

Under the new program, where we are assisting inshore fishery, we are building a number of longliners. We have whole areas, for example, where fishing has been done in small boats—22, 25 and 28 feet in length. In those areas, we have been introducing forty, forty-five or fifty foot longliners so that the fishermen can expand their operations thirty or forty miles from port where actually they are only fishing at a maximum distance of maybe ten miles. So this is the reason for this extension in the bait program.

Mr. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if, while the Minister is here, I could ask him a couple of questions that will probably require rather short answers.

On the 29th March the Legislative Committee of British Columbia, which dealt in the provincial legislature with certain questions of fisheries, made its report to the House. One of its recommendations, and I will quote from it, was:

that negotiations be commenced with the federal government to clarify the responsibilities and jurisdictions as between federal and provincial authorities in relation to *inter alia*

and then it lists a number of items of concern.

I would like to ask the Minister whether he has had any communication from the provincial government in British Columbia, since this time, suggesting that there be some negotiations about these or other points concerning fisheries.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I cannot specify the date but I know that we have had communication with the government of British Columbia and this is a matter which has now been referred to the federal-provincial committee at the Deputy Minister level, which meets regularly. The recommendation of this special committee will be studied at the next meeting of this committee.

Mr. HOWARD: One of the items they mentioned in here was the limiting of the number of commercial licenses issued and this, of course, is a matter on which the Minister has at least started, by raising fees. I assume that this will be one of the items discussed at the federal-provincial committee.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as Mr. Howard has said, we have now made the first step by raising the licenses. We have already had three or four meetings with the industry and with representatives of the fishermen, in order to determine what is the best policy to follow. We are now dealing with the registering of all salmon boats and the increase in the cost of salmon licenses, so that we can exercise better control and gather full information on the types and numbers of boats operating. Our ultimate objective, I am sure, is to control the number of commercial licenses issued for commercial salmon fishing in British Columbia.

Mr. HOWARD: Since the introduction of the increased license fee, which is applicable to this year for the first year, what has been the experience? Has there been a decline or an increase in the number of licenses applied for? Or has the number been relatively the same?

Mr. ROBICHAUD: I think Mr. Levelton could answer that.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps it is a little early to assess the situation fully.