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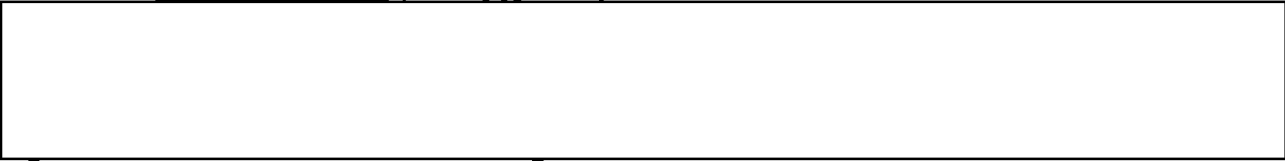
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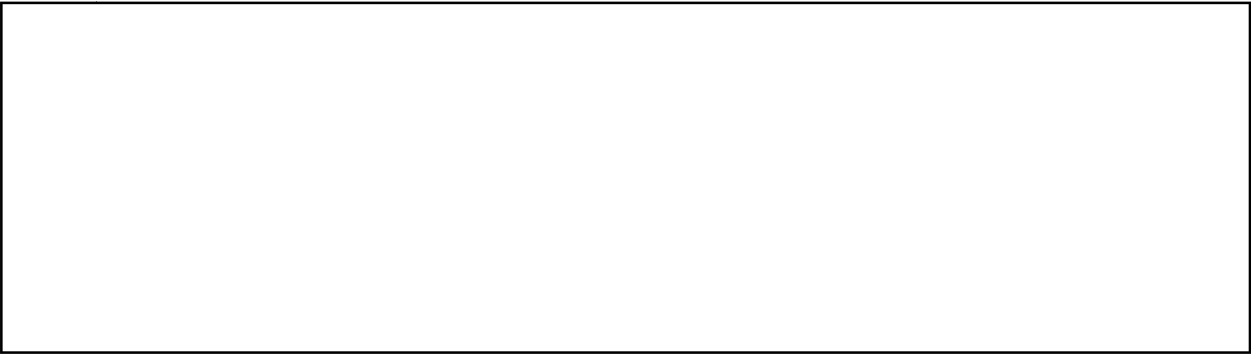
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1. The Chief Directorate of Caspian Fishing Industries (GlavKaspRybProm) is subordinate to the Ministry of the Fishing Industry (MinRybProm). This directorate is located in Astrakhan and is responsible for the fishing and fish processing operations in the region. The chief directorate is made up of two fishing trusts, canneries, motorized fishing stations (MRS), and construction and repair yards for fishing craft. In addition it controls a scientific research center specializing in the fauna of the Caspian Sea and the Volga. (See Encl A).
2. The two trusts are called the Volga-Caspian Fishing Trust (VolgoKaspGosRybTrest) and the Ural-Caspian Fishing Trust (UralKaspGosRybTrest). Both are located in Astrakhan, but during the fishing season the field office of the Ural-Caspian Trust is moved to Ganyushkino (45-36N, 49-16E) on the Caspian coast, some 80 km east of Astrakhan. The trusts are both broken down into fishing kolkhozes and fish plants (Rybozavody). The latter are mostly floating installations, although some plants are on shore, where the catch is cleaned and submitted to first stage processing, such as salting and smoking. The floating fish plants are installed on double-deck wooden barges which are 100 meters long, 15 meters wide, and 10 meters above the waterline. They are not self-propelled. Altogether there are

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some 30 fish plants, organized to receive the catch directly from the fishing boats and start the processing. These installations must be replaced every three or four days to avoid spoilage of fish, a rather frequent occurrence.

3. The processing of low quality fish, such as herring, is completed in the fish plants and the product sent directly to the fish distributing agencies (Kolkhoz). The better grades of fish are sent to the canning factories and the caviar-balyk plants for further processing. Balyk is dried sturgeon. There are two large canneries in Astrakhan, the I/N Mirkovsk, the largest in the USSR, and the I/N Friedrich Engels. These canneries prepare canned fish of all kinds for export, especially salmon, or red fish. There are also special canneries for caviar and balyk.
4. The best fishing areas are concentrated in the north and northwest regions of the Caspian Sea; in fact, these are the richest and largest grounds in the whole USSR. 25X1
 give the following indications on particular areas:
 - (a) Between Astrakhan and Guryev the sea is rich in salmon and sturgeon herrings, balyk.
 - (b) East of the Caspian is abundant.
 - (c) Southwest of the Volga much salmon and herring is caught.
 - (d) The Volga and the Ural deltas are both excellent fishing grounds.
 - (e) The eastern shore of the Caspian yields only small catches.
 - (f) In the Krasnovodsk area there is a well-developed crab field but it was not yet being exploited for commercial purposes in 1951.
 - (g) There are fisheries in the middle and southern areas of the Caspian which are subsidiaries of the Chief Directorate,
5. Normally, fishing is done by dragging nets between two motor boats. The catch is loaded into smaller boats and taken to the fish plants installed on barges. Around the mouth of the Volga two tugs are used to collect and tow the small fishing boats (budarkas). At times 100 or 150 of these boats are taken in one tow by one of these 400 hp tugs. The smoke stacks on all fishing vessels are painted white, with a red band near the top.
6. There are two fishing seasons, from April to June, and from August to November. The summer period is closed for spawning and the winter by ice which renders navigation impossible. There are about four to five thousand people working in the fishing fleets, not counting those employed in the kolkhozes. The norms of the fishermen are set so high that in the fall the crews must carry on their work into the bad season. The result is that many small fishing boats of the budarka type are lost. At the end of the fishing season about half the tugs belonging to Reydfarmer /Azadeh Maritime Navigation Shipping Company/ are engaged in rescue operations and in towing the floating fish plants into the harbors.

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7. The fishing fleets of both trusts can be divided into two operational groups, the river fleets and the sea or salt-water fleets. The river fleet of the Volga-Caspian Fishing Trust is stationed along all the branches of the Volga River from Astrakhan to Olya at the southern end of the delta. All the settlements in this area are fishing kolkhozes. The vessels used by the river fleets are the following:
- (a) The budarkas, or fishing boats, form the main component of the river fleet. These budarkas are about five meters long, usually equipped with oars, occasionally with sails.
 - (b) A few motor boats are assigned by the motorized fishing stations (MRS) to the fishing kolkhozes. These boats are of an older type, with a 15-hp Balingier engine, using crude oil. This engine has a bulb which must be heated for about 30 minutes until it is red hot before being in operating condition.
 - (c) The river fleet has also about 100 motor launches, manufactured in the Shipyard I/N Kirov in Astrakhan. This craft, made of steel plate, is about 15 m long, three meters wide, and has a speed of eight to 10 km per hour. There is also a newer model which has a speed of about 12 km per hour.
 - (d) The medium-sized (SRT) trawler which is used in the Far East and in the Murmansk area does not operate in the Caspian.
8. The saltwater fleet has the same types of craft as the river fleet but in addition it has several other types of vessels, as follows:
- (a) **Seiners:** Around Astrakhan there are about 40 wooden seiners of 70 to 80 gross tons with a square stern. They are 30 m long, six meters wide, and use combined sail and motor propulsion. The engine is the Balingier type of 35 to 40 hp, with a speed of two to three kilometers per hour. The exhaust is on the side of the vessel, which has no stack. The crew consists of about 10 men. Since 1949 some new wooden seiners of the same size have been added to the fleet. These have the conventional sloping stern, two masts, and are equipped with Diesel engines, or tractor engines operating on kerosene, which gives them speeds of about eight km per hour. The crew is 10 to 12 men. [redacted] about 20 seiners of this type. 25X1
 - (b) **Tugs:** There are 30 or more wheel-type tugboats, all 40 or 50 years old. They vary in size from 20 to 40 m in length; they have 100- to 200-hp engines with a speed of some eight km per hour. They burn fuel oil (topochnyy mazut) and have crews of 25 men. The largest tug is the 40-year-old *Tkach Petr Alekseyev*, with a 400-hp steam engine. It is a wheel-type tug, 50 m long, 10 m wide, which makes about 10 km per hour. Its crew consists of 25 men. This tug, as well as most of the others, has a two-way radio station, equipped with P-1 type receivers, and uses the Morse code but no cipher. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] The floating fish plants have the same radio equipment as the tugs.

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- (c) There is an entertainment ship (Kait Parokhod), the "Iosif Stalin", which travels among the fish plants with a library and movies. It is a former Volga River passenger vessel with two decks.
- (d) Icebreakers: The only real icebreaker is the 40-year-old "Sergo Ordzhonikidze", which belongs to the Chief Directorate of the Caspian Fishing Industries. It is 60 m long and 10 m wide, has two propellers and two steam engines, each of 200 hp. It is not a reliable ship and requires frequent repairs. In addition there are two tugs of the "Vyuga" type * which have been transformed and are sometimes used as icebreakers. Each has a three-to four-foot wide steel belt, eight to 10 mm thick, all around the ship's body to permit operation as icebreakers. They have diesel engines and can make 12 km per hour. These two tugs belong to another organization, the Directorate of Roadsteads Technical Fleet (ReydTekhFlot). [redacted] they may be either lend-lease vessels or that they were obtained after the war as reparations from Germany.

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9. The chief Directorate has its own airfield in Astrakhan and about five planes of the type UP-2. These planes are used primarily for air reconnaissance to locate schools of fish or stranded fishing craft. In special cases the planes serve for liaison between the agencies of the directorate.
10. The directorate's repair and construction facilities consist of several repair bases for seiners and the Shipyard I/N Kirov. For exact location of this shipyard, see USAF Complex Mosaic Series 25, Astrakhan, No 0248-9999-2-25M; Center of Target H099-4061. This shipyard builds about two motor boats a month of the type described above. See paragraph 7c. Most of them are for the chief directorate, although at times such boats are sold to other organizations. The engines are not manufactured in this yard but come probably from the Krasnoye Sormovo Plant at Gorkiy, at any rate from some place on the Volga. The steel plate used in the building of these motor boats is shipped to the Kirov Shipyard from some unknown place.
11. The Shipyard I/N Kirov has the following installations:
- Four launching platforms on which the boats are built and the machinery installed before launching.
 - A boiler shop with two medium-sized steel rolling machines used for the shaping of steel plate in making the hulls.
 - A hull shop (Sudo-Korpusnyy Tsekh), equipped with ovens for heating the steel plate, and welding and riveting apparatus for assembling the hulls. Riveting and welding is only done by hand.
 - A machine shop where the steel plate is finished. I have no information on the equipment used in this shop.

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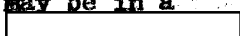



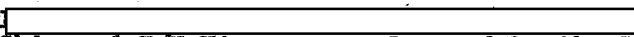
(e) A forge and pipe shop, equipped with four steam hammers, each weighing two or three tons, and a pipe bending machine. The pipe is filled with sand for the latter operation.

(f) An assembly work shop which handles everything except the work on the hulls and the engines. In this shop there are a number of machines such as lathes, filing machines, planers, and vises.

12. In this shipyard there are about 400 workers who work in one shift, eight hours per day and 48 hours per week. The average wage is 500 to 600 rubles per month. All these workers live in a common housing project which includes a mess, a clubhouse, and a library. The whole project, surrounded by a wooden fence two meters high, is continually under the surveillance of a militarized guard.

13. There are numerous repair bases (Rembaza) which handle the seiners. A large part of the repairs is done by the crews on the individual vessels. One of the most serious difficulties, however, is the shortage of oakum used in caulking. The Kirov Shipyard does not normally do any repair work.

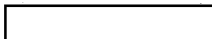
25X1 14.  where the seiners are built; it may be in a
25X1A shipyard at Mordovshchikovo /5532N-4212E/, and  25X1
the Ministry of Shipbuilding is building seiners somewhere on the Volga.

25X1  Comments:  the Shipyard I/N Kirov was only used by the Directorate of Caspian Fishing Industries, but that it actually belonged administratively to the Ministry of the River Fleet.

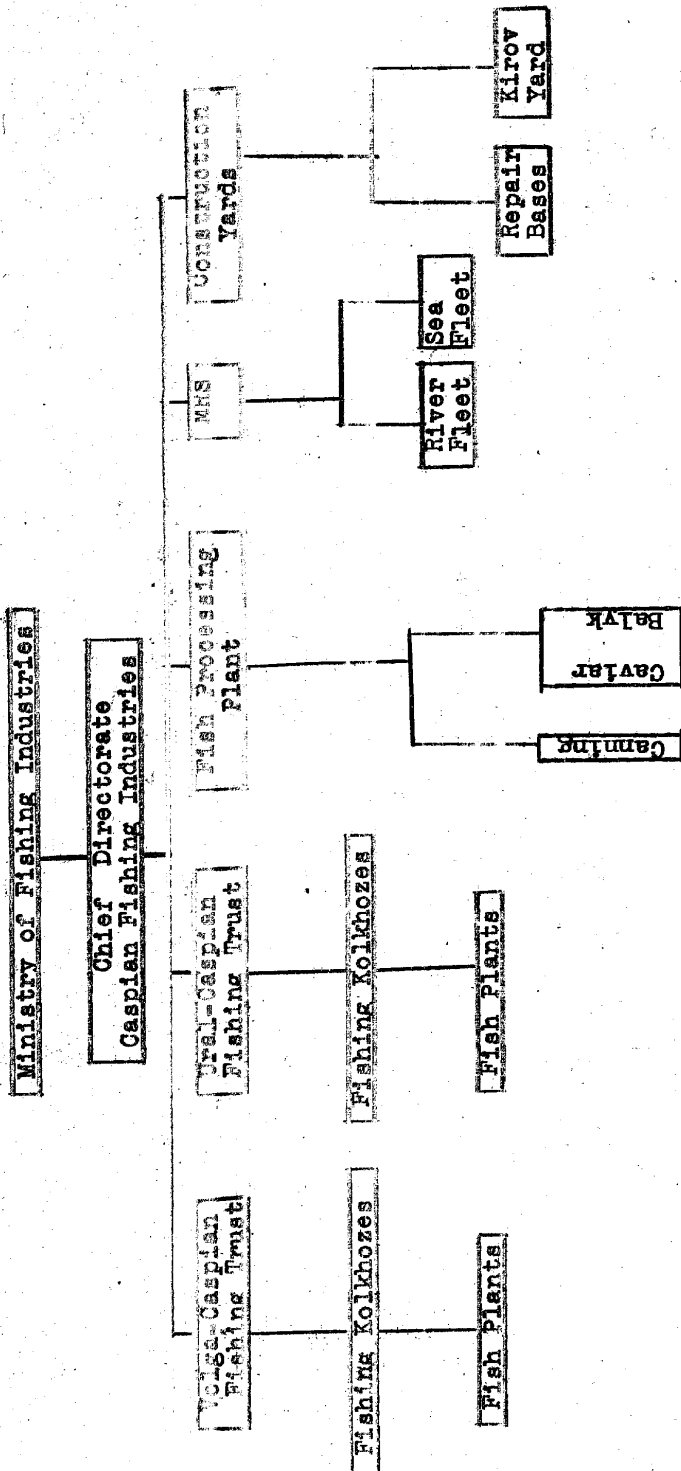
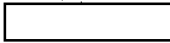
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Enclosure A: Organization Chart

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Organization Chart