

Supply—Fisheries

hon. member also asked for details with regard to the vessel replacement and building program for this year. In the Newfoundland area we are replacing the *Cinderella* at a cost of \$110,000. In the maritimes area we are replacing the *Hyperia* and *Obelia* at a total cost of \$57,000. In the Pacific area we are replacing the *Rissa* \$10,000; the *Bonilla Rock* \$10,000; the *Branta*, \$20,000 and we have also a replacement for the *Statistic* at \$16,000. In addition a start has been made on the provision of an additional deep sea patrol vessel of the Cape Freels type for the maritime area, and consideration is being given now to a similar vessel for the Pacific coast.

The hon. member for Comox-Alberni referred to Canada's share of the world fishery, particularly in connection with F.A.O. I am pleased to report that in so far as the development of world fisheries, the resultant threat of depletion and keen international competition are concerned, the department is keeping in close touch with all these developments. Canada is active in every important international commission, as I have mentioned in my remarks, and is supporting the fisheries division of the F.A.O. in its attempt to cope with these growing problems of international conservation and development. In fact two of the senior officials of my department will attend an F.A.O. meeting in Rome next month as part of the Canadian delegation.

The hon. member also mentioned the possibility of limiting the number of salmon licences on the west coast. Reference has been made to this subject by several members, including the hon. member for Skeena and the member for Fraser valley. I am sure all hon. members are fully aware of the difficulties connected with implementing such a restriction. The matter is presently under very active study by the department, and it is our intention to take action in this field as soon as this study has been completed. However, we want to do it in an adequate and equitable manner. I am sure the hon. members who raised this question understand the complexity of the problem. I want to assure them it is under very active study by the department.

The hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg referred to section 31 of the Fisheries Act. Here again, I want to assure the hon. member this matter is under consideration by the department. The matter is much more complicated than just withdrawing this section from the Fisheries Act. I should like to refer

[Mr. Robichaud.]

the hon. member to section 76 of the Fisheries Act which was introduced in 1961 and has some direct effect on section 31, particularly as it affects lobster fishing. It is true that certain states, such as the state of Maine in the United States, permit lobster fishing on the high seas. We must remember also that in those areas the lobster season is open the year round. They do not have the problem we have in our Atlantic provinces, where we have limited seasons, and different seasons in different areas. We are studying this matter which, as I have said, is also very complicated.

We are also taking into consideration the suggestion the hon. member made in connection with some research being done in this direction, particularly on the Grand Banks. In so far as oyster development is concerned, and I referred to this in my remarks, we now have an oyster hatchery in operation at Eilerslie and we are convinced it will be a great asset to the oyster industry of the Atlantic provinces.

The hon. member for Skeena has made a special reference to the third meeting which is now taking place in Ottawa between Canada, Japan and the United States in connection with the north Pacific treaty. I am sure that, as I stated yesterday, hon. members understand why I cannot give more details about the negotiations which are taking place. We would not have a third meeting of these negotiators if our Canadian delegation had not maintained a firm position. I want to assure hon. members that our aim is to ensure that we have full protection for the salmon and halibut fisheries of the Pacific. If we had not maintained this firm position, probably an agreement would have been reached long ago. I want to give this assurance, that it is our hope, and the hope also of the other two countries concerned, that this treaty should be maintained because this protection is essential to the salmon fishery for future generations in the Pacific area.

In so far as the committee appointed last spring to study the wage dispute and problems affecting the fisheries of British Columbia, I am pleased to report that the work of the committee has been completed and a report is now being prepared. This report should be submitted to my department within the next month or so. After it has been given study, it is our intention to make the report public.

With reference to the development of markets for dogfish, I may say that experiments are now being conducted in co-oper-