

Adjournment Debate

In June, 1989 a document entitled "Vision 2000" prepared by the Pacific Coast Advisory Group contained the following: "The impact of the removal of export restrictions on salmon and herring is as yet uncertain. It could result in a significant increase in the export of unprocessed fish to the U.S. with loss of jobs in the Canadian processing sector".

Fourth, in the official press release of March 9, the Regional Director of Fisheries and Oceans in Vancouver stated that "100 per cent of the at-sea exports will be subject to exactly the same controls as are in force at shore-based landing stations" and that "all vessels engaging in at-sea exports must have a departmental representative on board at all times".

At page 7 of a document entitled *Implementation Plan for the Negotiated Settlement for the Free Trade Act Panel Report* dated March 7, 1990 there is found the following: "While most packers will be sampled several times during the fishing season, sampling will not always be done in every fishery or at every loading station on an individual packer". This document was not distributed with the press release referred to earlier.

At page 41 of the actual FTA Panel Report of October 1989, the following observation was made with respect to the possibilities of error: "the risk of error cannot be excluded when part of the population is not available for sampling, and the risk increases with the size of the missing part. The panel agreed that at some percentage that risk would become too large to be acceptable".

Fifth, on the same day the new at-sea landing regulations were brought into force March 9, the Department of External Affairs approved 107 export permits for the shipment of unprocessed herring to the U.S. for freezing before shipment back to Canada for further processing. That was late on a Friday afternoon.

The issue arose as to whether consultations between DFO and External Affairs had taken place prior to the issuance of these permits. Those questions have still not been answered, although asked twice in this Chamber.

The question arises as to when these consultations took place, if at all, and whether the information provided regionally reflected the intention of External Affairs to grant the export permits.

Sixth, as recently as this past weekend the issue of the possible export of unprocessed herring became an issue. According to news reports, some 17 containers of unprocessed herring were supposedly destined for Japan. According to a telex from DFO to the industry on March 20: "Frozen round herring that contains roe will not be approved for export to other than the U.S.A. by External Affairs".

The question becomes whether there will be any effort to use the vehicle of export permits to eventually circumvent even the extremely weak regulations now in place.

In conclusion, the tragedy is that the maximum damage the U.S. industry originally sought back in 1988 was \$5 million. What this government has managed to do is place in jeopardy a \$900 million industry which employs more than 8,000 plant workers.

The evidence is clear from the minister's own department that the export of unprocessed fish will result in the loss of product for Canadian processors which translates into a loss of jobs for British Columbians.

In the *Vision 2000* document there appears the following: "The costs of Pacific fisheries management will have declined to 70 per cent of the level of the mid-1980s and will be totally recovered from the industry in increased fees and royalties and other user-pay or devolution arrangements by the year 2010".

The agreement reached in February on salmon and herring ensures that the role of the federal Department of Fisheries is well on the road to becoming irrelevant in terms of management.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his question. In my reply, I will concentrate on the herring roe he mentioned earlier, to explain how the system works.

Effective March 9, 1990, according to our export and import licensing legislation, an export licence will be required for all exports of unprocessed herring roe. This was consequential on an agreement negotiated under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, and the purpose is to fully protect Canada's ability to preserve and manage its herring roe stocks.