

Hon. Mr. McDONALD: I would think that good work could be done in establishing better relations if you could solve just what accounts for the large spread between what the fisherman receives and what the consumer has to pay for the fish.

Mr. HYLAND: Yes, I think that is a good suggestion, and it lies in our responsibility as processors.

Hon. Mr. GERSHAW: Is there much difference in the cost of preparation for sale of canned salmon between British Columbia and North Western States?

Mr. HYLAND: I do not think the actual differences of processing are too great; but in Alaska, particularly, many of the producers there have access to fish which is caught in traps, which admittedly is acknowledged to be a cheaper method of securing raw supplies. It is true that not all the Alaska salmon is caught in that way, but there is sufficient to reduce the average cost slightly below our own. I would think in some species their costs of raw fish would be less than ours.

Hon. Mr. DAIGLE: Could you give us an idea of the difference in quantity between the salmon caught in the United States waters and that caught in Canadian waters?

Mr. HYLAND: I can relate it in terms of cases canned. The average pack of B.C. canned salmon is 1,500,000 cases per year, over the past ten years. There has been a slight improvement in our per year pack. The Alaska pack plus Puget Sound is in the vicinity of four million.

Mr. HAGER: It is closer to five million.

Hon. Mr. DAIGLE: Is that the only packing plant in the United States?

Mr. HYLAND: There is Alaska, Washington and Oregon.

Hon. Mr. DAIGLE: You do not know about the Washington total?

Mr. HYLAND: They are all grouped together.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: Traps are not used in the Washington-Oregon waters, are they?

Mr. HYLAND: All in Alaska.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: All in Canadian waters.

Mr. HYLAND: There are four or five traps operating at the southern tip of Vancouver Island; it is only the trap line remaining.

The CHAIRMAN: But traps are legal in British Columbia.

Mr. HYLAND: They are legal but there are no more licences being issued.

Mr. HAGER: Just at the one specific area or one company, and the license is subject to being secured each and every year.

The CHAIRMAN: And other licences applied for are refused.

Mr. HAGER: They haven't been refused yet.

The CHAIRMAN: But if new licences are applied for they will be refused.

Mr. HAGER: That will be up to the government in Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: Would it be of benefit in your opinion if traps were licensed more or less generally?

Mr. HAGER: Very definitely, Senator Turgeon. Alaska puts it all over us on cost of production.

The CHAIRMAN: As an association have you made representations in that connection?

Mr. HAGER: Oh, yes.

Mr. HYLAND: I don't think we have as an association.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: There was some effort made a few years ago.

Mr. HYLAND: Yes.