

THE POINT OF VIEW OF GOVERNMENT: CALIFORNIA LOOKS TO ITS OCEAN RESOURCES

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I am very happy to be here this morning. I believe that what you discuss during these three days will be of great benefit to us all.

With respect to our obligations to manage our resources in the ocean, the following considerations should be kept in mind. There is no doubt that the State has the power to enact legislation for the conservation of its fisheries, excepting only those areas otherwise covered by Federal legislation, such as fisheries treaties. In addition, the Supreme Court of the United States has held that the State's laws may govern the conduct of its citizens on the high seas respecting matters of legitimate interest to the State.

Moreover, the State has the authority to regulate landings of fish in the State and can control fishing activities within the territorial sea. On the other hand, the State does *not* have authority over foreign fishermen, so long as they are fishing in international waters.

As you know, the Department functions under Constitutional law and Legislative law. We also operate under policies of the administration and the Fish and Game Commission. The Legislature has delegated to the Commission the authority to set regulations for hunting and sportfishing. Commission authority over commercial fisheries is limited but does extend to issuance of reduction permits, the shrimp fishery, and some other matters.

The Department, as I mentioned, operates under administration policy, and as you are well aware, Governor Reagan is trying to effect economies in State Government. We are cooperating with the Administration by doing everything we can to reduce the cost of operating our Department, without reducing essential services.

As to our funding, approximately 85 percent of the Department's income is from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, tags, and stamps. The other 15 percent comes partly from fish and game fine monies, federal aid, various contracts with other state agencies, and from commercial fisheries taxes.

I mentioned that the Department works under Commission policy, and one of the areas the Commission has asked us to look at very carefully is the area of marine fisheries, and particularly the portion of our work which is oriented primarily toward the benefit of the commercial fisheries. We estimate that the cost of these programs now exceeds our income from the commercial fishing industry by more than \$1 million a year, and the imbalance is continuing to increase.

We are currently holding a round of discussions with industry and with sportfishing interests trying to find a way to make our commercial fishing oriented programs more self supporting. We have not found a solution yet, but we will continue to work with all interested parties until we do solve it.

In our approach to resources management, we must consider the good of the resource as well as the good of the public at large and of all the users of a resource. This means some 20 million people must be considered when we make management decisions in the resources field.

As we look at the problems that face us and try to find solutions to them, our efforts fall into four general areas. That is, we have four main jobs to do if we are going to manage the use of our marine resources in an effective and efficient way. These jobs are (i) Coordination; (ii) Research or Fact-finding; (iii) Communication; (iv) Planning.

The first of these is much like the job that CalCOFI is doing. It is a job of coordination, bringing together the various interests and keeping each other informed of what each is doing, or should be doing.

The second area of responsibility is research. As the world population continues to increase by leaps and bounds, we keep hearing about the ocean as being the answer to feeding these multitudes. The expression goes something like this, "We will one day have to turn to the sea, with its limitless resources, to feed the peoples of the world."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if they really were limitless? Then we wouldn't have any problems at all. But you and I know better. These resources need management, and management needs research.

Although our Department is primarily responsible for living resources, we also have the responsibility of seeing that the utilization of nonliving resources is done in such a way that fish and wildlife are not harmed. This extends our need for research beyond the living, and encompasses both living and nonliving resources.

The role of the scientist in research is to give the best scientific evidence available concerning the resource. The scientist should understand the processes moulding his findings, and appreciate the fact that his findings cannot always be implemented overnight. This should in no way influence his work or leave him feeling unappreciated. It is for others, with different responsibilities, to take into consideration the social, economic, and political implications of management decisions. But in all cases, management de-

cisions must first protect the resource from overutilization.

The decision making process is partly the responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game. First, any decision must be based on the best scientific information available. The Department also must take other factors into consideration, and make its final decision and recommendation only after a full discussion with all interested groups. Then this recommendation is presented to either the Governor, the Fish and Game Commission or the Legislature.

Let me here emphasize that we do appreciate the work our scientists are doing because their work forms the foundation upon which all true management programs are built.

The third area of responsibility is the need to communicate effectively with society.

We have, at the present time, a communications problem between ourselves and the public concerning use of the anchovy resource. We have been unable to convince the public that we know enough about the anchovy to manage it effectively, and we cannot convince them that the reduction fishery will not adversely affect the resource.

The public is concerned that the anchovy resource may disappear, just as the sardine has disappeared, and we have not been able to convince the public that, under proper management, this will not happen.

Let me say here that the Department recommended a 200,000 ton reduction quota to the Commission. The Commission reduced this to 75,000 tons with the promise that if this quota is reached during this fishing season, the commercial fishing industry could come back to the Commission and additional tonnage would be allotted. I think this is progress. In addition, I would like to point out that generally sportsmen's interests endorsed the 75,000 ton quota—which is a real mark of progress in achieving mutual understanding in this emotionally charged field.

One of the things we have to face up to in the anchovy reduction problem and in other problems we will face is that there always is a time lag between the time the scientists arrives at his findings and the time the public accepts them. This is inevitable. So as we turn to the sea, and the world is doing this at an accelerated pace, we must communicate effectively with the public so that the time lag is as short

as possible and so that it does not grow into a major problem.

We must utilize our marine resources in an orderly and sensible manner in order to perpetuate our renewable resources and in order to use our nonrenewable resources in such a way that they are not wasted, and are not exploited at the expense of other resources. And we must obtain public support for our management programs or they will not be accepted. Our failure to communicate in an effective and timely manner has resulted in an "Anchovy Curtain," which must be penetrated regardless of how difficult the task may be. We must not allow other such curtains to arise over use of our other marine resources.

A fourth responsibility is the need for comprehensive, long range planning. The State of California is well aware of the need for the orderly development of marine resources. In the recent session of the Legislature, a law was passed creating the California Advisory Commission on Marine and Coastal Resources. Its most important task, and I quote from the law, is "To review the known and estimated future needs for natural resources from the marine and coastal environment necessary to maintain an expanding state economy." With special reference to the coastline, the Commission is to prepare a report for submission to the Governor and the 1969 Regular Session of the Legislature, which sets forth the public interest in the coastline of California, together with recommended legislation defining and protecting such public investment.

The Resources Agency, the Department of Fish and Game, and several other agencies of state government will be very much involved in this planning effort. We are now in the process of preparing a use plan for the resources of the ocean. What we come up with will be submitted through channels to the governor, and he, in turn, will call on the Advisory Commission to review our proposals. The Commission is yet in the formative stage, and its work could be very vital to California's future.

Thank you for inviting me there today. I am looking forward to working with you and other resource users for the mutual benefit of the State and its people.