

simply increase the landing tax to the point where marginal fishermen can no longer stay in the industry. You simply charge them more and more to moor their vessels. You do not provide adequate harbours in order that people can moor their vessels and repair them near their homes.

In short, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister are creating enormous problems for people in the fishing industry by causing them to travel great distances to store their vessels and have them repaired. Right now moorage fees, the condition of harbours, the user costs associated and the inadequacy of them on the coast of British Columbia are becoming a major problem.

In places like Port Hardy, Campbell River, Saltery Bay and the Comox Harbour area in my own riding there is a definite need for harbour upgrading and improved parking and service facilities, which would be a major enhancement to the local economy and the fishing community.

There must be infrastructure development for fishermen. There is need for cold storage plants and processing plants in communities in order to develop a focus for those communities. A great deal of concern has been expressed about the aquaculture industry on the coast of British Columbia. That industry needs infrastructure in the form of small craft harbours to load and unload material. It needs cold storage areas and processing plants to prepare for trans-shipment of the material.

The same thing is required by the commercial fleet. A major storage plant in the community of Port Hardy for the storage of herring, halibut and salmon would mean that a small community which is undergoing major traumatic experiences of a single industry town could benefit through an enormous increase in fish storage and fish processing capacity as well as a substantial increase in employment. Many other areas along the coast of British Columbia would benefit from cold storage facilities.

With regard to the Salmonid Enhancement Program, there was an announcement recently by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) that the Government would continue to fund this program on the coast of British Columbia at an extremely modest and inadequate level. There is tremendous potential for the enhancement of salmon on the coast of British Columbia. The present stocks, which were developed through hatcheries and the development of incubation systems and spawning channels, are a major achievement of previous Governments. The stocks are being maintained at a certain level per year.

However, the Conservatives are now talking about privatizing those facilities. They are talking about using those facilities as suppliers for the aquaculture industry in certain areas. They are talking about funding them from landing taxes. The Government of Canada is attempting to evade its responsibility to ensure that the resource of wild stock salmon, which has been an economic boon to the West Coast of Canada and, indeed, all of Canada for many years, is maintained and improved. More money is needed.

Small Businesses Loans Act

Several years ago the Government decided to put \$5 million into job creation on the coast of British Columbia under a MILAP program. That program encouraged a number of projects under the Salmonid Enhancement Program which have been very successful. They received funding for a couple of years and developed their projects. After the projects began to run they were suddenly cut off. Due more to the efforts of dedicated individuals than any policy of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, it has managed to squeeze out some funding to provide small amounts of assistance here and there.

However, the Minister has not recognized that those projects contribute substantially to the wealth of the West Coast of Canada and that of Canada as a whole and are worthy of government support. Under the MILAP program projects were developed on the northern end of Vancouver Island in Port Hardy, around the Oyster River, at Quadra Island and at Gold River. They were given seed money to develop and then were cut adrift.

Those stocks have become important. They serve the commercial fishery and the communities in which fishermen live, which, in turn, serve all businesses in those communities. It is critical that that continue for the continued development of salmonid enhancement.

Another issue is that of resource inventory studies. What is the point of investing a lot of money in salmonid enhancement projects if you are going to allow logging in critical areas which will destroy the streams and wild rearing areas? The Rivers Inlet and Owikeno Lake areas definitely need an integrated resource management study and a course of action planned in co-operation with the federal Departments of Fisheries and Oceans and the Environment and the provincial government agencies.

The herring industry on the West Coast is in a critical condition as well. Representatives from the industry as well as fishing groups recently appeared before the Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. They pointed out that the multiple licence system is a serious problem which has put many people out of work. It has harmed many communities and tends to decentralize the control of fishing companies. A small number of fishermen benefit from a major and wealthy resource. Multiple licences and the area licensing scheme have compounded that problem.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans must have a registry of those who have the right to fish herring. From that registry a rational transfer system must be developed which would prevent the company from grabbing control of it and prevents the Department of Fisheries and Oceans from implementing the Pearse regime which would throw most of the people involved in that industry out of work and place that entire resource in the hands of a few wealthy individuals who may not be fishermen.