

ministry of fisheries and oceans, is not managing this resource. There are five species of salmon and 4,500 runs of salmon, all of which need to be preserved. This government, through its negligence and mismanagement, is allowing that to be totally mismanaged.

We have a major problem on this. We are talking about jobs and about sovereignty. We are giving away our resource to the United States. As my hon. leader pointed out in Question Period the other day, what are the implications for our other resources? Does this mean that we are not going to be able to monitor our resources in other ways? It has vast implications, not just for the fishery but for provinces like British Columbia which is so resource dependent.

This government is not looking after the jobs and sovereignty of our country. Through this free trade panel decision, it is the first salvo of a much bigger picture.

I am now going to turn my comments to the whole issue of fish farming. This ministry has been granting licences, seemingly with little regard for the impact on the fishery. It is almost as if they are giving licences for a separate industry, not understanding it and seeing it in isolation rather than as part of the whole fishing scene, especially on the west coast. There has been an impact on the market because of the kind of prices that wild fishery can now ask versus the fish farming. I have a son who works in the fishery and it is a matter of the market prices going steadily downward because there have been so many fish farming licences granted.

I have no trouble with Canada feeding the world. I think it is a laudable goal that Canada should feed the world. But when it is at the cost of Canadian jobs, when it is taking the kind of money that many fisherpeople have invested in boats, equipment and so on and putting those people's jobs at risk in order to have a fling at what is called fish farming, I question that. There is a whole other aspect of fish farming that has to be looked at, as well, and that is the environmental consequences of granting so many licences for fish farms. There are many horror stories I could tell you about fish farming on the west coast. I could tell you of the kinds of drugs that are introduced into the farms to preserve the so-called health of the fish. I am talking about antibiotics that are

Supply

dumped into the pens. What kind of safety regulations has this ministry brought in to ensure that the high density of drugs in the fish will not contaminate the wild fishery. How is it going to prevent them from escaping?

So, we have at least two concerns with fish farming, the environmental concerns and the effects on the markets and the traditional jobs in the fishery.

I now want to turn my comments to the effect on the troll fleet. My son works with the troll fleet in the summer. I believe he is watching from the gallery or from the lobby this afternoon. I hope he is paying attention, as I am finally talking about an issue that he can agree with.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Ms. Hunter: Well, he is a 16-year-old boy and they never agree with their mothers. For the past two years he has been out off the west coast of Vancouver Island with the troll fleet. Each year things have become steadily worse, according to him. He tells me stories of the overzealous action on the part of the fishery patrol. As soon as the fleet gets over fish and is actually successful in catching fish, they close down, and ask the fleet to move on. This is a kind of harassment because the patrol does not know what is going on. It does not have the ability to know how many fish are escaping or how many fish are coming back, so they close it down. And, what does that do to the fishery? Well, I know what it does to my son's skipper. It makes him very, very nervous, because all of a sudden he has two months to make his income for the year and the fishery is closed down and moved on. As a mother, I can speak of the kind of dangerous working conditions involved here. It is like a little chequerboard out there and they are only allowed a certain part of the ocean in which to do their fishing. All the boats are crammed into one little area and they have their poles going out and it is foggy. This is management? It is not management. It is a patchwork quilt of regulations that harasses the fishery and harasses the people of British Columbia in their attempts to make a living. And it is this government, with its central Canada focus on every policy, that is irritating to those of us on either coast.