



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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DEFENSE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION

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FISHERY ADVISORY GROUP MEETS WITH DFA OFFICIALS

Declaring that "food is as essential as guns in the mobilization program, and fish is an important segment of food," Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman opened a two-day meeting in Washington, D. C., on April 16, of representatives of the commercial fishing industry who were called to Washington to confer with officials of the Defense Fisheries Administration and other Government agencies.

The meeting was held in the Department of the Interior building under the joint auspices of the Defense Fisheries Administration of the Department of the Interior, the Office of Price Stabilization, and the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of exchanging information and discussing problems of maintaining a high production of seafood despite shortages of materials and manpower.

Established recently as the Industry Advisory Committee for Fresh and Frozen Fish by the three Government agencies, the industry members are representative vessel owners and wholesale fish dealers from all the important fish-producing areas of the country who deal principally with fish in the fresh and frozen stages.

The morning meeting was devoted to production problems and was presided over by Maurice Rattray, Deputy Administrator of DFA.

F. Marion Rhodes, Director, Office of Requirements and Allocations, PMA, Department of Agriculture, discussed the general agriculture situation and the program being followed as a means to increase production of most agricultural commodities.

George A. Baxter, Chief, Perishables Section, Subsistence Branch, Office of Quartermaster General, examined the possible military requirements for fish during the coming year.

Lewis D. Barton, Industry Relations, Employment Service, Department of Labor, talked on the present aspects of the manpower situation.

Col. Lewis F. Kosch, Chief, Manpower Division, National Headquarters, Selective Service System, spoke on the function of the Selective Service System and the possibilities of obtaining deferments for fishermen in critical occupations.

Curtis Aller, Chief, Policy Appraisal Branch, Wage Stabilization Board, explained methods of adjusting wage rates controlled under the January 25 freeze order.

Edward A. Power, Chief, Branch of Material Facilities, DFA, discussed shortages of materials and priorities assistance, as well as the possible impact of a CMP on the fishing industry.

A. W. Anderson, Chief, Branch of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed the probability of increased imports of many varieties of fish.

The afternoon meeting was held under the auspices of the Office of Price Stabilization with Alger Pike, Chief of its Fish Section, serving as chairman, and was devoted to price controls on fresh and frozen fish.

The following members of the Industry Advisory Committee for Fresh and Frozen Fish attended the meeting: Irving Usen, president of O'Donnell-Usen Fisheries, Boston, Mass.; Captain John G. Murley, Fairhaven, Mass.; Frank W. Wilkisson, president of Frank W. Wilkisson, Inc., New York, N. Y.; Harry L. Claxton, president, R. W. Claxton, Inc., Washington, D. C.; J. S. Darling, president, J. S. Darling and Son, Hampton, Va.; Francis Wm. Taylor, president, Warren Fish Company, Inc., Pensacola, Fla.; A. B. Chauvin, secretary, Chauvin Bros., Inc., Houma, La.; Will L. Hardee, president, W. L. Hardee Shrimp Co., Brownsville, Tex.; Lionel Shatz, secretary-treasurer, A. Paladini, Inc., San Francisco, Calif.; Henry A. Goodrich, vice president, New England Fish Company, Seattle, Wash.; Dudley Turnacliff, manager, Yaquina Bay Fish Company, Newport, Oreg.; E. A. Ruthford, vice president, San Juan Fishing and Packing Company, Seattle, Wash.; O. L. Carr, president, Mid-Central Fish Company, Kansas City, Mo.; R. P. Fletcher, Jr., president, Booth Fisheries Corp., Chicago, Ill.; Arthur Jarrell, president, Jarrell and Rea, Pittsburgh, Pa.; John DelTorchio, president, Cape Ann Fisheries, Inc., Gloucester, Mass.; H. N. Stevens, sales and advertising manager, 40-Fathom, Birdseye Division, General Foods Corp., Boston, Mass. Two Committee members, J. W. Mendenhall, manager, Ketchikan Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ketchikan, Alaska; and Roy Jensen, Jensen and Jensen Food Market, Escanaba, Mich.; were unable to attend the meeting.

Invited as guests because of their close association with the fishing industry were: Robert Tyson, Chief, Special Commodities Branch, Food and Agriculture Division, ECA; Dr. Wilbert M. Chapman, special assistant to the Under Secretary of State; Charles Carry, director, Fishery Products Division, National Cannery Association; Charles E. Jackson, general manager, and Raymond E. Steele, general counsel, National Fisheries Institute, George L. Prichard, director, Fats and Oils Branch, P&MA, Department of Agriculture; and Charles Carter, fisheries specialist, Tariff Commission.

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