

Commercial Fisheries Development

the physical and chemical oceanographic factors, with a view to improved methods of finding and catching fish.

To discover the secrets of the oceans, the development of highly sophisticated instruments is required and recruitment of highly skilled specialists is under way in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. We are keenly aware of the need to train specialists in fisheries research and in 1966-67 a program is being initiated whereby grants will be awarded to appropriate university departments and staff, specifically to encourage research into the marine and aquatic sciences, and to develop trained fisheries scientists by supporting graduate students. A limited budget will restrict award of these grants in the initial year, but requests for assistance received to date indicate both wide appreciation of this scheme and the need for a considerable increase in future financial support.

Although the management of fish in inland waters is, in some provinces, under provincial administration, the Fisheries Research Board in expanding research on the fresh water fishes of Canada with the development of its new fresh water institute in Winnipeg. It is hoped from these broadly based studies that principles will be developed of importance to fish farming techniques and the management of fresh water fish stocks. Continuing research is also being directed to the possibilities of farming marine and anadromous species.

● (8:10 p.m.)

The needs for fisheries research in all areas of Canada are being actively reviewed with a view to meeting our responsibilities. We are acutely aware of the competing needs for increasing research in all parts of Canada, within the limits of manpower and financial resources available to us.

It is difficult to envisage what order of expenditure will be necessary to carry through the fisheries development activities by the federal government over the years. I should like to assure my hon. friends, however, that this will be reflected in the estimates of my department from year to year, and will be adequate to meet the needs of an expanding industry and of the research and development activities necessary to bring about a better livelihood for Canadian fishermen everywhere.

As I have mentioned on a previous occasion, the estimates of my department, which totalled \$23 million in 1963, exceed \$40 million for the present year.

[Mr. Robichaud.]

Due to representations which have been made to me since the introduction of the bill I shall have certain amendments to propose during our discussion of it. The main amendment will affect clause 3 of the bill.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Chairman, the minister has given us a comprehensive statement on his interests and intentions with respect to this legislation. It is very revolutionary at first glance, and certainly one gets an idea of its scope when he sees the powers given to the governor in council under clause 5. However, I rise this evening briefly to interest the minister and the committee in a subject that he will remember was a favourite of mine some time ago.

Studies have been conducted into many species of fish, both commercial and otherwise, with one notable exception, perhaps because of the fact that on the east coast it has not got as great commercial value as other species, and has given rise to different interests in different areas. I refer to the Atlantic salmon, and I hasten to add that it pleased me to hear the minister mention that this new legislation will deal with it from a sport standpoint. East coast salmon have both a sporting and commercial interest, and I would like to see a massive research program conducted into Atlantic salmon from both these standpoints.

It is true that surveys have been conducted on particular rivers. We have examined the pollution problem on some rivers, perhaps not as extensively as it should have been done, and we also investigated the effect on salmon of dams and things like that. I shall not go into all that, but we in the east know the great value of the Atlantic salmon. We are proud of it. Saint John harbour salmon is the finest eating fish in the country, and testimony was paid to that effect no later than yesterday by the junior minister of transport. He gave that testimony in public and there were many witnesses to it. I only hope that if he ever goes to the west coast he will not be ashamed to say that the Saint John harbour salmon is the finest of them all.

We all know the great interest taken in Atlantic salmon from the angling standpoint. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is present and I know he goes to private camps on the Restigouche and the Miramichi to catch those salmon. We have all seen pictures of the salmon being caught in the rivers of