

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

forward to in the matter of price controls and its relationships with OPS. What would apply to the Southeastern states would also apply to the entire country. This question can best be answered by quoting again a recent OPS press release, dated October 22nd. Mr. Michael DiSalle sent a memorandum to the Office of Price Operations and declared "Our objective must be to keep from increasing prices and to reduce them wherever possible. Any increase should be the exception rather than the rule and I will not sign any regulations increasing prices past GCPR levels unless accompanied by the fullest kind of economic justification." This memorandum answers the canners' questions to a great extent.

As to fresh and frozen shell-fish, the Fish Section of OPS has kept running weekly charts of country-wide price fluctuations of the most important species of fish. With the few exceptions, and considering seasonal variations, prices are below those prevailing during the GCPR freeze period, December 19, 1950 to January 25, 1951.

If these prices are exceeded, there is every indication that ceilings will be imposed in the case of fresh fish and re-imposed in the case of frozen fish. This might be a rather strong unofficial statement, but in a general way this is believed to represent the present thinking of OPS.

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## **What Are the Major Problems of the Fisheries?**

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PROBLEMS DO NOT EXIST IN NATURE apart from ourselves; they are merely states of our minds about things we desire or think we ought to do. They motivate and determine what we do. The effectiveness of our efforts in research in the fisheries therefore depends on what we consider the problems to be, or our choice from all the things that we might be doing of those which will yield the greatest values.

The chief problem of the fisheries expressed in the broadest terms, is: What can science do to enlarge the contribution of the fisheries to human wealth and welfare?

It must be admitted that science has done very little to make the fisheries more productive in comparison with what it has done for agriculture. Agriculture has always been regarded as a source of wealth to be promoted in efficiency and productivity by every possible means, while the fisheries have been considered to be in danger of exhaustion and not to be promoted in efficiency but to be protected, conserved, restricted and hampered. The consequences, at least in part, of these two opposite public attitudes are easily seen in the comparative performances of fisheries and agriculture. The great increase in the human population of the earth in the past two centuries has been made possible by the enormously increased productivity of agriculture, resulting from improvements in fertilization and irrigation of the soil; scientific selection, transplantation, acclimation and genetic improvement of plants and animals; control of pests and diseases; grafting and budding of trees; animal nutrition; incubation of eggs; battery production of poultry; mechanization of work; storage and refrigeration of produce, statistical services, etc. In the United States in 160 years the portion of the population necessarily devoted to agriculture to provide the food, fibers, etc., has dropped from 96 to 23 per