

Supply—Fisheries

cautions. We co-operate closely with the provinces and the municipalities in this general field of pollution control. The two cases referred by the hon. member have been in the mind of the department, and I understand that discussions have already taken place in order to take the necessary steps at an early stage to prevent any pollution effect from their operation.

With regard to the rehabilitation of salmon runs in the Queen Charlotte islands, this is being attempted at some stage through regulation of the fishery, and we can say that we feel we are meeting with success.

Mr. Barnett: There is one other matter, Mr. Chairman, that I for one would like to raise on which I should like to invite any comment which the minister may care to make, while we are still considering the broader policies of his department. It is a matter which may be of more direct concern really to his colleague the Minister of Transport, and I may attempt to pursue it in a little more detail when we reach the consideration of the estimates of that department. The minister may have had drawn to his attention a question which was recently raised publicly by the Pacific trollers' association with respect to the operation of the coastguard on the west coast. As I read the substance of their complaint it was that both of the coastguard cutters had been put into operation on the straits of Georgia area, they claimed almost entirely for the benefit of pleasure craft. Therefore, they said, the main troll fleet off the west coast of Vancouver island was left without the kind of protection which the coastguard, they said, should be prepared to provide for them.

There was one aspect of their representation in which I felt they did not make a complete appraisal of the situation, because they linked their statement with respect to the idea of having both coastguard cutters operating in the inside waters with a rather critical reference to the existing lifeboat stations at Bamfield and Tofino.

I would urge the minister not to be moved too far by the statements they made in respect to the operation of these two lifeboat stations. It may be true that these people, thinking in terms probably of the troll fleet operating a good many miles offshore, are not fully aware of the value of those two lifeboat stations to the fishermen and others who are perhaps somewhat more closely inshore, and to the many other ancillary services in rescue that these lifeboat stations have rendered for many years. They claim

[Mr. Robichaud.]

that these two boats are outdated and are not properly equipped in the modern sense, which may very well be true. I would invite the minister to comment on this subject. I would also urge him to confer rather carefully with his colleague the Minister of Transport on this question, with particular reference to (a) ensuring that adequate coastguard protection be provided to the fullest extent for the fleet operating off the west coast, and (b) giving careful attention to the matter before any further move is made toward reducing the services—in my view, the very valuable services—that are performed from the existing lifeboat stations at Bamfield and Tofino.

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Chairman, I will bring this matter to the attention of my colleague the Minister of Transport.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I have only one question to put to the minister in regard to this famous water pollution.

We are wondering who is really responsible for this. The minister said a moment ago that he was highly interested in this matter. I can tell him that in our region we have been highly interested in this matter for over 30 years.

I am speaking of the Mistassini river, the best salmon river in the whole region. In the past 30 years, salmon has practically been driven away from the river because the refuse of a pulp mill have created a dam right across the river.

Last summer, I went to see for myself what was going on. Layers of white matter extending over a quarter mile could be seen. The fish, the salmon that feed on that are poisoned to death.

Various governments were asked to do something to eliminate such waste and also those accumulated on the bottom of the river. Some friends and I, in diving suits, inspected the bottom of the river. We found that there was from 8 to 10 feet thick of log wastage besides those floating islands of white matter that kill the fish.

We heard people say: "We are deeply concerned by that problem." And the minister said that the effects of waste from pulp mills are not so serious.

Mr. Robichaud: No.

Mr. Gauthier: I hope I misunderstood—

Mr. Robichaud: I certainly did not make such a statement.