

- c. Analysis of accomplishment and delineation of areas in which we are lacking in knowledge.
2. Enumeration of the most profitable fields of research and establishment of plainly stated objectives for future research.
3. Assessment of the research facilities in terms of personnel and material and the organization of the research agencies into a co-operative organization.

Summary of Significant Economic Trends in the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries

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In the highlights from each of the five papers presented in the Economic Session of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, the stress on distribution problems in fishery economics is noteworthy.

The Netherlands Antilles' fishery was discussed by a representative of the Home Government. At present, local fish production is insufficient to meet the needs of the 164,000 natives, which required importation of 4½ million pounds of fish in 1950. Economic factors inhibiting the execution of plans to develop this fishery are: lack of cold storage and other facilities, insufficient purchasing power, and the shortage of skilled labor due to the availability of oil refinery employment.

The Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida is currently engaged in research on the effects of present marketing methods of Florida fisheries on the costs of fisheries products, on market prices, and on consumer acceptance. The objective will be to furnish members of the industry with facts relevant to the present marketing situation and the associated problems. A preliminary survey of Florida fishery operations reveals marketing practices that do not accord with modern merchandising practices. The extent to which modifications may be feasible from the firm and industry point of view cannot be ascertained until more facts about the situation have been assembled. The discussion following this paper referred to the potential danger of overlapping market studies by universities and government agencies.

In October of 1951, the Fish and Wildlife Service, in conjunction with a private market research firm, surveyed 2,473 United States households to determine their preference for fish and shellfish. These households were a representative sample of all United States households. Fifty-two questions, some with sub-parts, were asked the respondents in these households, in considerable detail, about various preferences for fish and shellfish. The relative use of the principal types of fishery products by region and in total for the United States is presented in this paper. Further information with respect to species important to the Southern region is given on such questions as species used, season and day used, likes and dislikes, with respect to various types of fishery products, etc. The paper was read by A. W. Anderson, Chief, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who defended Mr. Stolting's findings in an animated discussion.

The paper on fish prices reviewed the relatively few studies that have been made on the factors determining the price of fish. Attempts were made to

enumerate these factors by Eunice M. Werner, William C. Herrington, and Harden F. Taylor. Miss Werner compared the interrelation of controlled and uncontrolled fish prices during World War II, and Mr. Herrington compared the interrelation of production and prices in New England, 1930-1944. Mr. Taylor compared the value of fish production and the national income, 1920-1940. The results of more recent studies on the prices of fish and the degree of correlation were presented.

The author of the paper read at the Institute meeting found that on the basis of correlation analysis, factors other than volume of catch play an important part in determining the price of fish. Significant coefficients of correlation were obtained for the average annual prices of various species of groundfish and measures of personal income. The discussion referred to specific Florida price developments, as for example, in the mullet fishery and to price relationships concerning producing and marketing areas.

The "exempt" truck is an important factor in the economical transportation of fishery products. The private truckers are exempted from the provision of the Interstate Commerce Act when transporting basic agricultural commodities, and fresh and frozen fish. Pressures are being brought to bear that would seek to remove these exemptions, or at least restrict them. The combination of pending collateral matters - litigation and legislation principally - affecting the fisheries industry, if culminating unfavorably, could well create as a final result either the increase in transportation charges or a diminution of services and/or the narrowing of marketing areas for the fisheries industry.

Summary of Caribbean and General Session

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In the discussion period following the paper by Mary Schulman on "A Suggested Reorganization of Florida Fishery Laws" several points were brought up. It was pointed out that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission looks forward to the simplification of the fishery laws of all the Gulf States. In answer to questions, Miss Schulman stated that it was proposed to repeal all the general and local laws and re-enact new ones. While no checks existed on the legislature to prevent the passing of foolish laws, Mary Schulman felt that the legislature tended to follow the recommendations suggested by the several Boards; further, the only way to get power from the Boards was by legislation.

It was the general feeling that there existed too many local laws which were difficult to police and which in fact often served no useful purpose, even when controlled. It was also felt that the time could not be long delayed when a complete review and revision of all legal matters would have to occupy the attention of the several Boards and the legal officers of the state.

Following his paper, "Computed Ocean Currents in the Gulf of Mexico", Dr. D. F. Leipper was asked whether there was any chance of work on currents being extended to the southern Caribbean area. Dr. Leipper replied that much depended on first having a ship available for a year, but he himself would very much like to have the opportunity of covering the area.

Questioned whether the seasonal depletion at the west end of Cuba had