

Hon. Mr. CERER: I should like to ask a question, Mr. Chairman, which may be outside the sphere of the present witness, but perhaps someone here can answer it. It seems that in the Atlantic coastal fishing areas the fish are moving north to cooler waters. Is there anything to that, and if there is, would it have any effect on the cost of processing these fish for market?

Mr. SMITH: That is true, senator. There has been a movement of fish to cooler waters. Of course, the farther away you have to go to get the fish the more it will cost and the more difficult it is to land the fish in good condition; much more time is added to the length of the trip. As far as the North Atlantic area is concerned, there does seem to be a cycle in progress now in which warmer waters are coming to the Banks and as a consequence there is a movement of some species of fish to the northern banks.

Hon. Mr. BISHOP: Are the trawlers putting the shore fishermen out of business in Nova Scotia and other Maritime provinces? What generally is the effect of trawlers on shore fishermen?

Mr. SMITH: Honourable senator, I do not think the effect of trawlers on shore fishermen has been too detrimental. In any business you must have a continuity of operations in order to develop that business. The shore fisherman with his little boat is a factor, and he must be taken care of, but I don't think we could develop a real fishing industry by restricting mechanical fishing by trawlers and going exclusively to the small boat fishing.

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: You do not restrict them.

Mr. SMITH: Trawlers are under licence from the federal government, but there has not been much restriction on the issue of licences.

Hon. Mr. MACLENNAN: The committee seems to be hearing a good deal about British Columbia salmon, and I am getting a little tired of it. Let us hear some talk about Nova Scotia salmon, for example. Is there anybody here who will say that it is easier to dispose of Atlantic salmon than this stuff they catch in British Columbia?

An Hon. MEMBER: No: there is not.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Welch, from the Atlantic coast may be able to tell us something about Nova Scotia and New Brunswick fish.

Mr. WELCH: Mr. Chairman and senators, I am afraid the production of salmon on the Atlantic coast is such that it does not make very much difference on the markets of Canada or the world. The production is very, very small. There are only a few cases of salmon canned, and that is for household use more than anything else. It does not go into the commercial market.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: Perhaps it would not come up to the high standard required for export?

Mr. WELCH: I would not say that. Personally, I think it has a better flavour—with all deference to my British Columbia friends—but the quantity is very small and the price is high. It usually goes to Boston and other United States markets, but the price is too high to can.

The CHAIRMAN: That is fresh salmon?

Mr. WELCH: Fresh salmon.

The CHAIRMAN: Would anyone else from the Council like to say something?

Mr. HYLAND: Senator McLean has called to my attention that I did not adequately answer his question about the effect of subsidized canned pork on the sales of our product.

Unquestionably it does have an effect. Any artificial price level which is established in the manner in which canned pork was handled, is bound to have an effect on canned salmon, which is in the same price range. Undoubtedly if canned pork was selling at a price directly related to its cost of production,