

more than 10,000 people employed in its fisheries, I think there is a lesson to be learned here.

This proves that in the opinion of some legislators—and not necessarily those present, because some are friends—and bureaucrats in Washington, and in my State, that we are an industry of minor importance. Our industry and its people can therefore be sacrificed to appease the importers and some foreign nations.

Therefore, we are vitally concerned about the impact that these hearings will have on Massachusetts, as well as the U.S. fishing industry as a whole, because the problems of the east coast are the problems of the west coast as well as the gulf.

It is only because we are fragmented, without a national organization to speak as the voice of one industry, that we are placed in this position.

This is due to a large measure because of the independence of the people that man the vessels, as well as the owner-operator, who is actually a small businessman that invests his savings to purchase a job with the hope of a better and more secure future.

These hardy, diligent people are too busy trying to pay their debts and make a living for their family to realize that they are being legislated out of the ocean. I believe we stand in the same position today in the fisheries as the American farmers did 40 years ago.

The members who are listed in my brief are in favor, endorse, and support H.R. 12696 and S. 24111, or any other import curb restrictions that can prevent the death of the domestic seafood industry.

I sincerely hope that you will give serious consideration to helping these hardy, diligent people to be successful and have an opportunity to earn a living. Even though they are a minority industry with a minority voice, they are still Americans, engaged in free enterprise.

(The brief referred to follows:)

BRIEF OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE GROUNDFISH INDUSTRY

This Brief is submitted by The Massachusetts Committee for the Preservation of the Groundfish Industry, a committee formed to act as spokesman for the Fishing Industry of Massachusetts, which represents the greatest concentration of fisheries in the New England States and is reflected in the economic dollar value of the dockside landings of this vital industry.

Massachusetts is number one on the Atlantic Seaboard and ranks number two in the United States in fishery dockside dollar valuations. This has been the standing of Massachusetts for many years and yet our valuations are not what they should be because of unfair foreign import competition which depresses prices to the American fisherman and vessel owner or operator. This committee is sanctioned to speak for over seventy-five percent of the domestic processors, dealers, and boat owners in the Massachusetts area whose capital investment approximates \$350 million. The primary responsibility of the Committee is to foster and protect the growth of the New England Groundfish Industry, and to stand firm against any reduction in tariff rates which would cause further injury to a fast declining industry that is competing with heavily subsidized foreign fisheries exporters. We must also strive to curb fishery imports by sensible legislation with the consent and cooperation of the Tariff Commission and our legislators in Washington, D.C. In 1958, United States imports of fishery products were valued at \$325 million, and in 1962 this value had increased \$186 million to a total of \$511 million, in 1966 this value had increased \$209 million to a total of \$720 million.

The purpose of this Brief is to explain in detail by submitting evidence and supporting statistics that will verify that the lack of adequate tariff protection has had an adverse affect upon the New England Fishing Industry and its