

Development of community is part of fisheries plan

Chairman, Fisheries Prices Support Board, Ottawa

In recent years, almost all national or international programs for fisheries development include consideration of community development. The approach to community development may differ considerably but, in general, the idea embraces the co-ordination of the various levels of government necessary to encourage expanded or improved utilization of the fish resources available to the area.

Traditionally, the key factor in development of a fishing community has been the establishment of a plant to process and market the catch. This has been followed by improvement of harbour facilities, transportation facilities, community facilities such as roads, schools, churches and so forth.

Thus private enterprise, federal, provincial and municipal governments as well as the population itself all have a role to play in community development.

DEVELOPMENT RATE

The scale of development of fishing communities depends primarily on the available resources but the rate of development depends heavily on the degree of co-ordination achieved between the various levels of government and the people concerned. For this reason, much greater emphasis is now being placed on a planned approach. It is clear, for example, that to assist in the introduction of modern fishing craft in an area, without concurrent attention to landing, processing and other facilities, can only lead to frustration and failure.

At the present time, only informal arrangements exist for co-ordination of the plans and activities of various levels of government and agencies interested in fisheries development. A private company, co-operative or community group interested

in developing the fishery of an area must seek the support of half a dozen agencies before the proposed project can be undertaken.

PROGRAMS

Recently a number of provincial governments have initiated development programs designed to stimulate production and employment in particular fishing communities. Assistance has been extended to the construction of plants and other facilities as well as a concentration of loans for vessel construction to fishermen in such areas. Usual additional harbour and other federal activities have been required. Thus a question arises as to the adequacy and efficiency of existing arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation in such efforts.

On a smaller scale, the need for improved facilities to land or process fish in small, isolated communities, where production is insufficient to attract private enterprise, has become apparent. Attempts to meet this need through the provision of community facilities have been carried out in some provinces, particularly Newfoundland and Saskatchewan. Again, the need for adequate machinery to co-ordinate the plans and responsibilities of the two levels of government requires consideration.

In some provinces, particularly Newfoundland and Manitoba, rural development projects in areas heavily dependent on fishery resources have been proposed or undertaken under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act. Such projects are concerned with community development in its broadest sense. Implementation of programs will involve both federal and provincial fisheries departments and agencies. Again the question of co-ordination requires consideration.

European Countries, New Zealand and Australia."

It was also suggested that as investigation be carried out into price spreads of fisheries products, "levying particular attention to those areas of product movement on the distribution level."

A pilot operation for the commercial raising of trout, with the federal government sharing 25 per cent of the cost, was suggested by Mr. Rossiter. He said "this joint participation should continue until the pilot operation reaches commercial production when it might be disposed of to private industry."

Mr. Rossiter suggested that consideration should be given to "the problem of restriction of credit or loan assistance to fishermen."

It was asked that the 50 per cent federal subsidy, granted on the construction of steel trawlers, be "regularized on permanent basis so that programs may be planned as far ahead as five or 10 years." It was asked that regulations governing this kind of assistance be amended to permit progress payments on contracts below \$100,000 and that "the 50 per cent assistance be extended to and include assistance covering the cost of major hull repairs."

CONTINUING COMMITTEE

It was also suggested that the federal \$250 subsidy, granted on a per gross ton basis, be changed to a percentage of total cost basis. "We also recommend," said Mr. Rossiter, "that the subsidy assistance regulations be amended to allow assistance in the case of small in-shore boats, below the 25-foot length, down to 35 feet in length."

The final recommendation of Mr. Rossiter's subcommittee was that "there be appointed a continuing committee, with a representative of each government, of fishermen and of the trade, to have responsibility, under joint auspices of the two governments, for advising on the implementation of the fishery development program by reviewing progress, making further recommendations, and working toward the co-ordination of the efforts of all agencies concerned."

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in the production of cured fish products.

(2) assistance provided to suppliers of frozen bait in the five Atlantic provinces under the federal bait freezer regulations;

(3) operation of a bait service by the federal government in the province of Newfoundland;

(4) the provision of low cost insurance for fishermen with vessels valued from \$25 to \$12,500 in the five Atlantic provinces and British Columbia; and

PRICE STABILIZATION

The board established under the Fisheries Prices Support Act is empowered, subject to and in accordance with the regulations of the governor in council, to prescribe prices at

which the board may purchase fishery products; to purchase at such prices any fishery product; or to pay to the producer of a fisheries product the difference between the price prescribed by the board and the average price of which such product is sold during a specified period. If such average price is below the prescribed price.

While this legislation does not establish mandatory levels at which prices of various species of fish shall be supported, it does contain all the powers required to give support should prices to fishermen fall significantly in any particular year for any particular reason.

The act provides for expenditures, other than administration, up to \$25,000,000 in any fiscal year.

Stabilization of prices by fishermen has been a feature of government-sponsored fish mar-

keting arrangements in the province of Saskatchewan. In the province of British Columbia, minimum prices of fishermen for the major species of fish have been, for many years, the subject of negotiation between representatives of fishermen and fish processors.

AIRPORT EXPANSION

Toronto International Airport employs 3,000 persons, compared with 175 employed when it started operating in 1938 at Malton Airport.

HABITUÉ ESCAPEE

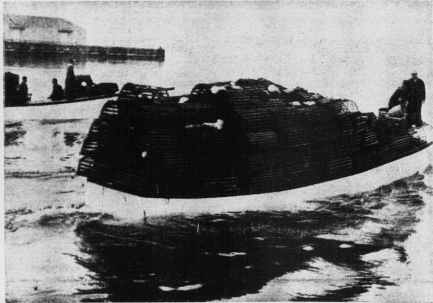
BAR-LE-DUC, France (AP)—"You are sentenced to one year in prison for breaking out of prison and escaping," the court president intoned. Whitecap Michel July 24, robbery convict, hauled over two gentlemen and got away on his fourth escape.

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