

*Supply—Fisheries and Forestry*

make matters worse, the Russian and Japanese fleets presented themselves off our coast line. These fleets at first stayed well out to sea until 1964 when, as a result of lack of base lines and an inadequate 12 mile limit, they crept closer and closer to our shores taking more and more fish. The Russians with their massive fleet and their floating processing ships threatened to destroy our bottom fisheries. The fishermen have suffered from lower incomes, poor catches, too many boats, foreign fleets, pollution, increasing costs and no local fisheries minister to complain to.

But once again enthusiasm and optimism are spreading among the boats. The fishermen now know they have a competent minister of fisheries who is from British Columbia. They know he understands their problems. They have heard that strong government investigations are being carried on in respect of new headland to headland base lines in order to stop the destruction of our fisheries by foreign fleets. The fishermen know that the fresh new government and the eager new M.P.'s from British Columbia realize that pollution must be controlled and they know that the Fraser River has No. 1 priority. The government has promised new low cost loans for the purchase and improvement of fishing boats. At last the high interest rates will be done away with.

This summer, in response to the long time representations of the fishermen, the minister responsible brought in licensing restrictions to limit the future number of boats allowed to catch salmon. Two categories, A and B, were immediately instituted to cover salmon boats and class C was later added to cover halibut and herring fishermen. These regulations immediately disqualified 1,000 boats from further participation in salmon fishing, leaving 5,500 vessels in the preferred category A and 1,500 smaller boats in the restricted category B. The basis of the regulations is to stop the entry of additional fishing boats into the business and to upgrade the class A boats. It is hoped that most of class B will disappear in the next few years.

In class B is included one of the major sources of annoyance to professional fishermen. Here we have the part time fisherman or moonlighter, as he is called. He swarms over the best positions on the river. He constantly hinders and restricts the proficiency of the fleet by his inexperience. He is a fireman, a school principal, a millworker, or a student. He is not a legitimate fisherman. He catches few fish, less than 2 per cent of the total

salmon catch, but he represents 22 per cent of the boats on the rivers. For the good of the industry the moonlighter must be eliminated. This must be done soon in order to restore the fisherman's confidence in our government.

• (3:00 p.m.)

The government's proposed program to purchase these class B licences for the health of the B.C. fisheries must be brought in without delay. We must prove that this government is sincere in its desire to reduce the number of boats. We must prove that we will no longer tolerate substandard incomes among our fishing people. We must eliminate these 1,500 class B vessels in the shortest possible time, at the outside within a maximum of three years. If this program is followed we will eliminate the need for welfare and unemployment insurance among the fishing people. The bitterness will disappear in these fishing communities.

There are two methods open to the government in order to fulfil a short term elimination of moonlighting, and I encourage the use of both. First, the yearly purchase of a large number of licensed boats through a government fund supplemented by increased payments for boat licences should take place. Second, we must progressively increase the minimum catch limit allowed to hold a class A licence from the present 1,250 yearly catch limit over a three year period to 3,000.

Let us eliminate the small part time boat. The seiners, the trawlers and the gill netters of B.C. have always plied their trade with great vigour and skill. They are also renowned for their ability to bring their elected representatives to task whenever they feel the need has arisen. They feel that these new regulations have brought forth a definite need to criticize their minister and their members of parliament. This criticism is welcomed by all of us, for this is the path to good co-operative legislation. There are many criticisms of the new fish boat licensing. One of the main points of opposition originated with the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, an organization which negotiates product prices for most of the British Columbia salmon fishermen. The union agrees that licensing is important and has been making representations for control to deaf government ears for over a decade, but the agreement that there must be controls is the last point of concurrence between government and union policy. The United Fishermen