

Report on the Symposium on Canadian Marine Oils

A symposium, the "Developments in the Production and Utilization of Marine Oils in Canada" was held in Ottawa on Oct. 11, 1966. The symposium was organized by the Associate Committee on Fats and Oils of the National Research Council of Canada with the collaboration of the Canada Department of Industry and the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

The opening paper by R. G. Ackman, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Halifax, reviewed the fatty acid compositions of most commercial marine oils with emphasis on their basic similarity. The differing properties of these oils were explained in terms of the interrelationships between a few of the longer-chain monounsaturated fatty acids and two or three long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids. L. G. Rupert, Department of Industry, Ottawa, presented the most recent production figures for oilseeds and marine oils in Canada. Particular attention was drawn to a shift in dates for the production figures shown in the July, 1966 issue of "Fats and Oils in Canada." In this and subsequent July issues production statistics will be given for the calendar year January-December, and January issues will give production statistics for the oilseeds crop year of August-July. The major recent change in the marine oils position in Canada was shown as an increase in Atlantic coast herring oil production. Preliminary figures showed a production of 6.5 million pounds for the period January-July in 1966, as against 7.1 million pounds for all of 1965. The Pacific coast herring fishery was discussed from the producers' point of view by K. Andrews of British Columbia Packers, Vancouver. Modernization of techniques for catching, handling and processing herring for meal and oil have led to improvements in product quality. The government regulations and quota system affecting this regional industry were outlined by C. R. Levelton, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa, with the aims shown to be not only exploitation of the herring stocks for a maximum sustained yield but also to minimize inadvertent interference with migrating salmon. The large scale expansion of the herring industry on the Atlantic coast is not as yet particularly affected by restrictions, and P. M. Jangaard, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Halifax, showed that the landings of Atlantic herring had increased from 142,000 metric tons in 1964 to 183,000 tons in 1965. The siting of new plants throughout the Atlantic provinces and the introduction of purse-seining were reviewed. The potential high quality of Atlantic coast herring oils drew favorable comment and considerable interest was shown in the availability of low (100-125) iodine value oils.

The production of marine mammal oil in Canada, some 7 million pounds per annum, was discussed by E. B. Young, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa. The outlook for continued profitable whaling in the North Pacific was considered poor but in the Atlantic a limited expansion of the present industry for large baleen whales was taking place with a favorable long-term outlook. Sperm whales and several species of smaller whales could also be valuable resources. The sealing industry contributes substantially to production of mammal oil (about 2 million pounds per annum) and is currently the subject of government conservation measures and international negotiation to assure a continued successful industry.

"Fish Oils and Poultry Rations," the topic of J. Biely, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, reviewed the advantages of marine oils as ration additives or residues in fish meals. The addition of antioxidants to fish meals promotes the utilization of this valuable energy source and also facilitates bulk handling of the meal with associated economic advantages. The potential drawback of "fishy" flavor in fowl and hogs fed excessively high levels of marine products were discussed and suggested as areas where research was needed. The factor of price as a deterrent to wider nonedible use of marine oils was emphasized by D. Hey, Harchem Ltd., Toronto. The origin and current status of the joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius

was outlined by R.P.A. Sims, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, although no individual marine oil was traded internationally in sufficient quantities (>0.5 million metric tons per annum) to qualify for international standards. Dr. Sims presented a new method of characterizing oils based on *exclusion* of certain characteristics through a simple gas-liquid chromatographic analysis. This was described as more specific than the conventional properties of oils currently the basis of commercial practice.

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion on "Problems in the Edible Utilization of Marine Oils," chaired by L. G. Rupert. The panelists were: R. B. Mitchell, Lever Bros.; D. F. Chalmers, Procter and Gamble; D. Brown and J. Ward, Monarch Fine Foods; E. E. Russell, Swift Canadian; and B. Teasdale and P. Ziegler, Canada Packers. The presentations of the panelists and the subsequent discussion included current purchase standards, consumer acceptance, refining and hydrogenation technology and problems and other factors governing utilization of marine oils. It was generally agreed that present marine oil qualities were adequate, but that some improvement in quality, and greater uniformity of product, perhaps promoted by organization of the producers, would greatly improve the competitive position of marine oil in the edible foods industry. Processing and product stability were not regarded as serious problems but were suggested as areas where research was needed.

R. G. ACKMAN
Symposium Chairman

ASTM Reviews Needs in Detergent Standards and Test Methods

The annual meeting of Committee D-12 took place Nov. 28-29, 1966 at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel, New York City.

Moderator of the opening forum, "Needs in Detergent Standards and Test Methods," was J. C. Harris (1944), former chairman of Committee D-12. Among the papers presented were: "Soap and Synthetic Detergent Analysis"; "Inorganic Alkaline Detergents, Analysis and Specifications"; "Evaluation Methods"; "Soap and Synthetic Detergent Specifications"; "Dry Cleaning Specifications and Materials Analysis"; "Biodegradability of Synthetic Detergents"; "Metal Analysis."

Second-day presentations included "Brighteners and Their Evaluation"; "Automation of Chemical Analysis"; "Automation of Chemical Analysis"; and "Since the Conversion from ABS to LAS."

Representatives of ASTM, the Federal Government, Consumers Associations, Commercial Testing Laboratories, Trade Press, and Producers were on hand, representing the different areas of interest in D-12 work.

Chairman of ASTM is William Stericker; Vice-Chairman, M. L. Mausner, Witco Chemical Co.; Secretary, J. B. Shapiro, Dixo Co.

NRA Convention Includes AOCs Speakers

Among the AOCs members contributing to the 33rd Annual Convention of the National Renderers Association in Washington, D. C. from Nov. 2-5 were E. S. Pattison (1951), manager of the Soap and Detergent Association, and D. M. Doty (1965), technical director of the Fats and Proteins Research Foundation.

Mr. Pattison discussed future trends in the soap industry, including the threat of synthetic fatty acids, detergent-based toilet soap, and the possibility of using more tallow in detergents. Mr. Doty took part in a panel discussion of current trends in industry.

The main topics under consideration by the convention were domestic soap and feed industry problems, poultry by-products in feed nutrition, the independent businessman, and foreign trade prospects.