

## Supply—Fisheries

I have brought to the attention of the department the expediency of an education program for the lobster fishermen of the Atlantic provinces. The program of education undertaken in certain areas may have resulted in some improvement, but there is much work to be done in this particular field. Earlier this session I placed on the order paper a series of questions having reference to the lobster production in Gloucester county. These questions and replies can be found in *Hansard* of October 28, 1957. My first question was:

What was the total number of cases of canned lobsters processed in Gloucester county, New Brunswick, during the months of May and June 1957?

The reply received from the department was "9,614 cases on basis of 48 one-pound cans to a case." My second question was:

What was the approximate number of cases of canned lobsters processed in the same area during the months of August and September, 1957?

I realized that this was a very hypothetical question because there was no lobster season in the area during that period, so the answer was "nil".

My third question was:

What was the total number of lobster traps destroyed or confiscated, during the period August 1 to September 30, 1957, in waters adjacent to Gloucester county, New Brunswick?

The reply was "2,175". When over 2,000 lobster traps can be destroyed or confiscated in a period of two months during a closed season in a stretch of water of less than 25 miles there is something wrong somewhere, and the severe problem of the protection of the lobster fishery is certainly not well in hand. More constant vigilance, and more so, more practical education—I insist on the matter of education for our fishermen—is required to remedy this most unfortunate situation. It is time that the department should be more practical in the implementation of its protection program.

Earlier this session I placed another question on the order paper asking for information with regard to the number of fishermen engaged in lobster fishing in New Brunswick waters. The reply was as follows:

Charlotte .....	536
Westmorland .....	833
Kent .....	1,062
Northumberland .....	370
Gloucester .....	724
Restigouche .....	113

That is a total of 3,638 fishermen. A few days later I placed the following question on the order paper:

Has the Department of Fisheries published in New Brunswick's daily or weekly newspapers any ads or publications having to do with the conservation of the lobster population, during the period January 1 to September 30, 1957?

[Mr. Robichaud.]

The answer was "yes". My second question was:

If so, what were the names of the daily or weekly newspapers and number of ads published in each?

The reply was: *Fundy Fisherman* in Charlotte county, where there are 536 lobster fishermen, 1; *St. Croix Courier* in the same county, 1; *King's County Record*, Sussex, 1. That is the county of the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I wonder how many fishermen there are there. Then there was the *Fredericton Gleaner*, 1, and that is in the county of the hon. member for York-Sunbury. Also there was the *Saint John Telegraph-Journal* and the *Times-Globe*, 1; the *Tribune-Post* at Sackville, 2; the *Commercial-World* at Chatham, 6; the *Gazette* of Chatham, 6, and the *North Shore Leader* of Newcastle, 6. No advertisement was published that would reach or was bound to reach the French speaking lobster fishermen of Westmorland, Kent and Gloucester counties who number over 2,000.

There is no doubt that the lobster fishermen are becoming convinced of the soundness of the laws applied by the Department of Fisheries and in many cases are co-operating more fully in observing these laws and regulations. However, these same fishermen deserve better and more practical consideration by the department and its officials and I can find no excuse whatsoever for the department to advertise in such newspapers as the *King's County Record* and the *Fredericton Gleaner* if these advertisements are really intended to reach the lobster fishermen. The department should realize and keep in mind that of over 3,000 lobster fishermen in eastern New Brunswick over 75 per cent are French speaking and have a right to benefit from the information distributed by the government department.

Before resuming my seat I would ask the minister to give us further information with regard to the amending of the regulations enacted under the Fish Inspection Act to provide for the compulsory or even voluntary inspection and grading of fresh and frozen fish. I realize that in replying to a question which I asked the minister in this regard on Friday, November 8 the minister stated, as reported on page 1,109 of *Hansard* for November 14, 1957, that it was not contemplated that a committee of the house would deal with the proposed amendments to the regulations as it had been the practice of the department to have full discussion with the industry through its association, the fisheries council of Canada, and with others on proposed amendments and regulations.

Does the minister mean by this that the members of the house who have been elected and who have a responsibility to their electors and more so those who are concerned