

long as they respected all the relevant Canadian laws and regulations.

[*Translation*]

As the Canadian fishery and its markets expanded, the volume of fish stocks allowed foreign vessels within Canadian waters went down. In 1986, Canada announced another change in its international policy: only fish surplus to Canadian needs, fish that Canadian fishermen could not use, would be allocated to foreign fishing fleets. Since then, other countries—with the exception of France, which receives allocations under a fishing agreement that acknowledges the special status of the French islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon—have only fished surplus fish stocks in Canadian waters.

What does this mean? It means that groundfish allocations for foreign vessels dropped from 370,000 tonnes in 1977 to 80,000 tonnes in 1991. During the same period, quotas for Canadian fishermen rose from 300,000 tonnes to 815,000 tonnes. In the past two years alone, under the Groundfish Enhancement Program which gave Canadian companies a chance to develop a fishery of species that had not been used before, Canadians caught 40,000 tonnes of fish formerly allocated to foreign vessels, including silver hake and Greenland halibut in the Davis Strait.

Madam Speaker, we must remember that international relations did not destroy the Canadian fishery but actually contributed to its development. A well-known figure in the Canadian fisheries industry recently told the *Evening Telegram* in St. John's that when they were fishing within the 200-mile limit under joint ventures, foreign vessels had a positive impact on many Canadian companies and communities. Positive international relations made such joint ventures possible. In fact, we are seeking the support of these countries during the crisis in the Canadian northern cod fishery.

As members of this House are well aware, there are still a number of serious problems that must be dealt with if we are to improve conservation in the northwest Atlantic. The biggest challenge to NAFO is the need for effective control measures to deal with a small number of fleets that are overfishing in the regulated zone, in other words, on the nose and tail of the Grand Banks.

[*English*]

NAFO has been making responsible quota decisions and putting in place the necessary conservation mea-

Supply

asures. These are being violated in the following ways. Spanish and Portuguese vessels fish far in excess of the quota set for them. The Iberian vessels violate not only the quota set by NAFO but also the unilateral quota set by the European Community. Spanish and Portuguese vessels do not comply with NAFO fishing regulations such as mesh size.

This is what makes it so devastating when they fish on the tail of the Grand Banks, in the nursery area for American plaice and flounder stocks.

The NAFO scientific council has reported that the flounder caught by Spanish vessels outside the 200-mile limit are much smaller and younger than those that Canadian fishermen are permitted to catch inside the Canadian zone.

Spanish and Portuguese vessels misreport their catches. A common ploy is to fish for stocks that are regulated by NAFO such as cod and flounder but to report catches of species of fish that are not regulated by NAFO, such as skate. Many fishermen know these tricks and some may try to use them if they think that they can get away with it.

It is worth while to stress that last point. Effective control of fishing activities inside the Canadian fishing zone or international waters is making sure that fishermen will not get away with it and that they know they will not get away with it.

Effective control of fishing activities can be achieved. By and large we have achieved it inside the Canadian fishing zone and we are continuing to address remaining deficiencies. The same can be true in the NAFO area. The problem can be solved. Solving the problems, making sure that fishing activity on the nose and tail of the Grand Banks is effectively controlled is now the focus of Canada's effort in NAFO.

We know that NAFO must have, and must have soon, an effective system for ensuring that catches do not exceed quotas and that fishing regulations are respected. Otherwise there will be no fish left for any fishermen.

There has been some progress since Canada made this a priority in 1990. A new NAFO hail system came into effect in 1991, similar to the system we have inside the Canadian fishing zone for both domestic and foreign fleets. Vessels have to hail their positions when they enter and exit the NAFO area and when they change divisions within the area.