

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1966

ECONOMIC REVIEW OF THE USSR FISHING INDUSTRY

The fleets of the USSR fishing industry conduct catching of fish sea mammals and non-fishery objects both in high seas and in inland reservoirs (inland seas, lakes, rivers, water bodies, ponds).

Table 1. Distribution of fisheries of the USSR in 1965 by fishing areas

Fishing Area	: thous. tons	: %
Northeast Atlantic	967.83	19.50
Northwest Atlantic	873.15	17.55
West Central Atlantic	17.34	0.35
East Central Atlantic	80.65	1.60
Sotheast Atlantic	355.77	7.10
Northwest Indian Ocean	35.09	0.70
Black and Azov Seas	179.75	3.60
North Pacific	1821.60	36.60
Total for sea areas	4331.18	87.00
Caspian Sea	358.20	7.20
Other inland water bodies	290.13	5.80
Total for inland water bodies	648.33	13.00
Grand total for the USSR	4979.51	100.00

The Soviet fishermen are operating off the shores of many countries of the world and their activities are based on the principles of all kind of respect for the rights of those states near the shores of which the Soviet vessels are operating. In 1964 the total catch of our country in the Northwest Atlantic amounted up to 617000 tons of fish whereas in 1965 it grew up to 853000 tons. The increase of the total catch is considerable, especially if one takes into account the fact that in 1965 the total catch was only 17000 tons. But even this substantial increase of catches affects a little the traditionally established basis of cod fishery in this area.

Table 2. The USSR share in catch of the main commercial fishes
in north-west Atlantic in 1964 (in percentage)

Cod	10.6
Haddock	9.2
Redfish	20.7
Silver hake	82.1
Herring	44.0
Demersal fish	19.7
Share in the total catch in north-west Atlantic	10.9

In 1964 the share of the Soviet fishery in the catches of gadoid species in the ICNAF area was negligible. At the same time the USSR share in catches of species like silver hake and herring is increasing; these fishes are relatively less valuable for those countries the vessels of which are conducting traditional fishery in this area.

The Soviet fishery is carried out on scientific basis with application of the up-to-date commercial fishing technique. The fishing fleet is the base of material and technical supply of the fishery industry.

In 1965 the catch of fish, sea mammals, whales and nonfishery objects in our country made up 5.8 million tons out of which the catch by the deep sea fleet equalled to 5.1 million tons or 88% of the total catch.

The Soviet fishing fleet comprises vessels of different types.

During 1940-1965 the powered fleet of the USSR fishing industry increased 3.1 times in its number whereas the engine capacity became 11 times as higher.

The fleet is expanded mostly for the account of large ships of greater power.

The fleet includes large factory trawlers (BMRT) of "Pushkin", "Mayakovsky", "Leskov" types; refrigerated trawlers of "Tropic" type; herring mother ships, smaller refrigerated trawlers and fish carriers, etc.

Conduct of herring fishery in the North Atlantic required the construction of a new type of a fishing vessel capable to operate in the open ocean at a far distance from the shore bases. Building of middle-sized trawlers (SRT) supplied and attended by large factory ships on the high sea has solved that problem. All the vessels of this type constructed in the course of last 8-10 years are furnished with freezing installations. A basic trend in modern development of fishing technology in our country is that purely fishing operations are combined with fish processing on board the catcher boat.

The application of cold allows to solve a problem of preserving large catches, to increase sharply the production of chilled and frozen round fish and fillet, to improve the supply of raw fish for canneries and consequently to increase the output of canned and semi-preserved fish commodities, to reduce a seasonal character of work of fish canning plants and to increase the production of fish products of top quality (slightly salted herring and salmon, caviar, hot-smoked fish, delicatessens etc.)

During 1940-1965 of freezers increased more than 12 times and capacity of cold storage almost 20 times.

There was noted a tendency of higher growth rate of power of vessel's freezers as compared with inland ones.

Due to technical progress in fish-freezing machinery the ultimate temperature of freezing can now be lowered upto minus 18 to 25°C and even lower (as compared with -6°C originally obtained) and freezing time can be reduced from 24 to 72 hours upto 2 to 5 hours.

In 1965 about 90% of fish brought for freezing was treated with applying quick-freezing method.

Fishing industry manufactures considerable quantities of non-food products - fish meal, oil, vitamin, extracts, agar-agar, agaroid, glue and others.

In the USSR fish meal is produced from fish waste and non-valuable species. Fishing industry manufactures a large variety of products this list comprises of more than 700 names, including about 200 kinds of canned commodities. Such a large variety of fish products can be attributed firstly to the fact that fresh water and marine reservoirs of the USSR are inhabited by more than 250 species of commercial fish and secondly that various methods of fish processing are applied - chilling, freezing, canning, smoking, salting, curing etc.

In 1965 the out put of frozen and chilled fish products increased 7 times as compared with 1950 and now it makes up over 60% of all food production.

The manufacture of salted fish (except herring) was reduced 2.3 times, and at present it makes up less than 10% of all food fish production.

The present target of the Soviet food industry is to meet fully ever-increasing demands of the population for food products including fishery ones during the five-year period (1966-1970)