

By the Chairman:

Q. With the guts out?—A. Yes, gutted.

Q. During which period of the year do the shore fishermen get the most fish?—A. There is quite a heavy run in the spring.

Q. Can you give us any idea of the aggregate price given to fishermen for their shore catch?—A. If you begin in the spring, it is pretty hard to say. It might be one cent per pound for two or three months, and then it goes up to one and a half cents. I suppose the average would be around one and a half cents off the Inverness coast. The Inverness coast was offered a collecting boat service last year, I was told, and no buyers, although we have three large cold storages, one in Port Hawkesbury, one in Mulgrave, and one in Canso. The buyers there would not guarantee to take all that the boats would bring to them.

By Mr. Short:

Q. How far are these Inverness plants away from the cold storage plants?—A. Seventy or eighty miles.

By the Chairman:

Q. They would run from ten to seventy miles?—A. About seventy miles would be the farthest. The fishermen along that coast had to salt their fish, and all they got from the local dealers was \$1.40 per hundred pounds, that is, dressed, heads off, split, the bones taken out, and all ready for the flakes. That would not amount to one cent a pound, which is a ridiculous price. Fishermen cannot live on those prices. On the eastern coast of Cape Breton, in Victoria County, we have people buying haddock for two cents apiece.

By Mr. Short:

Q. For salting purposes, or for export?—A. For both.

The CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

By Mr. Short:

Q. Are they all the one type of trawlers that are used, or are the small baby trawlers used there too?—A. No. We have only one baby trawler in Nova Scotia.

The CHAIRMAN: They are still in their swaddling clothes.

The WITNESS: They do not condemn that kind of fishing at all. They only condemn the steam trawlers.

By Mr. MacLean (Prince):

Q. There would be only a limited number of fishermen who could get these steam trawlers?—A. Yes. They cost a good deal of money.

Q. That would work some hardship?—A. If the fishermen had them they would be all right.

Q. It seems hopeless unless a system of loans is introduced.—A. They are insistent upon that point. Some have been built this winter, but what is two or three new boats in a community of 150 or 200 fishing families.

Q. They have no capital to invest in anything?—A. They have hardly money to buy a barrel of flour, let alone buy boats.

By Mr. McQuarrie:

Q. You would prohibit the use of steam trawlers; that is all you are asking for?—A. This report is all very well. I do not want to keep you gentlemen too long. I have only taken up a few of the major recommendations. There are just two or three points; first the establishment of a Minister of Fisheries,