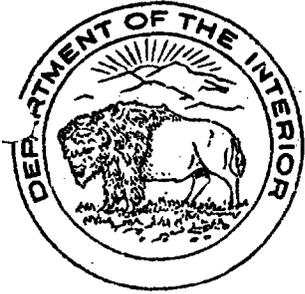


Office Memorandum
5-12-45



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Release to PM's, FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1945.

An order providing for the allocation among dealers of all Pacific halibut landed at Pacific coast ports of the United States and Alaska was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The order becomes effective immediately, and will be administered by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries.

Allocation of Pacific halibut was first undertaken by the Coordinator's Office in 1944, when it became apparent that the selling of halibut by auction or competitive bidding was no longer feasible under price control.

The present order constitutes an amendment of the 1944 allocation order, several changes being made to afford better administration, more effectively prevent black market dealings, and secure better distribution of halibut to consuming centers.

The major changes provided in the order announced today by Secretary Ickes concern the method of allocation of halibut landings among dealers on the Pacific coast, and the conditioning of permits to insure normal distribution to inland markets.

Last year, landings of halibut were allocated among dealers in each port according to the percentage of the total landings at that port handled by each dealer in a previous period, selected as the base. The order as now amended provides for allocation to each dealer in accordance with his respective shares, during the base years, in the entire halibut business of the whole coast, regardless of where the fish are landed.

This system of allocation on an over-all basis was recommended by the industry and is expected to result in more normal distribution to consuming centers, and to protect dealers from the effects of shifts of landings from port to port.

As an additional aid to securing equitable distribution of halibut to inland markets, conditions or limitations may be attached to permits which will encourage normal distribution through the usual trade outlets, and will also aid in satisfying Army demands for halibut. Last year, many inland dealers complained that they were unable to get their normal supplies of halibut because the coastal dealers sought new customers wherever the change was advantageous. The amendment authorizing conditioning of permits is aimed toward correction of this condition.

Other minor changes have been made in the original order in the interest of clarity and better administration.

As in 1944, no person or firm may purchase halibut from fishermen or their agents without a permit issued by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries in Seattle. Any person who operated as a halibut dealer in 1941, 1942, or 1943 prior to July 13, or who had a permit to operate in 1944, will be issued a permit on

(over)

request. Denial of a permit for cause is subject to appeal. Persons who desire to enter the halibut business will be issued permits unless the Coordinator's Office believes that such issuance "would be contrary to any of the provisions of this order or would interfere with the purposes of this order," but the shares allocated to dealers new to the business will be limited.

Although violation of the order will carry stringent penalties under the Second War Powers Act, ample provision is made for appeals and petitions for relief by any person who finds that compliance with the order imposes an unreasonable burden upon him.

Victor J. Samson, Area Coordinator, 230 Bell Street Dock, Seattle 1, Washington, will administer the allocation order.

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