

'Minced Fish'

New Kind of Fish Product

A new kind of fish product will become increasingly available to consumers and is expected to be lower in cost than other similar seafood items, the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced today.

"Minced fish" is the officially announced name of the commodity. The product, said Robert W. Schoning, Acting Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, is as pure and nutritious as higher graded cuts, but processed differently.

Minced fish is the result of several years of cooperative experimentation by industry and NMFS fishery scientists and technologists.

Their objective was to perfect machine techniques used to strip meat from bones so that formerly wasted pieces of edible flesh could be recovered and formulated into wholesome marketable forms, attractive to shoppers.

Most of the minced fish thus produced will be pressed into large fish blocks, manufacturers say, which can be processed into a variety of items for sale at frozen food counters.

These include fish portions cut from blocks of minced fish, for direct use or as the main ingredient in frozen fish dinners, fish sandwiches, or casserole-type entrees.

Food processors also are experimenting with new kinds of products that can incorporate the easily handled minced fish into composite items — fish mixed with potatoes, fish in spreads or dips, or several kinds of minced fish mixed together or with other ingredients to produce exciting new flavors.

An added advantage of the mincing process is that the machines are geared to extract meat from kinds of fish whose small size or bony anatomy make it impracticable to process them on machines built primarily for filleting fish.

Canning companies, too, can be expected to take advantage of the new product.

According to labeling requirements published by NMFS in the FEDERAL REGISTER May 12, 1973, all products manufactured from minced fish under Department of Commerce inspection procedures must be so designated in clear type following the name of the sale item.

In short, the words "made from minced fish" must follow a term such as "fish sticks" or "fish portions".