

When I was on this committee, discussing the Outer Continental Shelf bill, a witness came before us and testified the fantastic food-producing potential that there could be in the sea, if you just developed it right.

He explained it this way: He said if you go out in the woods looking for nuts, and you simply pick up the nuts that you find on the ground, you are not going to get enough nuts to even provide 1 day's meal for one person.

But if you go out there and clear that forest and plant the best kind of pecan trees, let us say, and you fertilize those trees, spray them to fight off the insects, and harvest that crop at the right time, you will get a thousandfold as much in the way of nut meat as you would get if you simply went out in the woods.

Now, the same thing is to a large extent true of the sea. For example, we have 4 million acres of marsh land that adjoins the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana Land and Exploration owns considerable land there. Their experiments right now are showing that they can produce 200 pounds of shrimp per acre in this land covered by, subjected to the ebb and flow of the tide somewhat, but that is sometimes wet, sometimes dry, ordinarily.

When they dam it, cover it with a few inches of water, and plant that land with shrimp, to separate them from predators that would eat or destroy those shrimp and the larvae otherwise, so they produced 200 pounds of shrimp per acre in marshland with weeds growing on it that otherwise would be useless for any practical purpose.

Now, they say that more intensive efforts in India have produced 1,000 pounds of shrimp per acre. One thousand pounds per acre, by the same measure, of taking virtually unproductive land and producing shrimp on that land.

Now, the same thing can be done in the sea. When you start planting the type fish and marine life that you want, and destroying and killing off all predators, for example a, garfish eats as much fish, I am told, eats his entire weight in good sports fish every day. You kill the garfish, and feed that meat to the shrimp, grind it up and feed him to the shrimp, rather than other way around, and you have a lot more of them out there. I have seen sometimes the way that bonito go at a school of shrimp.

You will have a school of shrimp as big as all Capitol Hill, covering maybe 4 square miles of these small shrimp, watch those bonito go at them, and maybe there will be 100,000 in a school of bonito, just feeding, thrashing the water until it is just being churned like water in a washing machine, eating those shrimp, and if you will catch a bonito and cut him open, you will see he is filled up to the gills with those tiny little shrimp, each about the size of a pencil point.

So there is a single bonito eating a million shrimp a day, while they are in the small larvae stage.

Now, if you pull big nets through, kill off those bonitos, and those little shrimp eat practically anything, chop those bonitos up and feed them to the shrimp, rather than the bonito feeding on the shrimp, and, help to provide food for them, the catch can be multiplied fantastically, and the same is true of other fish in the sea.

Now, all this can be done, and the production of the sea can be multiplied tenfold or hundredfold, if we do it right.