

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): If the hon. member does not want just his colleagues on his own side asking him some questions, I would like to ask a question.

I wonder if the hon. member would agree with what is fact that no quota for tuna has ever been given to Japan by Canada. Any quota for tuna that Japan has is a quota given to Japan by ICCAT, the international organization that supervises international catching of tuna.

Never in the history of Canada that I know of has any quota for as much as the tail of a tuna or the nose of a tuna or the fin of a tuna been given to Japan by Canada. This is done by the international organization that supervises.

• (1520)

As I said earlier this morning, and I would like the hon. gentleman to confirm whether he heard this, we have allowed Japan for a number of years to fish within our 200-mile zone to catch a limited number of the tuna for which it has a quota from ICCAT. It is easier for it to catch that particular quota from ICCAT within our zone. In return, one of the quid pro quo from Japan is that it has invariably supported us in NAFO, the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization, and has invariably observed the conservation rules of that organization and has voted in the same way to support the causes that we support in NAFO.

Does the hon. gentleman suggest for a minute that there is something pernicious or terrible about our allowing one of our firm supporters in NAFO to catch some of its tuna quota given to it by an international organization within our 200-mile zone?

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. minister. The five minute period of questions and comments has expired. I am quite prepared to let it go on with unanimous consent and then I would allow of the hon. member to answer. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. Crosbie: I will conclude my question. Does the hon. gentleman realize that Chile has no vessels whatsoever fishing in the northwest Atlantic? I do not know where Chile is catching the Atlantic cod unless the Atlantic cod has been transplanted somehow to Chile.

Supply

Cuba might catch something out there, but certainly not Chile.

I would like the hon. gentleman to explain to me where all this Atlantic cod that Chile is said to be exporting to Canada is. What is the volume of it and how did Chile get it in the first place, since Chile has no trawlers fishing in the northwest Atlantic and has never appeared as far as I know in the northwest Atlantic? Could he explain to us what the problem is with allowing Cuba, for example, to catch some offshore squid if it appears in 4VWX, in that particular zone, when Canada has a huge surplus of squid which Canadians do not and cannot catch and therefore we permit a quota to foreign vessels?

The hon. gentleman mentioned cod in zone 2G and 2GH, far up north. Would the hon. gentleman inform the House whether any foreigners have ever caught any cod up there and in what quantities they have caught cod up there? Or is he simply attempting to cod the House and to cod the Canadian people?

An hon. member: I withdraw unanimous consent.

Mr. Crosbie: Great. I accept your withdrawing unanimous consent and now the member for Gander—Grand Falls cannot answer.

Would the hon. gentleman answer some of these questions and stop trying to fool the people of Canada and the members of this House with specious pretences that he is using fact?

Mr. Baker: Madam Speaker, let me take these issues one at a time. First of all, as far as squid is concerned, the minister asked what is wrong with giving Cuba offshore squid in 4VWX. Zone 4VWX is a zone just east of Nova Scotia. It fishes in what is called the silver hake box. It is 80 miles from the coast of southwestern Nova Scotia. It fishes there on what we call the 401 of squid that are born in Florida, as the minister knows. They go up the coast of the United States. They go around Cuba but they are too small to catch. They are just right to catch when they get to Nova Scotia. They are just big enough for the trawlers to intercept them. That is where Canada gives its 15 factory freezer trawler licences to Cuba.

The minister must realize that it was under his ministership that we restricted squid licences to all Canadians. Today squid is a restricted fishery in Newfoundland. Squid is a restricted fishery to Canadians.