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tion project? This project could increase the potential on four British Columbia rivers from the present 3.7 million salmon now produced to a potential of 34.4 million as outlined by a Department of Fisheries and Oceans report. The potential will certainly not be 34.4 million if the Government of British Columbia and the federal Government's Department of Fisheries and Oceans allow the Kenano depletion project to go ahead.

In the short time the Progressive Conservatives were in power their record did not show a great deal of difference in policy toward the fishing community. There were bank rate increases four times under the Finance Minister in the Progressive Conservative Government. There was a policy then of allowing the industry to struggle under the burden of high interest rates. It was only compounded when we had the re-election of a Liberal Government. The policy on energy prices which concerns fishermen in terms of the cost of going fishing is no different in the Liberal or the Conservative Party. There is not a great deal of satisfaction on the part of fishermen in anticipating a new Government.

The whole question of the B.C. fishing industry has been in the fore in British Columbia for a number of years. We are disappointed that it has taken so long to deal with the Pearse report which has been tabled for well over a year. Many of the recommendations in that report were totally in opposition to the desires of the fishing industry. There was some recognition that some changes had to be made.

This morning I received a telegram from Mr. Erik Larsen, the Mayor of the beautiful coastal community of Ucluelet on the West Coast. This telegram sums up the concerns that the New Democratic Party has in terms of fisheries policy and changes to that policy. It reads:

I have today sent telegrams to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans requesting them to review present and proposed policies regarding the fishing industry, with the industry and communities affected. Privatization of the resource, halting of the Salmonid Enhancement Program, mandatory instead of voluntary buy back program, lack of control over depredation of the resource by other countries, and a proposed harvesting in terminal fisheries only spell economic disaster to Ucluelet and many coastal communities dependent on the fishing industry. Widespread unemployment and social upheaval will result. We urge you to take all steps possible to see there is more consideration given these facts before new policies are allowed.

That sums up the concern of many people in British Columbia, whether they be fishermen, individuals in processing plants, or simply individuals dependent upon the fishing industry in communities and services to those communities.

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The Minister is correct when he says that the Opposition Parties have some duty to outline their proposals. There is no doubt that the electorate, in anticipating an election sometime this year, will be asking those questions. The New Democratic Party has certainly been prepared to enunciate those policies which we have developed in consultation with people in our communities and organizations that represent fishermen. We

have been willing to attend any meetings to which we have been invited and we have certainly thrown our doors open in Ottawa to meet with fishermen at any time they have wanted to come here to lobby. We welcome those fishermen who are coming next week.

There is obviously a great need to continue the Salmonid Enhancement Program. The dependence on the industry in employment, economic health and viability in coastal communities and major centres in British Columbia depends on a growing resource, not a declining one. The NDP has and will continue to suggest that the Salmonid Enhancement Program continue to be funded. In fact, if the Government wants specifics, we see the need for an additional \$200 million over the next five years for salmonid enhancement.

I urge the Minister to be somewhat concerned about the success rate of the major hatcheries and the cause of major fisheries on those hatchery stock, which are undercutting the viability of the wild stocks associated with runs of major hatchery stocks. Our suggestion to the Minister is that new changes in salmonid enhancement be directed to small streams, rivers and estuaries and that a particular effort be made to improve the coho and chinook stocks, which are particularly important to the West Coast troll fishery, the Gulf trollers and the sports and recreational fishery which are so dependent on those two sports fish.

An increase in the Salmonid Enhancement Program funding and a commitment to it is the key to encouraging not only the preservation of stocks but their increase as well. In order to achieve this during a period of economic decline, which puts an additional pressure on fishermen to exploit the resource by taking as much as they need to enable them to pay off high mortgages on vessels or a home, we must also take into consideration some of the problems of enforcement. The Minister should seriously consider increasing the enforcement in British Columbia not only on the commercial fishery but on native fisheries and the sports fishery. Without proper enforcement there is the possibility of violations of fisheries regulations and the undermining of salmonid enhancement projects and the benefits they may bring.

The Minister made a great deal of the consultative process. While we in the NDP support any consultation that is possible in the fishing industry, we think it is important that commercial fishermen, sports fishermen and native fishermen as well as coastal communities have representation on ministerial advisory committees or management boards. We believe that those boards and advisory committees must be open to public scrutiny. It is no longer sufficient for such a consultative group to be responsible only to the Minister, with no minutes being published of those consultations or any suggestions as to what the people of British Columbia are looking for in recommendations. Not only is the public unaware of what the Ministerial Advisory Committee is discussing, many members of those