

The traditional inshore fishery will continue to operate without limits on catches, and this is important, Mr. Speaker. Larger inshore vessels operating in offshore areas will have catches restricted. In September, further limits will be placed on the fall offshore fishery, as necessary, to ensure that Canadian catches do not exceed 120,000 tonnes. These measures do not reflect traditional management patterns for the northern cod fishery. However, they fit the exceptional circumstances confronting us at the moment.

The second point has to do with protection of individuals and communities. The immediate effect of the problems with 2J3KL cod will be lay-offs of offshore plant workers and trawler fishermen. With very few exceptions, these individuals will be eligible for unemployment insurance. This will provide reduced but on-going incomes for them until the time when a fall fishery would be prosecuted, if they are not engaged in other harvesting or processing activities in the interim.

Fisheries and Oceans has begun work, in conjunction with other departments, to identify measures to meet the needs of those affected this year. They will soon be in contact with fishing companies, unions and provincial governments in this regard. However, the nature and extent of assistance needed will depend in large measure on the results of the fishery for the remainder of this year.

What can be stated now is that assistance will be extended to affected individuals and communities where this is needed. This could consist of an extension of measures under the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program and the Quebec Federal Fisheries Development Program. We must not forget that the problems we encounter in Atlantic fisheries also exist in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and, of course, the St. Lawrence itself.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program was introduced in May 1990 to help ensure a viable fishery for Atlantic Canadians. AFAP takes the form of a package of policy and program initiatives aimed at rebuilding fish stocks while helping fishermen, fish plant workers, and communities in Atlantic Canada adjust to the impact of reduced fishing quotas. These reductions have caused disruptions in

employment and income stability. AFAP initiatives are intended to help bridge the gap to sustained levels of employment and higher incomes as stocks rebuild. The range of operational activity required to successfully implement such a comprehensive program has been extensive.

In addition to this program, Mr. Speaker, the government launched in the summer of 1990, the Quebec Federal Fisheries Development Program following a series of consultations with fishermen, processors and other interest groups. The over-all goal of this program is to ensure the long-term viability of the fishing industry, while providing help to workers and communities in fishing regions. The Quebec Federal Fisheries Development Program has four operational components: marketing, processing, harvesting, and research and infrastructure.

While much remains to be done, there have been significant achievements since the inception of these programs. These include: new inputs to the stock assessment of northern cod; major extension of our surveillance and enforcement activities, resulting in increased compliance with all aspects of fisheries regulations by both domestic and foreign fleets; direct payments to fishermen and plant workers affected by catch failures and plant closures; financial assistance to individuals and companies for diversification initiatives both within and outside the fishery.

The minister will soon announce members and terms of reference for a task force on the income and adjustment problems facing individuals dependent on the Atlantic fishery. This task force, to be composed of industry and union representatives, will be appointed in the coming weeks, Mr. Speaker. It will have a broad mandate and the full support of federal departments and agencies in its work. It can play an important role in charting the course ahead after 1993.

Mr. Speaker, the third point is foreign overfishing. The Prime Minister recognizes the gravity of the problem and will be pressing European leaders to take measures without further delay to abide by decisions of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, including the moratorium on catches of cod in 3L outside the 200-mile zone.

*Supply*