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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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DEFENSE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATOR

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CANNERS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS MEET WITH DEFENSE OFFICIALS

Ways and means of solving shortages of manpower and materials now facing the canners of fishery products on the East and Gulf Coasts were discussed at a meeting in Washington on May 7 when industry representatives met with officials of the Defense Fisheries Administration and other defense agencies.

The second in a series of Government-fishing industry meetings, the fish canners constitute the Industry Advisory Committee for East Coast and Gulf Canned Fish named recently by the Defense Fisheries Administration of the Department of the Interior, the Office of Price Stabilization, and the Department of Agriculture. The meeting was held in the Department of the Interior building under the joint auspices of the three agencies.

At the conclusion of the opening remarks made by Albert M. Day, Administrator of the Defense Fisheries Administration, Maurice Rattray, Deputy Administrator, took over the discussion of production problems at the morning session which was devoted primarily to the canning of Maine sardines. An estimated pack of 2½ million cases of Maine sardines was predicted for the 1951 season. The record pack of 3.8 million cases of this wholesome and relatively cheap food product was achieved in 1950. How the fishing industry might fare under the Controlled Materials Plan, if adopted, was also explained by DEA officials.

The same group, in the afternoon, discussed price control difficulties with Alger Pike, Chief, Fish Section, OPS, presiding.

The following members of the Industry Advisory Committee for Coast and Gulf Canned Fish attended the meeting: Fritz Bundy, president, Gorton-Pew Fisheries Co. Ltd., Gloucester, Mass.; George T. Harrison, president, Tilghman Packing Company, Tilghman, Md.; Andrew L. Haskins, president, Haskins Canning Corporation, Lubec, Maine; G. A. Lawrence, president, Belfast Packing Company, Belfast, Maine; M. B. Pike, treasurer, Holmes Packing Corporation, Eastport, Maine; H. R. Robinson, vice-president, Robinson Canning Co., Inc., New Orleans, La.; George C. Seybolt, secretary, William Underwood Company, Watertown, Mass.; and Milroy Warren, treasurer, R. J. Peacock Canning Company, Lubec, Maine. Four other Committee members were unable to attend the meeting: Frank Lawrence, treasurer, North Lubec Mfg. & Canning Co., North Lubec, Maine; Sterling Harris, president, Blue Channel Corporation, Beaufort, S. C.; Julian McPhillips, Southern Shell Fish Co., Inc., Harvey, La.; and Reginald H. Sewell, DeJean Packing Co., Biloxi, Miss.

The majority of the members in attendance at the meeting arranged to stay over in Washington to attend the joint defense council called by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman for May 9. Interior Department defense agencies and advisory committees heard vital aspects of the national emergency production job discussed by President Truman, Defense Mobilization Administrator Charles E. Wilson, and National Production Authority Administrator Manly Fleischmann.