

(2) Canadian and United States halibut fishermen fish throughout this area but are prohibited from using otter trawl gear under the International Pacific Halibut Commission regulations because of possible damage to small and immature halibut.

(3) The results of the special trawl survey carried out over the last 12 months show large numbers of small, immature halibut are taken in trawling operations.

(4) Other results of the trawl survey indicate that it should be possible to delimit the areas where damage to halibut stocks resulting from trawling operations for other species would be minimized.

(5) The trawl survey in 1961-62 covered the area south of the Alaska Peninsula between 165° West Longitude and 153° West Longitude and from shore to the 250 fathom contour. It is essential that similar data be obtained during 1962-63 to the east of this study area where major halibut spawning and nursery areas are known to occur.

(6) Since the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean may be terminated in 1963, Canada must assemble as much information as possible before that date to strengthen her position in negotiations dealing with the continued abstention by the Japanese fleets from fishing halibut in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and, equally important, in any negotiations which may have to take place with the Soviet Union with regard to the North Pacific fisheries.

As I have pointed out, I am strongly of the view that this matter is a most urgent one and I sincerely hope, in the Canadian interest, that Treasury Board will grant the funds requested. An immediate decision is required because suitable vessels must be chartered and the expedition organized to get under way this month.

Perhaps, because of present circumstances, the required funds could be provided meantime from the Department of Finance Vote Number 50 "Miscellaneous Minor and Unforeseen Expenses."

#### *Board Decision*

At its Meeting of May 17, 1962, the Board approved the proposal subject to the Department delaying other programs so as to effect an offsetting decrease in expenditures. The Board's approval included a commitment of \$200,000 against the Department of Finance - Vote 50, the "Unforeseen Vote," and approval of the inclusion of an item in Supplementary Estimates to recoup this Vote. The Supplementary Estimates item and the "Unforeseen" commitment are required, even though offsetting delays in other programs are to be made, because these delays will affect votes other than the one in question.

If the Cabinet concurs in the Treasury Board decision, and if the Department is still prepared to undertake the work, the Department should submit an amendment to the Classification of Expenditures to reflect the offsetting reductions in programs. Once this is done, allotments from the Unforeseen Vote may be made as required.<sup>3</sup>

DONALD M. FLEMING

<sup>3</sup> Approuvé par le Cabinet le 28 mai 1962./Approved by Cabinet on May 28, 1962.