Supply

• (1730)

I want also to speak about the mismanagement of the recreational fishery because many of my constituents do recreational fishing. You have to have a lot of imagination in order to figure out how tagging of salmon could conserve the resource and whether or not throwing back a dead fish because it is the wrong type is going to conserve it. As I said, you have to have a lot of imagination to see where that is going to get us.

My last area of comment regarding the mismanagement of the fishery relates to the drift-net fishery which so far we have only seen in the north Pacific. This is an absolute tragedy. We not only see the mismanagement of our fishing resources, we also see many marine mammals being caught. There is the environmental question as to whether or not that is a wise tactic.

I know that Canada has expressed its views that it is not a wise tactic, but I would like to say that Canada is certainly not expressing them in loud or forceful enough tones. This government, in negotiating with those who are engaged in drift-net fishery, has agreed to move the boundary northward. That is supposed to be a compromise because the government also said that it was going to allow fishery patrol people onto the boats—six boats—to monitor the situation. This would be laughable if it were not such a tragedy.

We are talking about a major pirating scheme in the north Pacific. What does allowing the movement northward of the boundary, mean for B.C. fishery, the salmon fishery? It means that more salmon, more of our resource that is supposed to be protected under international law, is going to be taken by these pirates. Once again, there is a complete absence of management. There are just not sufficient resources by this government to monitor the situation. If it were serious about putting people on boats, it has to put far more than six people on them.

What we want now is that transponders be put on each boat that is engaged in the drift-net. That is a device to track the boats by satellite. We have the technology. We just do not have the political will. That is what is totally absent regarding the fishery on the west coast. I know the Atlantic fishery has been dealt with from both sides of this House, but on the west coast, there is an absence

of political will to talk about this crisis. Korea has apparently agreed that transponders be put on its boats.

Taiwan, one of the major and most flagrant violators of international law to which we would like to think we are subject is not. What can we do? This government has to stop looking at all of these little things in isolation. It seems to be expert in talking about international trade, but it doesn't seem to be able to get its act together when it actually comes down to looking after Canadians interest in that. We have to be able to put economic pressure on these violators, these pirates. I am talking about major sanctions.

We are not supposed to have recognized Taiwan, but we still get Japanese oranges from Taiwan. Why can't we put economic pressure on this country that is stealing our resource? We should be very clear about that. These are our salmon. It is our tax dollars that have gone to enhancing this market. We are giving it away through this drift—net fishery. We are allowing it to be taken.

Those small filament nets that catch everything are a disgusting display. My colleague from Nanaimo—Cowichan calls them curtains of death. I think that is a very apt description of those drift-nets. They are a very efficient killer. Of course you have to kill the fish, but this is killing everything, marine birds and marine mammals, and fish. I want to once again refocus my remarks on the salmon. We have paid for that salmon, and we are looking after it and trying, in spite of many violations in the forestry, to save those salmon streams. Yet this government is allowing the drift-net fishery to occur by making mealy-mouthed statements about the drift-net fishery saying that we will negotiate. Negotiations have to have some punch behind them. We have to have that resource protected. We have to be sure that it is Canadians who are being looked after by this government.

It is all very well to say nice comforting things about international trade being the direction of the future, but in order to save Canadians jobs we have to make sure that this government is looking after our interests. I know in British Columbia, it certainly is not the view of most people that that is what is happening.

It is the people of British Columbia who are affected, it is the women, the native women. They are the ones who are being put out of work.