

Atlantic as well as to the introduction, during the sixties, of boats equipped with drifting nets in the waters near Port aux Basques, in Cabot strait.

The Gaspé salmon that could escape from Danish nets off the coast of Greenland was caught by Newfoundland fishermen. The Gaspé people are blaming the Newfoundland fishermen as much as Denmark for overfishing.

Danish and Newfoundland fishermen are draining this resource which reproduces more in Quebec because of its numerous salmon rivers, several of which are being developed at great cost by the province.

Mr. Speaker, during the few minutes remaining to me, I would not want to stray from the subject. It is worth mentioning that our coastal waters and continental shelf contain an important resource, marine life, which includes salmon.

Fisheries are undoubtedly one of the greatest resources in eastern Canada. There is one species of fish which travels thousands of miles off our coast. For those hon. members who do not know about the habits of the Atlantic salmon, I would like to say that its spawning grounds are to be found in the inland waters of the North Shore, Gaspé, Newfoundland and New Brunswick. When about three years old, salmon travel to the coast of Greenland and they return, at six or seven years, to spawn in the rivers where they were hatched. In the course of this four-year trip to the North Atlantic it used the Belle-Isle and Cabot straits to reach the international waters.

I avail myself of this opportunity to tell you that fifty years ago, salmon could be found in Great Britain, Europe and the Scandinavian countries. As these rivers are polluted as well as those in the northern United States, we now find clean waters only in the rivers of Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

A hundred years ago, it was customary to find salmon at the mouth of the Hudson River, in New York, as well as

Marine Resources Development Study in the St. Lawrence, Rideau and Ottawa Rivers. We could even find salmon near Toronto.

The International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries which represents 14 countries, was requested to study this problem of overfishing. The Danes were fishing Canadian salmon without violating any international law. We had to convince them to put an end to the excessive fishing that they were carrying out since 1965.

The Canadian argument at the 1969 Conference was that "the country where salmon spawns should be the only one constantly responsible for its fate, no matter where that fish happens to be at a given time". Consequently, this argument was dismissed by Denmark and West Germany.

The review conducted by the Department of Fisheries on salmon born in Miramichi River shows that 44 per cent of the catches were made by the Danes, and 19 per cent by Newfoundlanders.

As the Danes up to now have been quite reluctant to accept quotas, and since the Quebec government has taken steps to apply the regulations that proved necessary to preserve the few fishes left and allow them to spawn in the rivers, on March 14 last, in the committee on fisheries and forestry, I asked the minister to apply rather strict regulations to the fishermen in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. More recently, the minister announced that restrictions were to be imposed on fishing south of Newfoundland as well as in the Cabot Strait.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on talking about our well-known salmon fishing industry but as it is five o'clock, I think it is time for me to conclude, even if I should return to that subject on another occasion.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.