

TABLE 5.—AVERAGE MONTHLY PRICES OF MENHADEN MEAL AND ANCHOVY MEAL ¹

F.O.B. EAST COAST PORTS, 1965-67

[Dollars per short ton]

MENHADEN MEAL

Month	1965	1966	1967
January.....	144.15	179.80	153.10
February.....	146.25	172.50	154.00
March.....	150.00	170.60	154.00
April.....	153.00	163.00	135.00
May.....	156.00	153.80	135.80
June.....	160.90	160.35	139.00
July.....	170.25	164.00	137.40
August.....	172.10	169.00	136.10
September.....	175.00	166.20	136.75
October.....	185.40	160.00	136.00
November.....	186.00	151.55	132.00
December.....	186.00 ^a	153.10	131.60
Annual average.....	165.40	163.65	140.15

PERUVIAN FISH MEAL (ANCHOVY)

January.....	141.60	173.00	148.20
February.....	144.90	170.90	140.00
March.....	142.70	165.80	134.50
April.....	148.40	153.75	130.50
May.....	153.75	155.40	127.70
June.....	166.50	155.50	131.25
July.....	172.00	161.00	131.60
August.....	181.00	161.00	131.50
September.....	182.50	152.25	128.90
October.....	184.90	143.10	124.30
November.....	186.00	144.80	121.00
December.....	180.25	152.50	121.00
Annual average.....	165.45	157.40	130.85

¹ Menhaden meal, 60 percent protein, bagged; Peruvian fish meal, 65 percent protein, bagged; as quoted at New York City.

Source: U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.

In this connection, attention is called to Attachment 6 that explains the advantage in production costs that accrued to the Peruvian fish meal producers last fall as a result of the Peruvian government's devaluation of the sole and elimination of the export tax. With imports from Peru accounting for almost 70% of U.S. imports, it is readily apparent what a \$48 per ton advantage in production costs can have on our markets. This certainly helps to explain the inability of our domestic producers to produce and sell fish meal above what it costs them to produce it.

Fish meal is a special protein commodity that is used primarily in the manufacture of poultry feeds. It, therefore, has a restricted use, and in fact the amount that can be used in a poultry ration cannot exceed 10% of the total ingredients, the most of which are composed of grains. Price-wise it has to compete favorably with soybean meal, which is also a protein commodity that is in almost unlimited supply throughout the United States and most widely used in the manufacture of poultry and animal feeds. Freight cost for shipping fish meal from the sea coast to the markets inland where soybean meal is produced and is available locally is a significant part of the competition that fish meal has in order to sell in the major Midwest feed markets. The situation, therefore, tends to limit its greatest use to the states bordering the coast.

Due to this competitive feed ingredient situation, the developed markets for fish meal in the United States are limited and are not in a position to absorb the excessive supplies, mostly from imports, that were shipped to the United States throughout 1967 and which are continuing to come in even at a greater rate during the first few months of 1968. This abnormal supply situation is very critical in so far as the domestic fish meal industry is concerned. It has been