

basis of this survey, we estimate that if all juvenile oysters attached to 1962 shells were to survive to marketable size, the crop would exceed 8,500,000 bushels—at current prices worth more than \$35 million. We know, of course, that all will not survive, but I can assure you that no effort will be spared to accomplish maximum survival. The Cull Law is being rigidly enforced and will continue to be enforced. The State has an investment of more than \$1 million in this potential crop of oysters, and we intend to see that this investment is protected and that full value is received.

Although the State's main effort in the management of Tidewater resources has been to increase the production of oysters, let me assure you that its other marine resources have not been neglected. The State Department of Tidewater Fisheries has carefully delineated and protected the spawning areas of rockfish. We hope, and believe, that the record catches of 1960 and 1961 will continue. Attention is being directed now to the utilization of species heretofore unexploited. The experts tell me that eels, smoked or live, are a valuable product in many parts of the world, and that Maryland has an abundant supply. In the Upper Bay area and at the heads of many tributaries, I am also told, there are carp in large quantities, the commercial use of which would provide not only additional income for fishermen but would improve environmental conditions in the spawning areas. We have asked the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to extend its exploratory fishing program to the off-shore waters of Maryland, with the hope that many unexploited fisheries resources may be discovered.

Maryland's soft shell clam industry affords the very finest example of what can be accomplished through imagination, ingenuity and the cooperative effort about which I have been speaking. The imagination and the ingenuity were supplied by a Maryland waterman who developed a unique machine capable of harvesting clams. The cooperative effort was supplied by State researchers who demonstrated the effectiveness of the machine in harvesting marketable clams with a minimum damage to juvenile clams and other marine resources. The result, as we all know, is that Maryland has been able to develop a new and important fishery. And while New England's clam fisheries have continued to decline, Maryland's have continued to grow.

All of us are fully aware that we will have accomplished nothing by increasing our seafood yield if we fail to find a market for our products. It is in the development of such a market—in the creation of new and better products, in the improvement of processing and packaging, in stimulating the consumption of the products—that this Association, and