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HEADQUARTERS
ISLAND COMMAND, NAVY NO. 926,
FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

Serial: 01714.

Oct. 17, 1944.

From: The Island Commander.
To: The Commander Forward Area, Central Pacific.
Subject: Fishing Industry, Establishment of.
References: (a) IsCom General Order No. 4-44.
(b) OpNav 50E-20, "The Fishing Industry of the Japanese Mandated Islands."
(c) CinCPOA ltr Serial No. 001515 of 27 May 1944.
Enclosure: (A) Statistical tables of fish production in Japanese Mandated Islands.

1. Section IVFlc(e) of reference (a) lists as a function of Civil Affairs "to supply equipment for early development of fishing" and section IVFlB(a) states another function as being "to achieve basic food self-sufficiency through island production and contribute to the logistic support of the occupying forces."

2. Reference (b) suggests the employment of fishery experts in the Marianas, particularly those competent in tropical fishing, bonito and tuna operations, and the preservation of fish under tropical conditions, to proceed with a definite program for placing fishing operations on a systematic production basis.

3. That fish abound in the waters contiguous to Guam is well known. Remarkable potentialities for commercial fishing off Guam have been pointed out privately and officially in civilian and government periodicals over a period of years. Probably the most familiar commentators have been Edward Bryant, Jr. of Bishop Museum, Honolulu, whose studies and research on Guam have indicated vast fishing possibilities, and the annual reports of the Governor of Guam. Reference (b) estimates that one-tenth of the total known fish in the world inhabit the waters of the Mandated Islands.

4. With the exception of one venture by J. K. Shimizu in 1929/30, reported successful, fishing in Guam waters has been restricted to primitive subsistence methods. Natives have apparently had neither the stimulus nor financial backing for more ambitious undertakings and government has, in the past, been unable to subsidize commercial fishing on a large scale.

5. Fish taken by primitive means within the reefs are plentiful during certain periods of spring and fall when fish "runs" take place. Natives have been recently supplied with nets and tackle to assist in reef fishing, but refrigeration for preserving the catch and enabling it to be distributed over the island is not yet

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available. Lack of refrigeration in the past has prevented fish from becoming a part of the staple diet of all the natives, and now prevents successful distribution for native relief and of surpluses to troops.

6. Fresh fish could be added to the diet of natives and troops on the island throughout the year if personnel and equipment to exploit fishing banks within a 50 mile radius of Guam can be procured. With equipment and personnel recommended herein, it is estimated that a weekly take of 60,000 lbs. of edible fish, providing 120,000 people with two 4 oz. rations of fresh fish weekly, can be obtained.

7. Equipment needed and recommended for immediate procurement is:

- (a) Reefer boxes: Six reefers of 150 cu. ft. capacity were arranged for at Pearl Harbor in May. However, reference (c) withheld shipment of the reefers until word was sent from the field stating their need. Each reefer has a fish capacity of from 2 to 2 1/4 tons.
- (b) Boats: Three suitable boats for deep sea fishing are required to implement the program in the beginning. The boats should meet the following specifications:
 - 60' to 90' in length
 - 300/400 H.P.
 - Rigged for both purse seining and bait fishing, if practicable
 - Sea-worthy
 - Equipped with refrigeration facilities
- (c) Fishing Equipment: Purse seines, brailing nets, poles, hooks, fish, boxes, material for net-mending and making leaders, floats, lead and other equipment necessary to outfit the three boats mentioned in (b) above.

8. Personnel recommended and required, in addition to native crews which would be supplied locally, are:

- (a) Enlisted personnel: Boatswains Mates, Coxswains, Seamen, or Gunners' Mates, experienced in operation of deep sea fishing craft and who have had experience in commercial fishing. A total of nine men, three for each boat, is suggested.

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(b) Master-fishermen: A civilian with considerable experience of industrial fishing in tropical or semi-tropical waters. Arthur Rice, Jr., master-fisherman for Hawaiian Tuna Packers Ltd., Kewale Basin, Honolulu is thought to be available for a period of 6/8 months and is highly recommended. Mr. Rice's service would be valuable in training Quamanians in deep-sea fishing.

HENRY L. LARSEN

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The following tables are taken from "The Fishing Industry in the Japanese Mandated Islands", OPNAV 50E-20, 15 August 1944.
TABLE I - Fish Production (commercial fishin.) of Japanese Mandated Islands, 1937.

	CAROLINE ISLANDS				MARIANAS ISLANDS (Saipan district)		MARSHALL ISLANDS		TOTAL	Yen
	Palau District	Yap District	Ponape District	Truk District	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons		
Bonito.....	13,774.7		4,064.0	12,433.6	3,697.3	31.2	34,060.9	2,833,905		
Tuna.....	189.8		56.4	342.2	88.9	4.0	631.3	90,828		
Mackerels (1)•	7.0	1.3	24.5	40.5	14.5		87.8	26,808		
Gray mullet...	3.5		9.1		0.2		12.8	3,483		
Shark.....	5.9			9.7	5.8		21.4	1,775		
Other fish.....	33.9	15.3	24.5	102.7	156.5	11.1	344.0	96,624		
Shellfish(2)(3)								3,797,674		
Trepang	6.4		8.9	22.2	28.3		65.8	1,792		
Turtles			(2)		(2)		(2)	1,386		
Miscellaneous			(2)		(2)		(2)	250		
TOTAL	14,021.2	16.6	4,187.4	12,950.9	3,991.5	106.4	35,274.0	6,850,525		

- (1) In official statistics most of the mackerel is listed as "horse mackerel." The species are not, however, the same as the American horse mackerel.
- (2) Not reported by weight.
- (3) Taken primarily for shell.
- (4) Total omitting shellfish, turtles, and miscellaneous.
- (5) This figure derived by adding data presented in this table is slightly higher than the official figure given in table 1 ("The Fishing Industry in the Japanese Mandated Islands", OPNAV 50E-20, page 1), referring to value of fishery catches.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

TABLE II - Number of Boats Engaged in Commercial Fishing, Japanese Mandated Islands, 1937.

	POWER BOATS		Non-power boats, less than 5 tons	Total number of boats
	Less than 20 tons	More than 20 tons		
West Carolines:				
Palsu District	58	146	80	284
Yap District	-----	-----	7	7
East Carolines:				
Ponape District	14	1	51	66
Truk District	52	4	100	156
Marianas	36	4	89	129
Marshalls	-----	-----	2	2
TOTAL	160	155	329	644

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