

Banks, of which two portions known as "the nose" and "tail" lie beyond the Canadian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and are vulnerable to virtually unregulated fishing.

Even though Canada as a member of NAFO participates in inspections beyond the Canadian 200-mile EEZ, it currently has no enforcement power that would permit putting an end to overfishing. During his appearance before the Committee, Francois Pouliot, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate and Regulatory Management, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, stated:

In this latter boundary area, to which the fish migrate both inside and outside the Canadian zone, foreign fishing outside the zone is not well controlled despite efforts of the 12 nations to manage the fisheries on a multilateral basis through the organization called NAFO. Foreign fleets fish for upwards of 20,000 days per year in that area, and this overfishing has resulted in declines of the fish stocks...<sup>(18)</sup>

Victor Rabinovitch described the international inspection regime applied outside the Canadian Exclusive Economic Zone:

...Beyond the 200-mile zone, there is a joint international inspection scheme ... conducted under the auspices of NAFO... Under that scheme, vessels of other flag states voluntarily submit to inspections on the high seas. Those inspections are conducted routinely, primarily by Canada. We are out there on the nose and tail of the Grand Banks and on the Flemish Cap, which is about 280 miles off our coast. Canada is the only coastal state that is present and inspecting. However, certain other states do place inspection vessels out in the area. The Soviets normally place one, sometimes two inspection vessels... That international scheme is voluntary. Information gathered from those inspections is then passed through the NAFO secretariat, and the flag state is informed of any possible violations that are detected.<sup>(19)</sup>

However, in practice, several flag states systematically ignore violation notices and continue overfishing. Moreover, some NAFO members within the European Community countries abide by national quotas considerably higher than those set by NAFO.

While the Committee recognizes that the difficulties attendant upon the protection of our fishing resources can best be minimized through international cooperation, it is important that we effectively deter illegal fishing within our EEZ. At the same time, if we are to protect our living marine resources, it is imperative that we properly manage the environment in which they grow. Concern over pollution and its potentially devastating consequences is a matter of great public concern and it is imperative that we have an effective, and well-coordinated, response capability.

Another area of focused concern was the matter of drug trafficking. Members were especially struck by the apparent growth in the availability of illicit drugs and the possibility

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(18) Proceedings, 11:9.

(19) Ibid., 11:33.