

D E C K S
A W A S H

A FISHERIES EXTENSION PROGRAMME



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE

Programme #1

November, 1964

As we begin our newsletter service for the 1964-65 season we are very conscious of the fact that the past fishing season was not a good one for many inshore fishermen, particularly trap fishermen. In many parts of Newfoundland and Southern Labrador it was one of those years when trap fishermen receive very little returns for the hard work and broken rest which is so characteristic of this type of fishery. Failures of this kind continues to demonstrate in a rather tragic but vivid way the necessity for fishermen to be equipped with boats and gear that will make it possible for them to find the fish when water temperatures and feeding conditions prevent them from frequenting the traditional trap "berths". Most of the fishermen so equipped during the past season managed to get at least "saving voyages". By using the synthetic gill nets as early as possible in the Spring, then getting what they could from traps, and going back to gill nets and long lines again in the Fall, they succeeded in getting a fair voyage in spite of the vagaries of the trap fishery.

Commencement of 1964-65 series

In our "Decks Awash" series for this season, which began on November 22nd., we'll be able to show you how many fishermen are now endeavoring to equip themselves with boats and

gear for multi-purpose fishing and the greater chance it gives them of producing better catches.

We should like to repeat here what was said in our first newsletter of last year, namely, that, "one of the ways in which the "Deck Awash" series may be of practical assistance is to inform you of what other fishermen are thinking and doing. Most of us, whether we are fishermen or not, can learn something from other people. We realize, of course, that the same piece of information is not likely to meet, in every detail, the exact need of every one of a number of fishermen. We are also sure that every fisherman who is putting thought into his job will welcome suggestions from other fishermen who are "making good" and we will be anxious to get as much information as possible about every phase of the fishery."

Film acquired for this season's series

In preparation for this season's series of "Decks Awash" your moderator visited a number of fishing communities during the past season. He had the opportunity of seeing various fishing methods at first hand and succeeded in getting film on various new aspects of the inshore fishery. This film will be used on the programmes of this series during the coming winter. We hope you enjoy the films and that you will be able to get some new information from the programmes.

Experimental Projects Undertaken During Summer

The Newfoundland provincial government, through its Fisheries Development Authority and with the assistance of the Industrial Development Service of the federal department of Fisheries, and also assisted, to some extent by representatives of the fishing industry, have, during the summer, been carrying on a number of experimental projects designed to test new fishing methods and new gear. Three of these experiments were (1) a new type of Inshore Gillnet Boat and Drum Hauler, (2) new way of catching squid using Japanese methods, and (3) the feasibility of using small Inshore Druggers for flounder and other ground fish. In addition to these three, other projects will be undertaken during the winter and on into next season.

Preliminary reports from these experiments are encouraging and undoubtedly some of these new methods will be in use during next season. The Inshore Gillnet Boat and Drum Hauler shows very great promise of providing an effective and efficient way of handling large numbers of Gillnets with minimum labour.

Our first programme this season as last season, was an introductory one in which we had the participation of four guests, all of whom have had long and close associations with the Newfoundland Fisheries.

Dr. Gushue

Dr. Raymond Gushue, our first guest, expressed his satisfaction that Memorial University through the Extension Service was able to provide information and educational material to fishermen.

He felt that the objectives of the series could not be achieved without collaboration of all agencies concerned with fisheries. In this connection he was happy to see colleagues with whom he had previously worked in the fisheries field present on the programme. Dr. Gushue ended his remarks by welcoming the other guests and wishing the new series success.

Dr. William Hampden

The second guest on the programme was Dr. William Hampden, President of the Newfoundland College of Fisheries. Dr. Hampden has recently returned to Newfoundland after spending approximately twenty years in other parts of the world, where he was engaged, for the most part, in fisheries research. In 1955 he became chief of the Fish Processing Section, International Division in Rome. In this position he developed projects in Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Israel, Jordan and Thailand.

The "Decks Awash" series, Dr. Hampden felt, was a fresh approach to fisheries information and education and had aroused the interest of people not only in Newfoundland but in other parts of Canada and in the United States. The College of Fisheries would, he said, collaborate with the University Extension Service and assist the producers of the programmes as much as possible.

The College of Fisheries has now launched its first full academic year with a total enrollment of close to 200 students.

*The function of the College is to provide courses of training aimed at:-

- (a) assisting active fishermen as well as others engaged in the industry to increase their productivity and efficiency, and developing manpower for positions of skill and supervisory responsibility, according to the needs of the industry.
- (b) preparing candidates for examinations leading to Certificates of Competency as (1) Masters, (11) Mates, (111) Marine Engineers.
- (c) developing manpower for careers in Naval Architecture.
- (d) developing manpower for careers in the Electronics industries."

The College will continue with its Extension Service under which travelling schools are held in fishing communities to bring practical and up-to-date information on new gear and mechanical aids and the care and operation of Diesel and other Marine engines.

New knowledge and skills are rapidly being developed in the fisheries as in other industries, and Newfoundlanders, if they are to play a vital role in the future fisheries, must be equipped not only to use the present new skills and aids but also to be able to adapt to new changes and techniques of an ever-changing industry.

*Quoted from College Fact Sheet.

Mr. Harold Bradley

Mr. Harold Bradley indicated that he was happy to participate in the opening of "Decks Awash" for another season. He expressed the belief that programmes in the past had served to highlight some of the problems of the inshore fishery and had provided fishermen with a knowledge of the new techniques now being used or about to be used in the fisheries.

In commenting on the results of the fisheries during the past season Mr. Bradley said that while the trap fishery was poor in several areas there were other compensating features that brought the overall returns up to a tolerable level. A good squid and mackerel fishery, together with a fair Fall cod fishery and generally higher prices for all species produced, resulted in earnings which, while below that of last year, were somewhat better than was indicated in the early part of the season.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Bradley referred to the closing remarks of the Hon. H. J. Robichard, Minister of Fisheries for Canada during our opening programme of last year in which he wished fishermen the "best fishing ever on the squid-jigging grounds". This wish, Mr. Bradley said, had certainly come true since the squid fishery this year was the best for many years. He hoped that the fishing on the squid jigging grounds would be as good next year.

Mr. Eric Gosse

The last guest on our opening programme was Mr. Eric Gosse, Deputy Minister of Fisheries for Newfoundland. Mr. Gosse and his staff

have played an important role in the "Decks Awash" series since its inception. Their assistance and co-operation has contributed substantially to the degree of success achieved by the programmes.

Mr. Gosse said that he was happy to be associated with "Decks Awash" again this year and indicated that it was a worthwhile service and one appreciated by fishermen.

Since Mr. Gosse had recently returned from a trip to Iceland, Norway and Denmark we took the opportunity of asking him some questions with regard to the fishing activities carried on by these countries. The following is a summary of Mr. Gosse's remarks:-

There is very little inshore fishery, as we know it, carried on in Iceland. For many years now the Icelandic fishermen have been using large boats of from 300 tons and up to prosecute the fishery. They still use a number of these boats although, since they have now instituted the twelve mile fishing limit, there is a trend to somewhat smaller boats-boats of a hundred tons or less. The boats are owned on a co-operative basis by fishermen assisted to a large degree by government.

The Icelandic fishermen are large and efficient producers and are making use of the latest in mechanical and electronic aids. In recent years they have developed a cod seine which is used to take fish when they come to shore on their annual spring migration. This is a very large seine and is operated with the use of a hydrolic power block.

Mr. Goose indicated that he feels this might have possibilities in our Newfoundland fishery during the trap season. It might have advantages over the cod trap since it can be used with electronic fish-finding equipment and is perhaps more versatile than the cod trap.

In Norway and Denmark as in Iceland co-operative activity plays a very large part in the fisheries. Many of the boats are owned by fishermen or fishermen's organizations assisted in varying degrees by governments. In Denmark much of the fish processing is done by fishermen's co-operatives.

These countries are well advanced in catching techniques and processing technology and, by comparison, we have a long way to go before we get in a favourable competitive position with them.

Conclusion

Our first five programmes last year dealt with boat design and construction. This year we are not planning to cover this topic unless requested to do so by you.

If a number of you feel that you would like to have some programmes dealing with boat building we shall endeavour to accommodate you.

We, therefore, suggest that you let us know whether or not you would like to have some programmes in boat construction again this season.

We are looking forward to hearing from many of you again. Your comments, ideas, suggestions and opinions will be gratefully received and dealt with on the programmes or through the Newsletters.

On our next programme you will be able to get a look at and hear some discussion about the new Inshore Gillnet Boat and Drum Hauler. We hope you find it interesting.

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