

One of the first steps was the acquisition of Danish seining equipment, and the first unit was put into operation out of Queensport, Guysboro County. The provincial department hired Rafn Josefsson, an Icelandic fisherman who is now a Canadian citizen, to instruct fishermen in the use of the gear.

WINCH DEVELOPED

In co-operation with the federal Department's Industrial Development Service, the provincial fishery agency successfully prosecuted the initial project. The two agencies combined to produce a suitable winch for hauling the gear. Constructed originally with two automobile rear-axle units, the winch is now being manufactured near Pictou. The original design has been modified and it is now a highly efficient piece of machinery.

The dragger "Cape St. Mary", fishing Cape Breton waters last year, charged the interest of Cheticamp fishermen. Cheticamp longliners watched with a certain degree of envy the successful fishing by the dragger. During the summer the "Cape St. Mary" had about double the catches of the average longliner.

One of the pioneers of Danish seining in Cheticamp is Captain Moise Poirier, master of the "Lady of Fatima". He fitted his boat during the winter and when May 1 came he was off to the fishing grounds. From that date until June 13 he had landed close to 200,000 pounds of flounders.

Soon Captain Poirier's colleagues had their boats equipped with the Danish seine. By the middle of June, six Cheticamp boats were on the grounds. Right from the beginning the operations paid off. Catches have been running as high as 50,000 pounds in five days. Some boats have had daily catches as high as 25,000 pounds. At three-and-a-half cents a pound, 25,000 pounds of flounders is a profitable operation for a boat under 60 feet in length with a complement of four men.

"A GREAT WAY TO FISH"

Capt. Henry L. Aucoin, skipper of the "St. Theresa", said it was a happy day for him when he decided to switch to Danish seining. "With the cod as scarce as they are now, we would have pretty lean pickings if we were long-lining. It's a great way to fish. We have no bait problem, the risk of losing gear is remote and we can catch fish where other trawls can't."

While Captain Aucoin and his fellow skippers are keen endorsers of the seining method, they also have a common ground in the field of conservation. Voluntarily, they have adopted a five-and-a-quarter-inch mesh which enables small fish to escape. On top of that the catch is carefully culled aboard so that unmarketable fish can be thrown back into the sea to be fished another day. As Captain Aucoin put it: "We throw the little fellows back, but

we'll be looking for them next year when they have grown to market size." The mesh size adopted by the Cheticamp seiners is larger than the four-and-one-half-inch mesh adopted by the 12-member countries of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

While seining operations have been singularly successful, the manager of the Cheticamp plant is looking ahead to bigger things. "If we can make seining work on cod and haddock, it will be wonderful for our fishermen and for the industry."

Mr. Aucoin quotes with pride the record of the seining fleet since it started. The vessels have been averaging between \$650 and \$700 a trip. Average landings have been in the vicinity of 20,000 pounds. One vessel in 10 trips landed 192,967 pounds of flounders, for a total fare of \$6,690. In seven trips another vessel landed more than 128,000 pounds to bring the skipper and crew nearly \$4,400.

Mr. Aucoin regards the seining programme as "evolutionary" rather than "revolutionary." By using that method, he says, "we are making our fishermen more conscious of the value of diversification."

"It's diversified fishing," he contends, "that holds the key to our future. By the adoption of Danish seining we have taken a big step toward bigger things. Another year will tell the tale. If we can seine for cod and haddock, then we really will have something. The future sure looks good."

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Dr. R.P. Vivian, M.P., Canadian Representative at the 1959 United Nations Pledging Conference on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund announced that subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government of Canada will contribute the sum of \$2 million (US) to the Special Fund for the year 1960.

"The Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance has in the past year continued its essential work in the successful and efficient way we have come to expect," he said. "The creation of the Special Fund has in no way diminished the important tasks of the Expanded Programme of providing experts and equipment, fellowships and scholarships under the auspices of the United Nations. These services are fundamental and we believe need for them will continue for many years to come."

"In recognition of this, the Government of Canada intends, subject to the approval of Parliament, to make available to the Expanded Programme the sum of \$2 million (US) for the year 1960."