

*Commercial Fisheries Development*

This legislation also paves the way for regulations to enable assistance for the construction, equipping or modification of commercial cold storages and bait freezing facilities. The legislation is flexible and allows for a variety of action programs on a broad front. The federal-provincial fisheries conference held just over two years ago provided the initiative leading to the introduction of this bill.

During discussion of this bill, it was asked if it was proposed to introduce a new program which could be compared in any way with ARDA. Let me say that this legislation is companion to that of ARDA. My department will continue its close collaboration with ARDA in rural development where fisheries play a part in the economy of the areas concerned, and through the introduction of complementary programs provide for the kind of assistance to fishermen which will enable them to pass through a transitional period into a more highly mechanized operation.

Among other matters raised during discussion was the application of technology to the industry, the maintenance of strict fish inspection, programs to assist small fishing villages with freezer facilities, and the provision of a measure to improve the lot of fishermen. Let me say that the provision of measures to improve the lot of fishermen is the whole basis for this legislation, and is its primary objective. These needs are all provided for.

It is recognized that the gradual centralization of the fishing industry and the building of boats with greater draft will call for extensive dredging operations and new shore facilities, and I wish to state that in this area there will continue to be an active association between the Minister of Public Works and myself. This of course is applicable to both coastal and inland areas.

Reference has been made to the staggering tonnage of fish which is being wasted at sea, and the need for utilization of these species. The problem of the utilization of fish wasted is now being studied with a view to maximum utilization of all species. On the Pacific coast, as I have already said, we are encouraging the increased utilization of the offshore groundfish resource and are exploring ways and means of making use of hitherto unused species, such as dogfish. Similar action is being taken on the Atlantic coast.

The federal-provincial cost-sharing arrangements in the next fiscal year cover a wide range of development projects and this

program is larger each year. In addition, the department and its scientific agency, the Fisheries Research Board, are bearing the full cost of many development projects, and here of course we include resource research projects. These projects include vessel development, the acquisition and testing of electronic devices, the expansion of herring and mackerel shark fishing in the Atlantic and Gulf of St. Lawrence, the continuation of off-shore lobster studies and the eel survey in the Atlantic, as well as the exploration of the promising off-shore groundfish resources of the Pacific.

Several provinces have indicated their desire to take part in bringing about a rapid expansion of the industry by sharing in the cost of experimental fishing for crab, scallop, herring, shrimp, eel and smelt, and the testing of light attraction systems for catching fish; fish detection by helicopter and electrical trawl fishing to mention a few. The list of federal-provincial combined participation projects on the Atlantic coast is lengthy, and as I have already mentioned includes considerable vessel and gear development and testing in a variety of fishing operations.

We are making technical assistance available to fishermen right across the country on a relatively large scale. It has been stated in this house that not enough attention is being given to the inland fisheries. I should like to point out that since I took office separate federal-provincial fisheries committees have been set up for both British Columbia and the prairie provinces. These groups meet to work out appropriate programs of fisheries development for these areas. They are not only concerned with the commercial fisheries but with sports fishing as well, and are doing excellent work in focussing attention on actions which should be taken for the betterment of the fisheries as a whole. There are, of course, similar committees for Ontario and the Atlantic coast provinces.

Increased effort is being placed on studies of the ocean floor and the effect of ocean currents on fish populations. The Fisheries Research Board has active programs of oceanographic research on both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans and has recently embarked on comprehensive studies in the Atlantic ocean, based at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Research is to be conducted on pelagic and bottom fishes, their food and the interplay of