

fishermen to be exempted from the *Freshwater Fish Marketing Act*, the Committee recommends that:

(13a) The fishermen of the NWT put their concerns to the territorial government which, in co-operation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and in consultation with the majority of fishermen, should take whatever action it deems appropriate for the benefit of most of the fishermen of that area.

(13b) The territorial government, in co-operation with the federal government, license a few carefully selected individuals or groups to purchase and market species from the territorial harvest. This would be a pilot project designed to assess whether private enterprise has the capability to participate actively in revitalizing the declining fisheries of the Territories. The participants in this pilot project must be prepared to market all of their catch.

While the last recommendation applies to all species, one which is particularly well-suited for such an experiment is the Territories' Arctic char. It is a highly saleable product that would need a unique and creative marketing approach. Such an experiment may help to increase the Eastern Canada market for this product which is apparently undeveloped mainly because it is obligatory that it be routed through Winnipeg. Since the Arctic char fishery is exclusive to the NWT, such a project would mean that the producers could market the product inter-provincially in Western Canada where a large part of the current market lies as well as in Central Canada and on the export markets. This however, may not apply to species which are common to most provinces in the Western Region.

In conclusion to this section, the Committee would like to emphasize that the portion of the NWT, particularly the Eastern Arctic, requires a more intensive study to determine whether it is being adequately served by the present system as carried out by the FFMC.

4.2 The Ontario Region

During the hearings held by the Committee on the fisheries of the Ontario Region, it quickly became apparent that the problems and concerns of these fisheries are much less numerous and contentious than those of the Western Region. However, a number of issues were raised and therefore should be dealt with notwithstanding the relative scarcity of social and economic data relating to these fisheries.

The dual nature of the Ontario Region fisheries should first be noted. On one hand there are the Great Lakes fisheries and on the other, there are the so-called inland waters. Out of the 931 commercial fishing licences in Ontario, 497 are in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes. The remaining 434 licences are distributed in the so-called inland waters of northern and southern Ontario. Based on these figures, the average catch per licence in the Great Lakes fisheries (excluding Lake Saint Clair) would be upwards of 40,000 kg (88,000 lb.) compared to less than 3,000 kg (6,600 lb.) per licence in the fisheries outside the Great Lakes. An obvious consequence of this is the unequal income distribution, although this occurs here to a lesser degree than in the Western Region. In the Ontario Region: "There are perhaps 300 part-time fishermen and subsistence fishermen with gross annual incomes well below \$6,000 and about 100