Probably the question in the minds of the industry is what it has to look