

In other countries the existence of marine stations has proved beneficial and has helped in wise and serviceable legislation without the risk of vexatious restrictions. They have shown in numberless instances that common opinion was wholly untrustworthy and that the evidence of those practically connected with the fishing industry was frequently far astray, and that commonly expressed views were the reverse of actual facts. Especially has this been the case with respect to the spawning and growth of marine food fishes. Government marine stations could no doubt rely for much aid upon certain of the cruisers engaged in the Fisheries Protection Service, but the main work of the station being of a delicate and precise nature must be carried on in the rooms of the laboratory. Apart from the work of collecting and making observations on the food, migrations and distribution of fishes, and the modes of capture, the more important results can be obtained only by laborious and prolonged work, with the aid of the instruments and books provided in the laboratory itself.

It is not too much to anticipate that the benefits resulting from the establishment of a marine station at some central point, but as indicated, would make obvious the necessity of others. The vast extent of coast and the varying character of the littoral waters would imply such a development of this work. Certainly a more northern and a more southern marine station in the future would promote the great work of thorough investigation. The value and extent of the lake fisheries, in a similar way, would call for an inland station, in order that the conditions of life in these vast inland seas might be better understood. Certainly the practical benefits of a more trustworthy knowledge of our marine and fresh water fisheries can alone lead to their prosperity and growth in the future. Holland has established a floating marine station which can be moved season by season from one point of the coast to another, and with one permanent marine station as a central institution, such subsidiary stations, migratory or otherwise, might be found useful as secondary adjuncts in a work so extensive.