

Research for Fishing Industry

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MR. FOGARTY. Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending bill. To my mind there can be no question of the need for this legislation. It would permit a portion of the receipts from import duties on fishery products to be allocated to the Department of the Interior for the purpose of developing a program of research in the fishing industry. Fishing is an important industry in Rhode Island and one which has, unfortunately, been on the decline in recent years. We, in Rhode Island, are acutely aware of the problems of the fisherman and are disturbed by conditions in this industry resulting from the lack of a comprehensive research program.

The subject bill provides, not for an appropriation, but for a transfer of funds available. It should be pointed out that the fisherman is not looking for a subsidy or for price supports. He is only asking that 30% of the revenue from imported fishery products be allotted for exploring ways and means of harvesting and marketing more and better fishery products for the nutritional benefit of the entire nation.

I have seen such excellent results attained by a sound program of medical research that I am enthusiastic about the possibilities inherent in an intelligent program of fishery research. However, the industry itself cannot embark on such a program without help. It is composed of many individuals and small companies which lack the resources necessary to carry on a coordinated research activity.



They need help and they are certainly entitled to at least a portion of the same type of help which is so freely given to the agricultural industry. While I feel that the amount of the proposed transfer of funds is not enough to do the job in an adequate and proper fashion, it is at least a start in the right direction and I earnestly hope that it is approved by this body.

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