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*Note du président du Conseil du Trésor  
pour le Cabinet*

*Memorandum from Chairman of Treasury Board  
to Cabinet*

CABINET DOCUMENT NO. 188-62  
CONFIDENTIAL

[Ottawa], May 18, 1962

FISHING ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN NATIONS –  
PROBABLE EFFECT ON PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY

*Background*

(1) At its Meeting of March 19, 1962, the Cabinet referred to Treasury Board for report the recommendation of the Minister of Fisheries that his Department be authorized to include in its 1962-63 Estimates an amount of \$200,000 for the continuation of research into the effects of Japanese and Russian fishing activity on the Pacific halibut fishery.

(2) The Board, at its Meeting of April 12th, took the view that, while the conclusive results which this work would provide were desirable, the cost was too great to be borne during the current fiscal year. The Chairman of the Board reported this decision to Cabinet in a document dated April 17th.

(3) At its Meeting of May 12th, the Cabinet referred this report back to the Board for review and further report in light of further information and argument to be submitted to the Board by the Minister of Fisheries.

*Letter to the Minister of Finance by the Minister of Fisheries*

This letter dated May 11, 1962, is as follows:

"The attached Memorandum to Cabinet was considered and referred to Treasury Board since it involved a matter requiring the provision of funds in Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year 1962-63.

It was not possible because of early preparation and submission of the Main Estimates, in view of the lack of sufficient information at the time, to include an amount for the Canadian share of the important and urgent investigation set out in some detail in my submission to Cabinet. I understand that Treasury Board considered that it could not approve the funds requested. I appreciate, of course, the position faced by Treasury Board when my submission was referred to it by Cabinet. I must point out, however, that my request is an urgent one requiring extraordinary consideration.

I have critically re-examined the situation and I am strongly convinced that the Canadian share of the dividends from the North Pacific fisheries in the future will depend on the state of our knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative distribution of bottom fishes off the coasts of British Columbia and Alaska. This information is required to prepare the Canadian position for international negotiations early in 1963.

The following are some of the urgent and extremely important considerations:

(1) Both the Japanese and USSR fishing fleets have been carrying out exploratory fishing in the Gulf of Alaska for some time and both fleets plan to trawl for many species of bottom fish which are not sought by Canadian or United States fishermen in that area.