economy. We will prove by statistics that we need either import curb restrictions or tariff protection. It would appear that perhaps import curb restrictions could be more beneficial to the domestic producer and processor at this time because legislative approval could be less antagonistic to our neighbors and allies.

Present tariff rates or lack of the same plus heavy Foreign Government subsidization, has created a tremendous pressure on the Domestic Fishing Industry in the Northeastern part of the United States because of its proximity to Canada, our greatest competitor in the import market.

In 1956, the Tariff Commission submitted a report to President Eisenhower requesting an increase in tariffs to protect the New England Groundfish Industry. President Eisenhower did not sign this recommendation on the grounds of Foreign Relations and National Defense, and the tariffs remained as they have been since 1939.

The tremendous affect that practically unrestricted imports have had upon our country is evidenced by the fact that the United States has dropped from second place in 1956 to fifth place in 1963 and to sixth place in 1967, in worldwide fishing position.

Our domestic fish catch has not increased since 1940, but fisheries imports have increased approximately 400 percent.

Bringing the problem a little closer to home, imports of groundfish and Atlantic Ocean perch fillets have risen from 107 million pounds in 1952 to 211 million pounds in 1962 an increase of 107 percent.

The problems of our Domestic Fishing Industry are clear. The obviously totally inadequate tariff protection related to values existing thirty years ago, coupled with competition from Foreign Fishing Industries which benefit from extensive Government support in these areas, is an almost insurmountable obstacle. For our own Government to ignore these problem areas would amount to National neglect.

Tariffs offer only a minimum of protection to domestic fishery products. In 1961, the average duty on all fishery imports, in terms of the ad valorem equivalent on values was 42 percent less than the similar duty on all imports. About 43 percent of the imports of edible fishery products, for example were dutiable in 1961, at rates reduced by trade agreements. About 18 percent were also free of duty, but not bound. Of the remainder, only about 11 percent were duty-bound at the full rate, and only 1 percent were dutiable and not subject to trade agreement concessions.

Our tariff structure for fishery products is based upon trade patterns of the 1930's and needs to be studied in relation to present trade patterns which are substantially different from those existing when the Tariff Act of 1930 was enacted. While a number of changes in tariff policy have occurred since 1930, they have not kept pace with economic and technological changes that have altered the effectiveness of established duties. For example, during this period, many new fishery products, such as fish blocks have entered international trade. Since these products were not provided for in the original tariff classification, they were necessarily fitted into the classification category that appeared to be the most appropriate. The result is that many fishery products have been classified at rates which appear unrelated to the relative value of the product.

Many imported fishery products with which the domestic industry must compete are produced at lower costs because of the wage structure in other countries as opposed to the American way of life with higher salaried employees, health and welfare, pensions, and other fringe benefits so important for good labor-management relations conducive to the quality product and workmanship found in our Domestic Seafood Products. In addition many countries provide financial assistance in the form of subsidization, loans, and other aids. These factors make it difficult for the domestic industry to compete effectively with imported fishery products, particularly groundfish and flounder fillets.

The fisheries are of major economic importance to many sections of the United States. When allied industries servicing and selling fishery products are considered, the contribution of these resources to the Nation's economy is substantial. The five billion pound per year fish catch itself, when processed, is worth well over a billion dollars annually at the retail level. Employment, direct or indirect, is furnished to more than half a million persons. However, consideration must be given to the yearly five percent decline in Fishing Industry employment from 1958 to 1962 and perhaps slightly higher in the last five years.