

should be taken in respect to the Hecate straits area. Is it the intention of the government to consider that matter? Are there any negotiations going on at the present time, or what is the position of the government at the present time on that problem?

Mr. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, in answer to Mr. Browne's question about the Hecate straits: there is at the moment no formal negotiations going on about the Hecate straits fisheries, but there have been a number of unofficial discussions with the officials of the United States government on this matter. It is possible that in the not too distant future some formal negotiations will take place.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: It might help Mr. Browne if I said a word about this. I know a little about it because of some of the things done by the previous administration.

I think the feeling was that we could not mix formal negotiations about the Hecate straits with the negotiations going on about the twelve-mile limit because it would cause confusion. Since this was a question exclusively between Canada and the United States it was felt we should try and keep it separate and try not to get into two conflicts with the United States at the same time.

The matter has been considered in all the departments very actively in the last three or four years, not merely in the Department of Fisheries.

Mr. BROWNE (*Vancouver-Kingsway*): I think I am aware of that situation. I was suggesting we should take it up under the other. I think it should be done on a bilateral basis. We made a declaration as far back as 1908 that we had the right to do that. I take it is your opinion that there are certain rights there and we are working towards the establishment of them.

Mr. CROUSE: Mr. Chairman, this might not be the place to bring this point up, but I am serious as to the amount of research work which is being presently undertaken on the east coast with regard to the catching of shrimp in that area. From information I have received there are apparently fairly heavy concentrations of shrimp, some of them in the Belle Isle area.

As a matter of fact, within the past year Captain Albert Crouse landed at Canso around 500 pounds of shrimp caught in a five-inch mesh net. Various trawlers, who are not within Nova Scotia, are catching shrimp in that particular area. I am wondering if they are there in commercial quantities or if this could be developed into a new type of fishery? What is the department doing about this, as to ascertaining the size of these beds and the growth of this particular fish? What are the possibilities of having a new industry on the east coast, which would be shrimp catching?

Mr. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, this is an investigation which is now doing on between the department, under our industrial development service, and the Fisheries Research Board.

There are 29 species of shrimp and prawns along the Atlantic coast of Canada. The pink shrimp appears to offer the best prospects for commercial use. I might say, this particular species formed the basis of the shrimp fishery in Maine about ten years ago and is perhaps the most important species of shrimp in northern Europe.

Surveys on this species of shrimp were carried out some years ago from the St. Andrew's station of the fisheries research board and later from the Bay of Fundy and the Bay of Chaleur. The species was widespread but nowhere sufficient to promise a commercial fishery.

Last year we chartered a fairly large vessel with a deep sea net. The results show the shrimp catches to be as good as the usual catches of this shrimp in Norway and Greenland.