



News of Norway

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Norway's Fisheries

Norway's coastline is extremely long; the distance from the North Cape to the southernmost point, Lindesnes, is the same as from Seattle to Los Angeles. Include the many fjords, and the total length of the coast is 2,040 miles. There are thousands of islands and islets, and the shallow fishing banks benefit by being in the path of the relatively warm Gulf Stream, which keeps harbors and fjords all the way to the Norwegian-Soviet border ice-free. This and other conditions make the Norwegian coast a rich fishing ground where many of the most important species of the North East Atlantic spawn and develop.

The Norwegians have fished these waters for many centuries. The Saga tells us that King Sverre, who lived around year 1100, built boathouses for the fishermen in the Lofoten Islands. Through the Middle Ages and nearly up to our time, stockfish (dried fish) from the Lofoten Islands and Finnmark was Norway's biggest export item, which paid for grains, fruits and other import goods. In recent years the total annual fish catch has been between 2 and 3 million tons, which is more than the total catch of the present Common Market. Fish and fish products still constitute as much as 15 percent of Norway's total exports of goods.

Up to our time, Norwegian fisheries have been concentrated along the coast and on the banks close to the coast. This fact has influenced both the composition of the fleet, fishing methods and settlement patterns along the coast. Traditionally, fishing has taken place with small and medium-sized boats owned by the fishermen themselves. The fishing fleet today consists of approximately 9,000 motor-powered boats with decks and a large number of smaller open motor boats which are used in local and seasonal fishing. Only some 500 vessels are larger than 100 feet. These are chiefly purse boats, trawlers and long-lining boats participating in the fisheries in the North Sea, the Barents Sea and near Iceland and Greenland. Settlement along the coast is generally either dispersed or concentrated in small fishing villages. Although the number has been declining, there are still some 50,000 fishermen in Norway. Approximately one-half live north of the Arctic Circle.

The local market is limited compared to the catch, and most of the fish is exported. Given the long distance to the

markets, the greater part of the raw material must be processed into storable products such as salted fish, stockfish, frozen fish and fish meal. This takes place at a number of relatively small processing plants along the entire coast. More than 100 freezing plants turn out frozen fish and an even greater number of firms produce stockfish and salted fish.

Many of the world's largest fishing nations, such as Japan, the Soviet Union and Korea, are populous nations which in themselves constitute markets large enough to consume all the fish that is caught. Norway, on the other hand, must seek markets abroad for its fish products. Except for Peru, which has developed an enormous export of fish meal, Norway is the world's largest exporter of fish products. The main items are frozen fish, canned fish, dried fish (stockfish), *klippfisk* (split, salted and dried cod) and fish meal. Approximately half of the exports go to Western Europe, where Great Britain is the largest single market. The present EEC takes some 20 percent of Norway's fish production. The United States is a large market, especially for frozen and canned fish; South America is a major market for *klippfisk* and West Africa for dried fish.

Low prices and difficult marketing conditions are familiar problems for Norwegian fish exporters. Recently, however, a new situation appears to be emerging on the world markets: fish is becoming a scarce item. This is partly a result of the rise in consumption which goes along with the increase in world population, partly of the over-exploitation of the resources of the sea. In the North East Atlantic and the North Sea the stocks of several of the most important species have been dramatically depleted in recent years. The cause, at least in part, is considered to be the much too heavy exploitation of these species. From a Norwegian point of view, this is an extremely serious development, since the population along the coast — especially in the arctic districts — is so strongly dependent on the fisheries.

As for EEC, Norway is interested in participating in the shaping of a joint European fisheries policy. The Norwegian view is that such a policy must consider the varied structural conditions within the fisheries in Europe. A major problem for Norway is the so-called structural policy of the Common Market, a main point of which is that citizens from the member countries shall have the right to fish within the

fisheries limits of any member country on an equal basis. It is feared in Norway that this would further decimate the stocks. It is also feared that the coastal fisheries in general would be hampered, with the result that the already limited opportunities in these areas would be further diminished and homes would have to be abandoned. Finding solutions to these and similar problems will be one of the most important questions in Norway's negotiations for membership in the EEC, now under way.

The marketing policy planned by the EEC in the area of fisheries does not present similar problems. The basic philosophy behind the marketing arrangements is well understood in Norway, and it is agreed in principle that measures to create greater market stability are in order.

A number of new conditions will arise if Norway and the other applicant nations become members of the EEC. From being a deficit area with a substantial net import need for fish, the Common Market will be a fish surplus area, with a considerable net export of fish products such as frozen, dried and canned fish and *klippfisk*. After the expansion, the Common Market's export of such products would to a large extent come from Norway, which would be unable to sell all of its export surplus within the EEC.

These changes in the supply situation for fish products in the EEC must have consequences for the shaping of its joint fisheries policy; among other things, it will be necessary to make some adjustments in the market regulations currently in effect within the EEC. Such adjustments will also contribute towards maintaining market stability.

It is against this background that Norway considers it essential to be able to participate in the shaping of the joint fisheries policy of an expanded EEC.

Statistics of the 1970 Fisheries

The Norwegian fishing fleet in 1970 caught a total of 2,665,000 tons of fish, which represented an income of 1.3 billion kroner. The result was the second best ever recorded. The fish sold at considerably higher prices than in 1969. A record cod fish catch of 304,000 tons was landed by Norwegian vessels in 1970. The previous record of 293,000 tons dated back to 1912.

WINTER SPORTS

Norway's *speed skaters* opened the season by losing to the Dutch team at Oslo's Frogner Stadium on December 19-20. In the traditional New Year's Meet, also in Oslo, Sten Stensen won the 10,000 meter event, but placed fourth after four events, behind Jan Bols of the Netherlands, Göran Claeson of Sweden and Ard Schenk of the Netherlands. Magne Thomassen won the Norwegian Sprint Championships in Gjøvik on January 9-10, with Ivar Eriksen setting a new Norwegian record on the 500 meters: 40.0 seconds. Lisbeth Berg won the women's championship. On January 16-17 in Moss, Dag Fornæss won the National speed skating crown for the third time by placing 4th on the 500 and 5,000 meter events, winning the 1,500 meter and placing 3rd in the 10,000 meter competition. Roar Grønvold was second after the four events, followed by Sten Stensen, Per Willy Guttormsen and Magne Thomassen. Lisbeth Berg again won the Women's Competition.

In *cross-country skiing*, Norway's Pål Tyldum won the annual *Monolittrennet*, a race held in the Vigeland sculpture park in Oslo. Finland's Juha Mieto was second, followed by Odd Martinsen and Oddvar Brå. Martinsen was just back from the United States, where he won the 15 kilometer race in the annual Kennedy Memorial Winter Games at Lake Placid, N.Y., as well as the other five races in which he started during his two-week visit. In Italy, Norway's Johs Harviken won an international 30 kilometer race before Sweden's Svend Lundback and with Ole Ellefsæter in fourth place. Harviken also won a 10 kilometer race before returning to Norway. On January 16 in Le Brassus, Switzerland, Audun Nerland won second place in a 15 kilometer competition behind Sweden's Benny Sodergren.

"Song Of Norway" Biggest Moneymaker In 1970

Moviegoers in Oslo spent 23.3 million kroner last year, the highest total box office receipt ever recorded by the movie theaters of the capital. The four top movies at the box office were all American, with "Song of Norway" grossing more than 1 million kroner despite opening as late as November 4 (see "News of Norway" No. 20, 1970). The second biggest moneymaker was "Paint Your Wagon", followed by "M.A.S.H." and "Hello Dolly". Two Norwegian films were next on the Top Twenty list.

The list included thirteen American films, one Danish, one British, one French/Italian, two Swedish and two Norwegian. The American dominance among the imported movies conforms with the traditional pattern; for many years, 46-47 percent of imported movies have been American-produced.

The State Film Control, a national film censorship board, banned 15 of 350 motion pictures viewed from being shown last year. Most of the banned films were deemed to be brutalizing.

December Political Gallup Poll

The last political Gallup Poll for 1970 showed that voter support for the four Government parties had decreased by 0.6 percent as compared to the previous month. The coalition parties had a total support of 46.1 percent in December, compared to 49.8 percent for the opposition Labor Party. The latter figure was the highest since the beginning of this type of poll. The figures were as follows:

	December 1970	November 1970	Elections 1969
Labor Party	49.8	49.4	46.5
Conservative Party	19.6	19.4	19.6
Christian People's Party	9.0	9.4	9.4
Center Party	10.5	10.8	10.5
Liberal Party	7.0	7.1	9.4
Communist Party	1.1	1.1	1.0
Socialist People's Party	3.0	2.8	3.5

NOTICE TO READERS

The Index to "News of Norway", Volume 27, Issues 1-22, 1970, is now available. Requests should be addressed to the Norwegian Embassy Information Service, 3401 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.