

to resolve this problem. I provided in my budget at the legislative session this year funds for that purpose. The states must work closely together on this problem. All of us appreciate the help we are getting from the federal government.

Our problems are manifold, but we in Maryland refuse to be discouraged.

One of my first acts as Governor was to reorganize our department of Tidewater Fisheries. The new Commission I appointed effected a new and entirely different departmental grouping, broadening the scope of its work with the industry generally, and with the watermen in particular. We have established a development program in which we expect to coordinate all our efforts toward rehabilitation of our oyster supplies.

In some respects we have moved slowly, because it is not our intention to proceed more rapidly than we can educate our people to an understanding and acceptance of our plans. But even so, we have made more rapid progress than we expected.

The Commission began by holding public meetings in each county. We wanted to learn by direct communication how the watermen felt—what suggestions they might have to offer. We told them frankly what we hoped to do to help them earn a better living. The response was instantaneous and favorable. I believe these meetings have contributed more than any other one factor to the confidence the watermen have in what the State is trying to do.

Time does not permit a recital of all we are doing in Maryland to rehabilitate our shellfish industry, but I should like to list a few of the steps we have taken:

1. We have established a Division of Markets in the Department of Tidewater Fisheries to create new markets for our products, to establish liaison with health departments of big cities and other states and to work with other states, and especially Virginia, to protect our markets against excessive encroachment of foreign products.

2. We plan to grow large quantities of seed oysters through large-scale planting of shells, amounting to millions of bushels annually. We almost despaired of being able to do this because of the scarcity of shells, but happily the discovery of shells in dead reefs provides us with an ample supply..

3. A special committee of the General Assembly is meeting with our Commission this summer in a study of the needs for a modification of