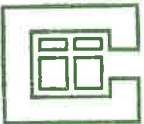


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PRESS RELEASE



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The Confederation of Irish Industry

- (50%) I Present contribution — 'fishing industry'
- II Scope for expansion
- III

3rd

Address by Mr Liam Connellan, Director General of the Confederation of Irish Industry at the Reception given by the Irish Federation of Marine Industries at the Burlington Hotel, on 4th February 1975, to formally announce the Irish International Boat Show 75 and Fisheries Exhibition.

① Fishing industry

The expansion of the fishing industry in this country in recent years is one of our most notable success stories in the field of economic development. From a position in 1967, when something over £2 million worth of fish was landed, the value of the Irish catch has grown to about £11 million last year. This rapid progress has been accompanied by an even faster expansion of exports of fish.

£2m 7 years ago
 £11m last year
 £25m process
 Greater part of this is exported

In 1967, about £1.5 million was exported, whereas in 1974 the total value of such exports was £14 million. The difference between the value of the catch and that of exports represents the value to the country of the processing. The total value of the fishing industry to the economy in 1974 is estimated at about £25 million.

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(2) Expansion

Fishermen
+
Boat builders
+
Processors
+
(BIM - Support)

This rapid progress has been made possible as a result of ambitious expansion by the individual skippers, the Irish boat yards, and the fishing processing industry, strongly assisted by An Bord Iascaigh Mhara. In 1967, only about £700,000 worth of investment was made in Irish boats. But last year this had risen to £3 million, and this year it is expected that total investment in vessels will amount to around £6 million, to which will be added an investment of about £2 million in fish processing factories, making a total of £8 million. Most of the investment will come from Irish yards which have steadily increased their vessel production for the Irish market.

Investment 1974
£4m

Investment 1975

£8m

Employment in the industry has also increased. It employs about 5,500 people full time, and 4,000 part time. These figures comprise 2,500 full time and 4,000 part time in fishing; about 2,000 in processing; and about 1,000 employed in boat yards and related industries.

Employment →
5,500 full time

{ 2500 fishing
2000 processing
1000 boat yards etc

We are sited on the edge of one of the richest and, at the same time, one of the least fished coastal fisheries. Clearly, there is considerable potential for expansion. Evidence of the extent of this potential is given by the fact that only 11% of the total amount of fish taken from Irish waters was taken by Irish fishermen. Expanding this percentage will mean increased employment, increased exports, and increased income, resulting in increased spending throughout the entire economy. It is expected, for example, that employment in

(*) Irish fishermen take 11% of catch in Irish waters

processing will rise at a rate of 200 to 300 jobs per annum, with an equal number being added every year to employment in the fishing fleet. The value of landings and exports is also expected to rise very rapidly. Total landings may be around £30 million in two or three years, as compared with £11 million now. The total contribution of fishing to the Irish economy can double within three years, and the number of people employed in various sectors of the industry is expected to increase by 2,000.

5,500 to 7,500
i.e. 1000/year.

✓ 5000 net/ann in manufacturing industry.
15,000

However, none of this expansion can occur unless there is a sustained expansion of the size of the Irish fishing fleet. Due to rising cost of materials and the increased size and complexity of modern vessels, the rate of annual investment in the fleet must double over the next couple of years. Again, most of this investment can be supplied from Irish yards if Irish boat builders are able to raise sufficient finance to expand their facilities and acquire the necessary stocks of materials.

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Need Expansion of fleet

Investment in Irish fishing fleet is not simply a matter of expansion. There is also a vast need to replace outdated and obsolete vessels and to replace the equipment of vessels, such as winches and engines. The extent of this replacement need can be measured from a recent report which showed that 46% of the Irish fleet was more than 15 years old. And 15 years is regarded by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the U.U.N. as the end of the useful life of a fishing vessel.

6

Replacement

To capitalise on the potential market for Irish boat yards will require a major investment effort. Our yards must strive to expand capacity to meet the need of more and newer types of boats. The principal challenge comes in the adaptation to the construction of boats which are around 120/150 feet in length and are made from steel. Without boats of this size, the Irish fishing industry will always remain an inshore activity, feeding into small processing factories. The continuity of supply, and the greater productivity which middle range vessels of around 120/150 feet alone can give, is necessary to stimulate expansion of the Irish fishing industry.

7
Main challenge for yards.

However, if our boat yards can adapt successfully to this type of production, they will have a rapidly growing market. The expansion of the Irish fishing industry will then be more dependent on Irish, rather than on imported vessels. Furthermore, there may also be opportunities provided by the development of a hydrocarbons exploration and development industry off shore. By gearing up now, Irish boat yards would be well placed to exploit these opportunities, which we all hope will arise.

8
growing market
a) fishing type
b) hydrocarbons

These development will not occur unless finance is available, both for Irish skippers and for the Irish yards. The finance provided in the recent budget to Irish fishing is sufficient only to keep pace with the replacement needs of the industry. We now require a major capital

9
Development needs finance

...../

injection, fitted in to a comprehensive development plan for the Irish boat building industry. With this type of backing, I have no doubt that ^{the} Irish ^{fishing} industry can obtain a higher share of the catch in Irish waters; build a greater proportion of our fishing vessel requirements; and considerably expand fish processing production. The result would be that, at least, 1,000 new jobs could be created each year - with imaginative planning ^{+ luck} the gains could be very much greater.

Conclusion

Leisure industry - Boating on Shannon

~~100~~ will rise to

Double within

4000 7000 people → will double in 5 years
 not to difficult to imagine that their activities

END