

The Board has the authority to buy quality fishery products under prescribed conditions and to dispose of them by sale or otherwise, or to pay to producers the difference between a price prescribed by the Board and the average price the product actually commands. The Board has no power to control prices other than its purchase policy nor has it any jurisdiction over operations in the fishing industry or the fish trade. Money necessary for dealings in fishery products is available to the Board from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to a maximum amount of \$25 million annually on recommendation of the federal Treasury Board and authorization of the Governor in Council.

The government authorized the Board to operate a groundfish price stabilization program in 1971 designed to forestall distress selling in normal markets while ensuring fair returns to primary producers and processors. Since market conditions remained buoyant, it was not necessary for the Board to acquire fishery products but the fact that a program was in place contributed in maintaining orderly marketing conditions.

Since 1966 the Fisheries Prices Support Board has operated yellow perch price stabilization programs. Under the 1971 program the Board acquired 198,000 pounds of perch fillets at 40 cents per lb. All product was returned to the supplier by the end of the fiscal year at cost. This program provided some market stability for this product and operated without loss to the Government of Canada.

In 1971, a deficiency payment program was authorized for the 1970 salt cod production to ensure that the prices paid to fishermen approximated those of the previous year. Payments to fishermen under this program were actually made during the fiscal year 1971-72, after the final settlement to the fishermen by the Canadian Saltfish Corporation had been established. During the 1971-72 fiscal year, 4,572 individual payments were made to fishermen for a total expenditure of \$244,986.

To assist in meeting food fish requirements for the World Food Programme and the Canadian International Development Agency, the Board has acted as purchasing agent for canned fish products. During the year the Board acquired 168,641 cases of canned mackerel and 174,639 cases of canned herring.

To enable the Atlantic Coast groundfish exporters to plan and co-ordinate their production activities in relation to market requirements, the Board, through the facilities of the Marketing Services Branch of the Fisheries and Marine Service, provides a market outlook service to meet the increasing needs of the industry in terms of market information and to expand and increase the frequency of these market outlook reports. The objective is to provide the industry at the beginning of the fishing season with a short-term supply and demand outlook of the US market for fillets and blocks of the major groundfish species, followed by periodic situation reports. The supply outlook covers the major producers of groundfish such as Canada, Iceland, Norway, Denmark and Greenland.

Canadian Saltfish Corporation. The Canadian Saltfish Corporation was established under the Saltfish Act and became operative on May 4, 1970. Its main purpose is to improve the earnings of fishermen and of other primary producers of salt cured fish. It does this through the production or purchase, processing and marketing of salt cod from participating provinces.

The Corporation, whose head office is at St. John's Nfld., consists of a board of directors composed of a chairman, whose office is in Ottawa, a president who is general manager, one director for each participating province and not more than five other directors, all of whom are appointed by the Governor in Council. It is assisted by an Advisory Committee of 15 members, also appointed by the Governor in Council, at least half of whom are fishermen or representatives of fishermen. The limit of the Corporation's financial obligations is \$10 million and the Corporation is required to operate without grant appropriation from Parliament. It is empowered to distribute excess of income over expenses to participating fishermen and other primary producers.

In 1972, the participating provinces were Newfoundland, and Quebec in respect of the lower north shore of the St. Lawrence River. The results of the 1970 and 1971 seasons permitted the Corporation to make additional payments of approximately \$500,000 for each of these two years.

The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. This Corporation was established in 1969 for the purpose of marketing and trading in fish, fish products and fish by-products in and out of Canada to ensure more orderly marketing for the benefit of the whole fishery and to achieve higher and more stable prices for the catch.