

Supply—Fisheries

in order to arrive at a final and acceptable conclusion. However, some of our major fisheries are being exploited hundreds of miles beyond any base lines that may be established, and this could affect the growth and abundance of stocks inside our exclusive fishing zones.

For this reason Canada has been a party to seven international conservation conventions since their inception. These affect the halibut fishery of the northern Pacific ocean and Bering sea, the sockeye salmon fisheries in the Fraser river system, the high seas fisheries of the north Pacific ocean, the northern Pacific fur seal fishery, the northwest Atlantic fisheries, the fisheries of the great lakes, and the stocks of whales.

The maintenance of adequate standards to make sure that Canada's fishery products are of high quality is the responsibility of my department's inspection service. Late in 1964 the fish inspection regulations and the canned fish inspection regulations were completely rewritten to incorporate certain new departmental policies, including compulsory inspection of all forms of fish products, a closer control over the use of quality designations, standards for fishing vessels and for cold storages. These draft regulations were distributed to the industry for review and comment. Regional meetings with industry have been held from coast to coast, and a final draft of the regulations has now been distributed for review before enactment on April 1, 1967.

May I point out that regulations have just been drafted for the application of subsidies to cold storage, and I expect to be able to make a formal announcement in this house within the next few weeks.

Compulsory registration of plants processing fresh and frozen fish was begun a year ago. The degree of industry co-operation has been most gratifying, and many of the fish plants in Canada are now among the best of their kind in the world.

• (12:10 p.m.)

Both the quantity and quality of water remains a serious problem, particularly in the Atlantic provinces. Clean water has become an expensive commodity, and the capital cost of pipe lines and other installations has often been beyond the reach of some communities where fish processing facilities are located. In these instances generous financial assistance has been provided by the federal government through the Atlantic Development Board. To

date approximately \$10 million has been authorized for the improvement of water supplies for our fish processing plants.

The inspection service is undertaking new responsibilities for applied and development investigation into problems in the handling, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of fish and shellfish, and is increasing its staff and laboratory facilities in order to serve industry better.

It is desirable for many reasons that new products be developed from commercial species of fish now being landed, from fish now discarded at sea and from fish known to be available but which are not being caught. In the effort to prevent the loss of millions of pounds of protein each year in capelin and dogfish, which are either avoided by fishermen or discarded because there is no substantial commercial demand for them, a group of technologists of the inspection service visited several European countries this year. There they studied new product development and processing techniques, and their work in this field is promising for the future.

As to the present state of the industry, Canadian fishermen in general are enjoying a good year. Based on the results of the first eight months it is estimated that the total catch will be as good as, if not slightly higher than, that of 1965. Over-all gross returns to fishermen are expected to be higher than they were last year by about 7 per cent.

Expansion of the groundfish fishery in British Columbia continued and indications are that the landings of that group of species will be about 25 per cent higher than they were in 1965, which was a record year. On the Atlantic coast the groundfish landings are higher than those of last year by about 5 per cent, and the value to fishermen, due to higher prices, by about 10 per cent. An increase in the value to fishermen is registered in each of the Atlantic coast provinces.

The production of frozen groundfish fillets and blocks will likely exceed the all time high of 229 million pounds produced in 1965. The production of salted fish in Newfoundland continues its decline and indications are that the 1966 production will be some 7 per cent lower than in 1965. The trend to divert cod from salting to freezing is continuing in that province. A decline in the catch of lobsters is registered in all the Atlantic coast provinces. The drop for the area as a whole is about 14 per cent.

In just two years from now the fisheries Research Board of Canada will be celebrating