

most important conservation problems, such as a uniform legal size for fish of various species and the adoption of measures which can be undertaken jointly looking toward the restoration of the Chesapeake shad fishery. The great decline in the annual catch of shad in recent years is a matter of deep concern. That a material improvement in the catch of shad can be effected is apparent from the remarkable recovery in the shad fishery of the Hudson River, as a result of constructive measures put into effect by the New York Conservation authorities. There is no reason why similar results cannot be achieved in the Chesapeake.

The shell planting program supported by a State appropriation for that purpose has new been in effect for a number of years, and has demonstrated that it is an effective means of bringing back into production depleted oyster bars. I favor the continuance of this program. In this connection, I am advised by the Commission that it is carefully studying the problem of placing the shells chiefly in such areas where previous experience has shown that there is a strong probability of getting a set of young oysters. Through this shell planting program and by reason of its management and control of the public beds and bars, our State, through the medium of the Conservation Commission, is relatively in the business of oyster farming on a large scale. It is, of course, important that it conduct these operations in a business-like manner guided by the most competent, practical and scientific information and advice that can be obtained. I am confident that the Commission will be guided by such principles.

The importance of scientific research in connection with our seafood problems cannot be over-emphasized, and I want to take this occasion to commend the work which the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, under Dr. Truitt, at Solomons Island is accomplishing. It is of the utmost importance to have the benefit of sound scientific knowledge in developing measures for the protection and increase of our fishery resources.

Through the recently appointed Maryland Publicity Commission, working in cooperation with the Conservation authorities, it is hoped that a sound and effective program may be developed to promote the sale of the products of our Bay, especially for oysters. This newly appointed Commission has been requested by me to make a particular study of such a program.

With the very definite health and nutritional values contained in our Chesapeake seafoods and the almost universal appeal these delicious foods have for all of us, it seems to me that their merits can be very readily publicized to the profit of the industry.

Special stress will be laid upon the attractive recreational areas in our State, so that both our citizens and persons from other states can be induced to enjoy the incomparable benefits from these appealing places. Again, it must ever be remembered that Maryland offers exceptional advantages to hunters, and it is our definite obligation to undertake every worthwhile measure to capitalize on the natural possessions which are ours.

Any discussion before such a group as this, and particularly of the Chesapeake, should not overlook the very considerable and increasing interests in sport and recreational fishing. It is not only of first importance on account of the economic benefits derived by our tidewater communities, but it affords the greatest recreational value to our citizens. Our conservation authorities are, and I am sure will continue to be, alert to the importance of promoting