

S E C R E T

NOTE

C. P. (50) 146

The attached paper should be read in conjunction with the report annexed to P. C. (50) 64 of 20th June, which has already been circulated to the Cabinet.

Cabinet Office, S. W. 1. ,

1st July, 1950.



SECRET

C.P.(50).146

COPY NO. 32

1ST JULY, 1950

CABINET

WHITE FISH INDUSTRY - SHORT-TERM REMEDIES

Memorandum by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries  
and the Secretary of State for Scotland

At the Cabinet's meeting on 27th June (C. M. (50) 39th Conclusions, Minute 2) we were invited to submit, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister of Food, proposals for short-term measures to assist the white fish industry, for consideration before 4th July.

2. Short-term measures to assist the industry were considered by a committee of officials, whose report was circulated to the Production Committee under cover of P. C. (50) 64 dated 20th June. This committee reached the conclusion that the only practicable immediate short-term measure which could ease the present difficulties of the white fish industry was the payment of a subsidy, and the arguments for and against this course are set out in their report.

3. We have re-examined the question and regret that we are unable to find any alternative short-term measures which could be speedily applied and which would bring relief to the white fish catchers. We are therefore agreed that if immediate aid to the industry is to be given it must take the form of a subsidy to the inshore fishermen and the owners of near and middle water trawlers in order to maintain the supplies of the better classes of fish brought in by these catchers. Any subsidy should be on the lines of the scheme set out in Annex B of the official committee's report, with the important exception that a subsidy should not be paid to the owners of distant water trawlers (trawlers over 140 feet in length).

4. The present difficulties of the industry are largely due to the over supply of distant water fish, to which British and foreign catchers contribute. The British distant water trawler owners are making substantial losses and it is clear that they cannot do so indefinitely. They are contemplating the introduction of a scheme for laying up a proportion of their fleet and restricting the catches of the remainder in order to bring supply more into balance with demand. We believe that action on these lines is necessary and that foreign catchers should, in their own interests, co-operate in applying similar restrictions on their exports to this country. We therefore propose that this question should be raised in O.E.E.C. as a matter of urgency.

5. These short-term measures are intended to help the industry during the interval which must necessarily occur before the White Fish Industry Board which the Production Committee agreed should be set up can take fully effective action.

T. W.  
H. McN.

1st July, 1950.



SECRETC.P.(50).146COPY NO. 321ST JULY, 1950

CABINET

WHITE FISH INDUSTRY - SHORT-TERM REMEDIESMemorandum by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries  
and the Secretary of State for Scotland

At the Cabinet's meeting on 27th June (C. M. (50) 39th Conclusions, Minute 2) we were invited to submit, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Minister of Food, proposals for short-term measures to assist the white fish industry, for consideration before 4th July.

2. Short-term measures to assist the industry were considered by a committee of officials, whose report was circulated to the Production Committee under cover of P. C. (50) 64 dated 20th June. This committee reached the conclusion that the only practicable immediate short-term measure which could ease the present difficulties of the white fish industry was the payment of a subsidy, and the arguments for and against this course are set out in their report.

3. We have re-examined the question and regret that we are unable to find any alternative short-term measures which could be speedily applied and which would bring relief to the white fish catchers. We are therefore agreed that if immediate aid to the industry is to be given it must take the form of a subsidy to the inshore fishermen and the owners of near and middle water trawlers in order to maintain the supplies of the better classes of fish brought in by these catchers. Any subsidy should be on the lines of the scheme set out in Annex B of the official committee's report, with the important exception that a subsidy should not be paid to the owners of distant water trawlers (trawlers over 140 feet in length).

4. The present difficulties of the industry are largely due to the over supply of distant water fish, to which British and foreign catchers contribute. The British distant water trawler owners are making substantial losses and it is clear that they cannot do so indefinitely. They are contemplating the introduction of a scheme for laying up a proportion of their fleet and restricting the catches of the remainder in order to bring supply more into balance with demand. We believe that action on these lines is necessary and that foreign catchers should, in their own interests, co-operate in applying similar restrictions on their exports to this country. We therefore propose that this question should be raised in O.E.E.C. as a matter of urgency.

5. These short-term measures are intended to help the industry during the interval which must necessarily occur before the White Fish Industry Board which the Production Committee agreed should be set up can take fully effective action.

T. W.  
H. McN.1st July, 1950.

