

Portugal up to 20 to 25 years ago was one of the world's largest importers of salt cod, ranking second only to Spain as a world importer. During this period Newfoundland shipped 400,000 cwts, about half of Portugal's requirements, compared with a mere 30,000 cwts. of 1952 production sold to this country. However, it is believed that Portugal's consumption of fish is as much or greater now than it was two decades ago. Portugal has substantially increased her own fishing fleet operating in the North Atlantic, thereby increasing her national production. Despite this increased national production, substantial quantities of salt cod fish are imported into Portugal from Iceland, Norway and France. The above data clearly indicates that Canadian fish has been practically excluded.

Fresh and frozen fish and shellfish from the Atlantic area of Canada enjoy an expanding market in the United States. This market, serving a population of over 150 million people, which number is increasing at some 2 millions annually, offers to us a greater opportunity than any other market for expanding our sales, especially in view of the low per capita consumption of fish and fishery products in this continent.

The principal species of Atlantic coast fish that we export to this large and important American market are: Fillets, lobsters, swordfish, smelts and halibut.

#### *Groundfish Fillets*

It is vital to these branches of the Canadian industry that the U.S.A. market be retained and cultivated. Consequently, our industry views with much concern representations now being made by New England States' interests to their government at Washington with a view to curtailing imports of groundfish fillets from Canada and other countries.

We suggest that our government should watch this situation very closely and if any attempt is made by the United States to impose additional trade restrictions in the form of quotas or higher tariffs upon the import of Canadian groundfish fillets, our government should make a vigorous protest and take all steps within their power to protect our industry.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Mr. Chairman, may I interrupt to ask a question? What are groundfish?

Mr. SMITH: Groundfish are fillets of cod, haddock, rosefish, and so on. The definition is one used by the United States tariff. Those are the fillets that are referred to.

Hon. Mr. EULER: I am wondering why they are called groundfish?

Mr. SMITH: I suppose it is because they are caught on the banks. I really cannot say why they are called groundfish. It is just a description which has grown up without very much reason for it.

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: The distance they are caught from shore does not have very much to do with it.

Mr. SMITH: No.

France offers a very large potential market for frozen groundfish fillets, particularly cod, if and when import and currency restrictions are removed or modified. Very substantial quantities of frozen groundfish fillets are now being imported into France from producing countries other than Canada, principally Iceland and Norway.

#### *Lobsters*

Live lobsters and lobster meat find a ready market in the United States. While threats are made from time to time by proposed legislation in the United States which might affect the export of these items, it is most important that this market be retained.