

*Supply—Fisheries*

ductivity per fisherman in 1956 was 41,000 pounds, this has decreased steadily each year, to the point where last year it was only 25,000 pounds. There are more fishermen now than in the past, so the total catch may be as good as it was; but I should like to remind the minister that the figures we now have in respect of the catch this year, which indicate that the situation is worse than it was last year, must be considered in the light of that increase in the number of fishermen. Unless there is a tremendous improvement in the fisheries in this area within the next month we will be faced with an even lower productivity per fisherman than last year.

I endorse the remarks of those speakers who have encouraged the minister to continue this admirable program of research, but perhaps the efforts in this field should be concentrated a little more toward determining the causes and remedies with respect to these smaller fish, as well as a study of the causes of the lower productivity per fisherman.

We in Newfoundland are heartened by the progress being made toward the establishment of the 12 mile limit, and we realize that there is a lot of water still to pass under the bridge before base lines are determined. We hope, however, that it is not too optimistic to suggest that the problems in respect of establishing this 12 mile limit will be solved before the 1965 fishing season. With reference to a suggestion made during a recent meeting of the committee on marine and fisheries, I suggested to the minister and his officials that certain conservation areas within Canada's territorial waters will have to be established. The inshore fishermen of Newfoundland, and of those areas of the maritime provinces where there still is an inshore fishery, are not unreasonable and certainly not agitating for the exclusion of Canadian draggers and trawlers from the 12 mile limit but they have a justifiable case in suggesting that certain areas, for example along the southern shore of St. John's West, which is straight for 60 or 70 miles, have not been properly considered in respect of the establishment of base lines. The base line theory does not mean anything because this is a straight shore, so whatever is resolved as far as base lines are concerned is not going to make too much difference to them. There are no large bays or other such bodies of water.

This 60 or 70 miles of coast line is very near the major ocean routes of trans-Atlantic traffic and many of the foreign trawlers and other vessels that go to the port of St. John's

[Mr. Cashin.]

for supplies go down this shore. Right now they hover about the 12 or three mile limit as the case may be. This not only causes undue interference with the fishermen's gear but from what I have been able to learn about the situation it is undoubtedly having an effect on the inshore fishery in that area. It has been explained to me not only by biologists and other scientists but by the fishermen themselves, who in their own way quite often know more about the situation, than in years gone by there were traditional runs of fish that came at particular seasons; but now the trawlers and draggers know the approximate times of these runs of fish and they are there to interfere with the potential catch of the inshore fishermen.

Whatever other arrangements are made as far as Canadian territorial waters as a whole are concerned, I think it would not be unreasonable if areas such as the one I am talking about were classified at least for certain periods of the year as conservation areas, to the exclusion of all trawlers and draggers including our own Canadian draggers. When I brought this matter up in the committee I asked the representatives of the Canada fisheries council and the representatives of the industry whether they would have any objection to this and they replied that they would not.

I sympathize with the minister in this regard in that all of the coast line of Newfoundland is the habitat of the inshore fishermen. Perhaps not all of them are so severely affected as those on the southern shore of St. John's West or the northern shore of St. John's East, or part of the strait of Belle Isle where they are very near shipping routes. Perhaps there are large bays where it would not apply, but I certainly think that for some period of the year—it would probably have to be from May or June until December—these areas should be reserved exclusively for the use of the inshore fishermen.

I say again that these areas will be affected very little by any future decision as to base lines because they are primarily areas of straight shore and do not have large bays and the like. If this is done it will have some beneficial effect, I hope, on the inshore catch in Newfoundland.

While I am talking about the inshore fishermen, may I say I think we have to recognize—I think the minister has given an indication that he does—that in addition to these conservation measures we must also strive for greater mobility among the inshore fishermen. We are heartened by the news of the subsidy