

## FRESH AND FROZEN FISH

Exports of fresh and frozen fish during 1956 reached a value of \$78 million, a considerable jump over the previous year, as supplies from the Atlantic, Pacific and inland fisheries continued to increase. Demand was also strong in the domestic market and it is expected that sales will rise, thanks to innovations introduced during the year to improve the keeping quality of fish.

The Canadian fishing industry has received official approval for the use of antibiotics as a preservative in extending the freshness of fresh fish. The greatest benefit comes from the use of these wonder drugs in the ice with which the fish are refrigerated at sea. In the United States, official approval of antibiotics for use with fresh fish has not yet been granted, although they are being employed in the distribution of fresh poultry there.

Imports into the United States of fresh and frozen groundfish fillets and blocks (cod and related species as well as ocean perch) from all sources in 1956 reached a new high of 138.6 million pounds in comparison with 130.1 million pounds in the previous year. Canada, with sales of 99.4 million pounds (or 72 per cent of the total) was the leading supplier. Iceland was our strongest competitor with 27.1 million pounds, and Norway, Denmark, and West Germany also shipped fair quantities. However, with the settlement of the Icelandic-United Kingdom fisheries dispute last November and the signing of a new trade agreement between Soviet Russia and Iceland for the shipping of increased supplies of Icelandic frozen fillets to the USSR, strong demand for Canadian fish in the United States market should continue. Under the new trade agreement between Iceland and Russia effective for three years from January 1, 1957, annual exports from Iceland to Russia will include 32,000 tons of quick frozen fillets, 15,000 tons of salted herring, and 1,000 tons of quick frozen herring.

Although production of fish sticks in the United States was lower than in the previous year, exports of Canadian frozen blocked fish for fish-stick manufacture remained about the same as in 1955. The introduction of voluntary continuous in-plant inspection and grading of fish sticks in the United States is expected to encourage stronger consumer demand for this product. Prohibitive tariffs of 20 and 30 per cent on uncooked and cooked fish sticks respectively prevent Canadian producers from exporting them to the United States....

## CANNED FISH AND SHELLFISH

Exports of canned fish during 1956 totalled some 45.5 million pounds valued at \$17.4 million, as against 56.6 million pounds worth \$18.2 million in 1955.

In British Columbia the salmon pack was the smallest since 1944--only 1.1 million cases compared with 1.4 million in 1955. The sockeye pack was larger but the pink and chum output, particularly the latter, was poor. It was the low cycle year for pink salmon but a much larger pack of chum salmon was expected. Some of the chum catch was shipped to the United States in the fresh and frozen forms. World demand for West Coast salmon was keen and the packers endeavoured to supply the needs of traditional markets. The United Kingdom authorities announced an allocation of 3.3 million pounds for c.i.f. imports of canned salmon from North America, the same as in 1955. The United States, New Zealand, Belgium and the Netherlands purchased significant quantities, and so did the various colonies in the British West Indies which were free of dollar restrictions. Australia and Italy once again provided allocations for canned salmon from Canada. The 1957 salmon pack is expected to be substantially larger than last year and may correspond more closely to the 1953 cycle, which produced over 1.8 million cases. Indications are that there should be a good sockeye run in the Fraser River and a good pink catch in southern British Columbia.

An encouraging feature was the larger 1956 pack of canned sardines; at 837 thousand cases, it was almost double the 1955 output. A few markets were still restricting imports of sardines from the dollar area for currency reasons. However, important quantities were shipped to Jamaica, South Africa, Trinidad, Cuba, British Guiana, Dominican Republic, Panama, Barbados, and New Zealand.

The lobster catch was larger in 1956. More of it was canned than in 1955 and the value of exports of lobster in the shell also increased. The United Kingdom Token Import Plan for the import of Canadian canned lobster and paste, based on a past pattern of trade, was still operating. The United States took almost all the fresh and frozen lobster available and a large quantity of canned. Sweden, Belgium, West Germany, the Netherlands, and Switzerland were other markets.

## FISHERIES EXHIBITS

Canadian exporters of fisheries products continue to take advantage of the facilities and services provided by the Department of Trade and Commerce for displaying fisheries products at international trade fairs, particularly in Europe. During 1957 fish will be among the products exhibited in Brussels and Vienna and in New York City. The display in the Canadian Showroom at Rockefeller Center will include all forms and types of fish: fresh, frozen, smoked, dried, salted, pickled, and canned, plus several byproducts. The exhibit should attract the keen interest of not only United States importers and consumers but also representatives of foreign governments and purchasing missions in the New York area....