

*Oral questions***FISHERIES****BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON AND HERRING INDUSTRY REGULATIONS**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries. As he knows, Canada will be presenting replacement regulations for the B.C. salmon and herring industry to Peter Murphy in Washington next week.

Since a number of GATT member countries such as Great Britain have import requirements that fish be graded and eviscerated for entry into their markets, will the Minister assure this House that the replacement B.C. regulations will provide for landing, grading, and eviscerating in Canada?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is correct, we are refining proposed new regulations to ensure effective conservation, management and quality control of fish and fish products exported from Canada. These regulations were prepared with input by a working group representing the fishing industry of British Columbia. They were submitted to my office in mid-September. They are being reviewed by trade lawyers and experts in the Government, and at the appropriate time the form of these regulations will be made clear. Further discussions are presently under way jointly with my colleague, the Minister for International Trade.

**GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister for International Trade. He must be aware that if we do not have grading, landing, and eviscerating provisions for the B.C. industry, our salmon and herring industry will be destroyed.

Will the Minister be specific and assure this House that the Government will advise the United States that we are a sovereign country and one of the rights we have is the right to gut fish, and that means to gut salmon in British Columbia?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that the Party the hon. gentleman represents is a tremendous supporter of the GATT system, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. That Party knows, of course, that this is a problem originating as a result of the work of a GATT panel, the organization that his Party supports. That panel found certain practices in British Columbia, in connection with the regulation of the catching and

processing of fish, to be contrary to fair trade rules as enunciated by GATT.

Our response to the GATT panel will have to be GATT consistent in order to have the support of his Party. In due course he will know what that response is and I am sure that the B.C. salmon and herring industry will remain a healthy and productive one when our decision is announced. However, our decision will be GATT consistent, c-o-n-s-i-s-t-e-n-t.

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**AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT****CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton—Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy and again concerns the Auditor General's Report as it relates to the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Development Fund.

In that report the Auditor General lists the approval of funding for the Stellarton to Sheet Harbour highway as questionable with respect to its applicability to criteria established for the disposition of this fund.

Could the Minister please provide this House with the background information given his Department by the Province of Nova Scotia which led him to approve this \$20 million project, which is obviously in contradiction to the legislative purposes of this fund?

**Mr. Speaker:** I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Member but the question was getting awfully close to being out of order. However, the Hon. Minister may want to reply.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question correctly, the Hon. Member is opposed to the Government of Canada, in agreement with the Government of Nova Scotia, spending money to improve the infrastructure so that when offshore development takes place, Nova Scotians can fully benefit from it. Is that the Hon. Member's position, Mr. Speaker?

**REQUEST FOR DETAILED REPORT**

**Mr. Francis G. Leblanc (Cape Breton—Highlands—Canso):** Mr. Speaker, since the Minister has the responsibility to approve every one of these projects and to check that they meet the criteria clearly stated in the