

The Committee recommends that:

- (6a) The provinces consult with the FFMC when establishing quota levels with a view to achieving a better coordination of supply and demand.**
- (6b) The provinces investigate the possibility of issuing transferable licences specifying annual quotas, the amounts of which would be staggered throughout the year.**

Essential to the system described above would be the option of the FFMC to control the quantities purchased within the limits of specified quotas. The system outlined here has the advantage of being "self-regulatory" in that the FFMC would enforce the respect of quota limits.

While realizing that a uniform resource management system across the provinces and territories in the Western Region is not necessarily an advisable objective, given that different fisheries often require different management systems, the Committee recommends that:

- (7) A permanent inter-provincial freshwater fishery committee composed of provincial and territorial government representatives, FFMC officials, fishermen's elected representatives and DFO personnel be formed for the purposes of co-ordinating inter-provincial fisheries policies, sharing information on matters of provincial domain, and taking responsibility for matters of common concern and common potential benefit.**

4.1.4 Over-Participation and Over-Capitalization

Over-participation is a major problem in the fisheries of the Western Region. The average quantity (round weight) delivered by each fisherman to the FFMC is approximately 6,360 kg (or 14,000 lb.). Approximately 60% of the fishermen have annual deliveries at or below this amount. The average amounts delivered, however, depend on harvest controls (species and gear restrictions), biological productivity of the lakes, fishing equipment and transportation costs as well as the time expended by the fishermen and the type of their operation.

Commercial fishing in the outlying northern areas of the Western Region cannot support even a small number of people at acceptable levels of existence. The Committee saw direct evidence of this in the Great Slave Lake area of the Northwest Territories. The Great Slave Lake fishery has been declining since the late 1960s for a number of reasons among which are high transportation costs and competition from the Great Lakes fisheries. In the FFMC area, the average gross income of fishermen was \$8,218 in 1984/85. However, 66% of the fishermen (2,124 out of a total 3,242) had incomes below that level. This results in a substantially unequal income distribution in the fisheries of the Western Region.

According to 1977 sample data, the average replacement costs of fishing assets in the western skiff fisheries was \$3,810 for aggregate quota fisheries and \$5,723 for individual quota fisheries.⁽¹⁾ Between 1977-1978 and 1984, the National Income

⁽¹⁾ P.C. Thompson, *The Economic Performance of the Commercial Skiff Fishery in Western Canada*, Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences # 1037, Winnipeg, December 1981. The value of assets in the individual quota fishery is higher since this is a more viable fishery because of better cost control given its proximity to the Transcona plant.