

*Supply—Fisheries*

always exist and will be the cause of bringing to our attention things that are contrary to the sensitivity of our people. A reasonable amount of toleration, accompanied by permanent and deep-seated humanitarianism, is characteristic of the people all across Canada.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to put these remarks on the record and I hope that the administration will give their attention to them.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Chairman, I would need only two or three minutes for my remarks, because the matter was dealt with exhaustively and also because I do not lay claim to the competence of all my hon. colleagues who have spoken here this afternoon.

I am interested in fishing, in my area, in my riding, not because there is any large scale commercial fishing carried out in my constituency as it would be rather semi-commercial fishing and mainly sport fishing.

I have had an opportunity to speak to the minister, for instance, about a somewhat unique type of fishing, which is found nowhere else in Canada and which we call channel fishing; it is done in January through the ice and is a real tourist attraction, for it draws people from many parts in the United States.

There are also other popular types of fishing in the province of Quebec, which are beginning to worry the experts, for all sorts of reasons. For instance, we have fishes which come to spawn in our rivers, such as sturgeon, which is caught at the mouth of the rivers, since it cannot be caught in the rivers themselves. We use a net, which is a slightly different method than we might find elsewhere. It is then tied live to posts along the edge of the river and kept alive, much as one would keep an ordinary animal on a leash, waiting to be led to the slaughter house. Incidentally, sturgeon is marketed for its eggs, namely caviar.

The eel is another type of fish migrating in considerable numbers to our province. Surely, there is some concern that these fishes, channel fish, sturgeons, eels, smelts and other types of fish, are what one would call migrant fishes, falling under provincial authority, since they are caught in our rivers but which, in view of the fact that they are migrant fishes, come from the sea to spawn in our rivers. I would also like to have the Federal

*[Mr. Alkenbrack.]*

Department of Fisheries include on the agenda of its subsequent meetings with provincial authorities, consideration of a study of the habits of these fishes to make sure that they will not become extinct in a few years, because water pollution certainly is a factor in the extinction of these fishes, and also keeps them away.

The building of dams at the mouth of some rivers prevents the fish from going up-river to spawn, true to instinctive habits dating hundreds and thousands of years back. This might require a more detailed study than the provinces would be able to undertake.

I would suggest this to the hon. minister, keeping in mind that all of today's discussions, concerning the estimates of the Department of Fisheries, are a tribute to the minister's ability and professional integrity.

It is not every day that I have the opportunity to see a minister receive such consideration from the members of the opposition. Usually, they like to concentrate on ministers with a vigour I would call ferocious in some cases. But, in the case of the present minister, they all insisted on saying he had accomplished a lot since he had taken over the department, that conditions had improved considerably.

I wish to join them in this tribute, Mr. Chairman, because during the few weeks off we had last summer, I gave myself the pleasure of visiting the shores of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and, on another occasion, Nova Scotia, to have a look at living conditions of our Canadian fishermen. I did not do so in an official capacity. I went there incognito, as a tourist; in most cases, I did not identify myself.

I went along the waterfront, I examined fishing establishments myself, I even went aboard some fishing vessels, and I think I speak the exact truth when I tell the hon. minister that 90 per cent of the fishermen I met were satisfied with the progress from which they have benefited during the last few years. I am pleased to agree with those who said the same thing before I did, even if I do not have their competence.

Mr. Chairman, I should simply like to point out the problem of water purification. As it has been said several times before this problem is of major importance not only for the fishing industry but in several other respects. After studying water pollution in the principal municipalities of the whole country, I believe the federal and provincial governments must make greater efforts to help the