

The following points have been kept in view in this examination:

1. The soundness and quality of the fish.
2. The corrosion or other spoiling of the container (tin.)
3. Net weight of contents, total.
4. Net weight of contents, solid.

Salmon.—Out of a total of 275 samples, our inspectors have purchased 166 samples of Salmon; indicating that this is by far the kind of fish most in evidence. 138 of these samples represent what are generally assumed to be one pound tins; 28 samples represent nominal half pound tins.

Of the samples contained in 1 pound tins, 110 are sound and good; 7 show softened and more or less disintegrated flesh, but nothing to indicate decomposition. These samples are probably several years old. Three samples are spoiled by decay. In 1 sample the tin is slightly corroded, and the contents stained with iron. These, like those showing softened flesh, are presumably several years old.

Of samples contained in half pound tins, 26 were found to be in good condition. 2 samples showed more or less corrosion of the container, but the contents were good.

The net weight contents of these tins is fairly satisfactory, approximating 16 to 17 ounces in the nominal one pound tins, and 8 to 9 ounces in the half pound size.

If, however, the drained solids are considered, while these approximate 14 ounces in most samples, the variation in weight is noteworthy. Thus:

For nominal 1 pound tins.

Samples containing more than 14 ounces.....	26
“ “ 13 “	63
“ “ 12 “	39
“ “ 11 “	10
Total	138

For nominal ½ pound tins.

Samples containing more than 8 ounces.....	2
“ “ 7 “	14
“ “ 6 “	11
“ “ 5 “	1
Total	28

The excess net weight, above the solids, is of course water. Inevitably more or less water must be present, and this averages about 3½ ounces for the one pound tins and about 2 ounces for the half pound tins. I think it desirable that any statements of weight of contents should refer definitely to the solid contents only, which alone have actual value to the consumer.

Sardines.—39 samples are reported. Of this number, 28 were found to be in good condition. In one case only were the contents spoiled by decay. In 10 samples the tin container was more or less attacked, but the contents were sound. These samples are presumably old stock.

Herring.—Of 20 samples examined, 14 were found to be in good condition. In 6 samples, the tin container was more or less blackened; but the contents were sound.

These fish unlike the salmon are not packed in containers of approximately uniform size. The dry solids vary all the way from 2 ounces to more than 16 ounces in quantity. It is greatly to be desired that containers of 1 pound and ½ pound size should be employed in packing herring, as well as salmon.

Lobsters.—Nine samples were examined and all were found to be in good