

Fisheries; policy of licensing operation of trawlers

36. The Minister of Fisheries, referring to discussion at the meeting of February 5th, 1953, submitted a memorandum concerning the licensing of fishing trawlers.

An explanatory memorandum had been circulated.

(Minister's memorandum, Feb. 26, 1953-Cab. Doc. 62-53).

37. The Cabinet noted with approval the report of the Minister of Fisheries concerning the present policy of licensing the operation of fishing trawlers.

Fisheries; price support for prairie fisheries

38. The Minister of Fisheries recommended a programme of price support for the winter fishery of the prairie provinces for 1952-53.

While production of winter-caught lake fish was down substantially, stocks in dealers' hands had increased and they refused to take further deliveries from fishermen. The situation resulted from softer food prices in Canada and the United States, a heavier carry-over of frozen sea fish, and the curtailment of local distribution of frozen fish because of mild weather. Although fishing had ceased about February 15th, the fishermen had on consignment in Winnipeg, en route to Winnipeg, or on the lakes, an estimated 2.4 million pounds of fish with no apparent market. While they had received \$1,224,000 for the 1951-52 season, so far they had received only \$318,000 for the 1952-53 catch. In 1949, under similar circumstances, assistance had been given, but it was recommended that it be on a more curtailed basis in the present year.

An explanatory memorandum had been circulated.

(Minister's memorandum, March 16, 1953 - Cab. Doc. 74-53).

39. In the course of discussion it was argued on the one hand:

(a) that the government should not support the fresh water fishery as a permanent policy;

(b) that, in the circumstances of the fishery on the prairies, the programme was more in the character of relief than of price support and ought to be handled by the provincial government; and,

(c) that support for the fresh water fishery would be likely to produce requests for assistance from Nova Scotia fishermen who had suffered from poor catches and reduced prices in 1952-53.

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