

conducts biological sampling to provide for the conservation and management of the fishery resource.

At the time the agreement was reached with the United States, there were those from the opposition who claimed that any agreement would spell the doom of this important industry for Canada. Indeed, the motion before us is a clear reflection of that pessimistic approach and a lack of confidence in the ability of the fisheries of British Columbia to compete. The statistical data for this year however shows the opposite to be the case.

In the 1990 roe herring season, there was a total of 987.6 tonnes of unprocessed roe herring shipped by land to the United States. No export-at-sea licences were issued. Of the total amount shipped to the United States, 606.7 tonnes was processed in that country and the remainder was shipped back to Canada for processing. By comparison, there was a total of 1,500 tonnes of unprocessed roe herring imported into Canada from the United States.

In the 1990 salmon season, which is ongoing, 22 applications have been received for export-at-sea licences. Eleven licences have been issued and four vessels are actively engaged in direct export-at-sea to the United States. To date, a total of 497 tonnes of salmon have been exported to the United States directly by sea, all from the south export zone. Exports of salmon by land to the United States to mid-September were approximately 2,800 tonnes.

In contrast, during this period, approximately 6,000 tonnes of United States salmon were imported from Alaska to Prince Rupert and 900 tonnes were imported into the lower British Columbia mainland from the Puget Sound area. The over-all import level to Canada from the United States exceeds by more than double the export level to the United States.

In considering these exports of fish to the United States, I believe it is important for hon. members to take note that the programs operated by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for a biological sampling and catch verification at shore based landing stations have been extended to cover at-sea exports. This ensures effective conservation and management of the salmon and herring fisheries. As well, communications and management information systems have been developed in order to

provide the capability to control exports near ceiling levels and to provide timely information for enforcement purposes. The experience gained this year is invaluable to the planning process for both the upcoming herring and subsequent salmon seasons.

We are talking about GATT and it was a GATT ruling that this was all about. We lost the fight at the GATT that the Americans brought against us and so we resorted to the dispute settlement mechanism that was negotiated in our free trade agreement. That dispute settlement has found that it is legal and consistent for Canada to expect to count and to land on shore the majority of our fish. That will be an ongoing process and that is what we have here before us now.

This government has worked hard to bring this matter to a resolution with the United States which meets the interest of all Canadians, particularly those engaged in the fisheries in British Columbia. The facts I have presented show that these fisheries are functioning well and there is no basis to assume that the people of British Columbia will not continue to benefit from these resources.

This is a renewable resource. This is a resource that has to be managed. It has to be managed carefully and judiciously. With the co-operation of all the people in the industry, we can expect to have an ongoing fishery for the years ahead.

This year was no exception in that the run on the Fraser River, the Adams River run, was one of the highest runs experienced in the last 50-odd years. It was a beauty to behold. We expect these cycles to continue because nature, in its wisdom, has devised ways that the fish head out to sea to grow, come back home to the spawning grounds to replenish the cycle, and then die off.

• (1750 )

I am glad to be able to stand before the House today and state unconditionally that I am satisfied that we have managed this GATT ruling in an acceptable manner, and that the fishery is well on its way to a continued and enjoyable resource.

I know the riding of the member opposite is much closer to the fisheries than mine. Mine is up in the Fraser Valley. Nonetheless, there are a lot of fish that go by our doorstep up the Fraser River to the spawning grounds.