

Global fish trade during the early 1900s with particular emphasis on salted fish

- Annual world catch of fish amounts about 40,000 million pounds, two-thirds of which is utilized for food.
- More than 20% of the world catch enters into international trade as salted fish, canned fish, fish meal, fish oils, and vitamin products.
- Salted cod and related species is a key fish product in the international trade.
- Salted fish is a low-priced concentrated protein which is necessary to the diet of people especially who live in hot countries.
- Since 1929, the price of salted fish declined until the outbreak of World War II. Hence, most producing countries had to support fishermen by subsidies.

Source: United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture (1943)

Abdel Rahman El Gamal, PhD

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- The scarcity of fish production in particular countries (e.g. Norway) as a result of World War II led to the increase of the prices of salted fish to a point where production subsidies were no longer needed.
- Trade in fresh and frozen fish is mostly limited to trade between contiguous countries.

It is expected that with the expansion in the use of refrigerated storage and transport, fresh and frozen fish will play an increasingly role in the world trade

Source: United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture (1943)

Abdel Rahman El Gamal, PhD