

Supply—Fisheries

communication between the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Public Works. I am sure that the same situation obtains in the minister's own riding where the fishermen cannot practise their trade and cannot go out to sea at the time when the tide is right because the weather prevents them from doing so. So they sit idly at home day after day, unable to get the necessary revenue from their trade. I am sure we will be faced with the same problem this year. I am now referring to inshore fishermen who are the ones most affected in our area.

On looking at the statistics regarding the gross revenue of the fishermen in the province of Quebec I find that in the Magdalen islands their gross revenue is \$3,129, their expenses amount to \$1,318, leaving a net revenue of \$1,811.

In the Gaspé peninsula the gross revenue is \$1,149 and the expenses are \$337, leaving a net revenue of \$812. This situation commends itself to the mercy of the government, which I hope will be concerned about it and will endeavour to study all the possible means to help these people for many years to come.

It is also very interesting to note that while a fisherman receives \$1,150, his unemployment insurance, social allowances, etc. amount to \$793. It is therefore hard to understand why we pay these people social allowances, etc. rather than encourage them to pursue their trade by assisting them with certain facilities which would encourage them to continue to earn a fair revenue.

I should now like to say a few words about the Gaspé salmon, the king of all fish. When we were in committee we were told by Dr. Needler of certain studies which were being undertaken regarding the reason for such large concentrations of Gaspé salmon on the Greenland coast. If these studies have not already been started I hope they will be undertaken as soon as possible because we do not intend to raise Gaspé salmon in our waters only to see others benefit from it.

Mr. Mather: Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise very briefly a question which is of considerable concern to the fishermen in the western maritimes, in British Columbia, I am referring to the fishing licence limitations. This question has troubled the fishing industry of that area for a good many years. Undoubtedly there are economic reasons for the implementation of this licence limitation policy which could result in very far-reaching effects. Like many other problems, that of licence limitation has received a good deal of

[Mr. Keays.]

support in British Columbia but, as happens in the case of many other problems, when the form that this legislation should take is being considered we run into many divergent views. I know that many months ago a conference was held on this subject, I think it was in Vancouver, at which the fisheries department, the fishing industry and fishermen's unions were represented and at which different proposals were put forward and considered in regard to limiting licences of the fishermen. I do not think any agreement was reached, but I believe it is correct to say that since that meeting took place the department has indicated to the fishing industry that despite the fact that no agreement was reached on these proposals, some of them may be introduced without a further conference.

● (3:40 p.m.)

The concern expressed by the fishermen of British Columbia on certain aspects of this issue is well put forward in an editorial appearing in a paper issued by the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union. I should like to quote briefly from that editorial. The union is concerned that whatever is done in the way of limiting licences may add to the monopoly control of that industry. The editorial states:

None of the government's announcements provides any real assurance that the companies will be prevented from tightening their grip on the fleet.

The minister's announcement indicates that the government is contemplating a boat licensing system, but it does not provide any hint of rules which would require individual fishermen to prove that their basic livelihood is obtained from fishing in order to renew their licences.

Moonlighters who had a vessel licensed for salmon in 1966 presumably would have equal standing with bona fide fishermen.

Again, fishermen who were engaged in some branch of the industry other than salmon in 1966 could be ruled ineligible to engage in the salmon fishery in future years. Yet a person holding a regular job ashore, but who took out a licence and fished salmon in 1966, could continue in the salmon fishery.

I just wanted to raise this subject to indicate, by means of this quotation as well as my other remarks, the concern of the people in the British Columbia fishing industry. I should like the minister, at some time during the consideration of these estimates, to comment on this subject of the fishing licence limitation.

Mr. Orange: I wish to take only a few minutes of the committee's time to make a