

## VIEWPOINT OF THE INDUSTRY: FISHERMEN AND ALLIED WORKERS

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I feel that because of the lack of proper interest on the part of top-level people in the State of California and the Federal Government, our fisheries have disintegrated and fishermen have abandoned the trade at an alarming rate since the end of World War II.

Tremendous amounts of money are being appropriated for the exploration of outer space, defense build-ups, experimental uses of atomic power, etc., but appropriations for oceanography and fisheries research and development are notably lacking. Programs that have been scheduled and monies that have been allocated to fisheries are all well and good as far as they go, but they neither *go far enough, nor soon enough*. There is little value in developing a great wealth of knowledge and know-how in fisheries as to the conditions and abundance of the resources and stocks; the spawning and migratory habits; the best methods of catching, preserving, freezing and processing these fish; blueprinting better, faster, newer and more efficient vessels and gear, if no one remains to benefit from it all.

Today, now, immediately is the time for action, *not tomorrow*. A crash program to assist the fishermen is needed if we intend to maintain California's fisheries and industry. A fire must be started among the top people at both State and Federal levels to awaken them to the fact that up until now fishermen have only touched the outer fringes of the tremendous resources that abound off of our shores. They must be made to realize that unless we range out, explore, find and develop these resources, they will eventually be wiped out by foreign fishing fleets without regard to conservation. The economic loss from such action would be felt by our fishermen, community and State, for decades to come.

It would be shameful indeed if we as fishermen and Californians stand idly by and watch the remnants of what was once a very great California industry die, as our State and Federal government seems prone to do. I believe that at one time fisheries ranked third or fourth in value in our great State and there is no reason why this industry cannot once again regain that important position, thereby benefiting the citizens and State.

I submit ten cardinal points for your consideration as to some steps that should be taken to keep this industry alive while we are awaiting the development of long-range plans and programs.

It would be greatly appreciated if strong thought and study be given to them.

- 1) Continuation and expansion of work being done by the Marine Research Committee and CalCOFI scientists
- 2) Ways and means to raise additionally needed monies to expand programs of scientific research, experimentation and development
- 3) Scientifically-managed fisheries to:
  - a) Afford maximum protection and conservation of all the resources in coastal waters.
  - b) Equal utilization of the resources to all Californians, whether for recreational, sportfishing or commercial fishing purposes.
  - c) Protection of these resources from inroads by foreign fishing fleets to prevent abuses of our conservation programs and depletion of the stocks.
- 4) Continued and expanded scientific research on the following species:
  - a) Anchovies
  - b) Jack and Pacific mackerel
  - c) Pacific hake
  - d) Pacific saury
  - e) Squid
  - f) All other species which might be suitable for canning, reduction or fish protein concentrate purposes.
- 5) Exploration research to establish the following:
  - a) Geographical areas of the stocks and locations as per species.
  - b) Abundance and size of the stocks.
  - c) Spawning areas and months.
  - d) Pattern of migration as per months or season, inshore, offshore, north, south, etc.
  - e) Depths of the stocks.
  - f) Feed and environmental habits.
  - g) Effects of shoreside pollution on the stocks, feed, plankton, etc.
- 6) Research and development of new and appropriate fishing gear and techniques
  - a) Bottom trawl.
  - b) Mid-water trawl.
  - c) Seine or round haul nets.
  - d) Electrofishing.
  - e) Winches and retrieving gear.
  - f) Depth sounders, fish finders, scanners, etc.
  - g) Installation of water temperature and weather equipment.
- 7) Removal of present State restrictions which presently prevent the following:
  - a) Utilization of certain types of fishing nets and gear.

- b) Taking or landing of certain species.
  - c) Fishing in closed areas, for military or sport reasons, which could be fished at nights or at certain times or months.
- 8) Establish schools in sea ports to train new, young fishermen in the following :
- a) Engineering and diesel engines.
  - b) Refrigeration systems and methods.
    - 1) Brine
    - 2) Spray
    - 3) Sharp freeze
  - c) Navigational equipment and aids.
    - 1) Geographical
    - 2) Celestial
  - d) General over-all rigging.
    - 1) Wire splicing
    - 2) Rope splicing
    - 3) Winch handling
    - 4) Cables, blocks and retrieving gear
    - 5) Proper method of hanging and/or constructing various types of nets, and repairs thereto
    - 6) General over-all knowledge of ship nomenclature and ship handling
    - 7) Safety, aboard ship and at sea
    - 8) Ability to read and understand weather charts, temperature charts, currents, thermocline and their effects on the fish. Signs of pending storms, etc.
- 9) Creation of a separate marine commission for ocean resources
- a) Present Fish & Game Commission too overburdened to carry out proper and just responsibilities of ocean resources.
- 10) Financial assistance from state and federal government to boatowners, fishermen and processors to/or for :
- a) Designing, developing and constructing newer, faster and more efficient vessels with better holding and freezing facilities, fish finding equipment, etc.
  - b) Construction of new types of fishing nets, gear and equipment based on new highly sophisticated methods, backed by research and proven experimentation.
  - c) Monetary subsidy to pay for fish being utilized in new infant fisheries caught by boatowner and fishermen beyond what price processors can pay during early development of proper processing methods, such as in hake fisheries.
  - d) Assist canners and processors in proper and new methods, including pollution controls, as an incentive to keep them from going out of business or relocating outside of California.