

Size of Canada's Atlantic Coast fishing fleet matched to fish stocks in new federal development program

A new policy for the development of Canada's Atlantic Coast fishing fleet announced recently by Fisheries Minister Jack Davis ends a three-month freeze on construction subsidies and licences for new vessels announced on August 13.

The policy is intended to match the size of the fleet to fish stocks by a more selective subsidy program for vessel construction and by establishing new licence controls that will be applied in close consultation with the fishermen.

The three-month freeze, which gave federal authorities time to assess the situation, in consultation with pro-

vincial governments, industry and fishermen, produced the decision to match more closely the size of the fishing fleet to the stocks of fish available to Canadian fishermen.

Where resources are already fully exploited, fishing will be controlled. Where it is in Canada's interest, as in the international fishery off the coast, expansion will be encouraged.

"Our share of international quotas in these areas will further increase only as our catch increases," Mr. Davis said. "Therefore, we must ensure that our catching capacity is encouraged and allowed to expand to provide us with larger shares of the

available resources."

The new policy calls for special committees, representative of all fishery interests, to advise the management authority on all licensing matters. These committees will involve fishermen directly in the management of local fish resources.

"I hardly need to emphasize," Mr. Davis said, "the importance I place on the licensing committees and the full participation of fishermen and industry in the development of our Canadian fishery. We need to take full advantage of the opportunities that will open to us over the next decade."

Rules for the implementation of the Atlantic Coast fishery policy outlined by Fisheries Minister Jack Davis

(a) All commercial fishing craft and catching units operating on the Atlantic Coast will be registered by the Fisheries and Marine Service.

(b) All vessel skippers and operators of fishing units will be licensed. Further consideration will be given to licensing all fishermen including trawler crews.

(c) Skippers and operators must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants to be eligible for licences.

(d) Entry permits will be required for the following fully exploited fisheries: lobsters, scallops, salmon, herring and snow crab. Most of these fisheries are already under limited entry control.

(e) In fisheries which are not now controlled, all craft skippers and operators of fishing units engaged during the past five years will be granted registration and entry permits

for those vessels and fisheries.

(f) The current freeze on subsidies is lifted to ensure that vessel modernization is encouraged throughout the fishing industry. For the present, subsidies will be provided for new vessels designed to fish unexploited stocks, for conversion of existing vessels to increase productivity and for replacement of existing vessels.

(g) Subsidies will not be paid for construction of vessels to be used in those fisheries where excessive catching capacity exists: i.e. the fisheries for lobster, scallops, herring, salmon, and snow crab. (These are the same fisheries for which entry permits are established.)

(h) New vessel registrations in the groundfish fishery will be encouraged for underexploited species and areas. Replacement and conversion of existing vessels will also be encouraged.

In the traditional groundfish fishery, the moratorium on new vessel registrations will be continued for an additional nine months. This time is required for further consultations with fishermen, companies and the provinces on the implications of maintaining the level of effort in this part of the groundfish fishery.

(i) Special committees will be set up in our principal fishing areas in order to advise the Government as to the manner in which this program should be administered. Local fishermen and local company representatives will have a voice in the management of our fleets in this way.

(j) Registration of vessels and the issuance of operators' licences will begin early in the new year. We will start with large vessels and the fleets which are already limited in size.

Intensive research may determine whether or not thermonuclear fusion is future source of energy

The first stage of a study has been authorized to determine the possibility of establishing a Canadian program to control nuclear fusion, Mrs. Jeanne Sauvé, Minister of State for Science and Technology, announced recently. Ability to produce power from nuclear fusion would be a partial but far from negligible solution to the problem of rapid depletion of fossil fuels such as petro-

leum and coal, she said.

The study will identify the options open to the Government and the consequences of each option. This phase is expected to be completed by next autumn.

If the study indicates that Canada should become active in research into controlling nuclear fusion, recommendations will be made to the Ministry on

the best program, financing and organization to carry it out.

The investigation will be made by a consortium of Hydro-Quebec, RCA Limited, University of Quebec, University of Montreal, and the Defence Research Establishment in Valcartier. The Ministry of State for Science and Technology and the Atomic Energy Control Board will finance the project.