

Closing Address

F. G. WALTON SMITH, *Chairman*

AFTER A heavy week of almost continuous discussion, it does not seem desirable to inflict a long and tedious speech upon the participants in this conference. It is, in fact, quite unnecessary to revue in detail the deliberations of the past few days, since this has already been done admirably by the session leaders in their summary reports during today's session. In closing the conference I will merely draw attention to the remarkable success that has attended the intermingling of economists and biologists, fishermen and administrators, in this attempt to integrate the efforts of so many widely scattered workers. The economic session in particular has produced a ferment of new interest and practical ideas. The Gulf fisheries session has laid the foundations for a well organized program of fisheries research with the closest possible integration between state and federal agencies. In looking forward to next year's meeting we can therefore, I think, feel that we are working along really productive lines and that our labors have not been fruitless.

There have been a few instances where I believe we may improve the organization of these meetings, and your executive committee has given careful thought to this. One deficiency perhaps has been the comparatively small participation of the fishermen and dealers. It is strongly urged that support from this section be sought in every state.

The publication of Proceedings has become a problem of expense which the sponsoring institution has had difficulty in facing. Fortunately this may be solved by suggestions from their officers that the Gulf and the Atlantic States Fisheries Commissions may be able to contribute financially.

It is not too early to look forward to next year's meeting and your committee asks that suggestions be made regarding the agenda as early as possible.

In conclusion may I be allowed to congratulate all participants upon the valuable results which have arisen from their common efforts.