

Supply

the world. The maximum depends on the season, but the plant can employ up to 1,200 workers.

Now 1,200 workers on the Bonavista peninsula, and I represent 250 communities, that plant services about 75 communities, some more than others, some less than others. But the hub of the area if you like, the towns of Bonavista, Catalina, Port Union, Melrose, Elliston, Newmans Cove, Kings Cove, Trinity, Port Rexton and I could go on, up the peninsula every community is affected by it. Not just the worker, the fishermen, the trawlermen, the plant worker, the family of the plant worker, the corner store.

To put another end on this, I spoke with a businessman in St. John's, Newfoundland, who was a director of an organization called Atlantic Building Materials. It is a hardware building store. He said: "We can tell you how good or bad the fishery is by looking at our volume of sales." So it is not just the corner store, the Foodliner, Foodland or Sobey's store that is affected. It is the big stores, the hardware stores that sell building materials, the gas stations, the provisioners. The main provisioner in my riding in Carbonear is affected by this. I speak to them, I know.

So you can imagine and you can perhaps forgive my somewhat unusual—not antagonism, but frustration if you like, which I share with hon. members on this side of the House and I think, to a certain extent, on that side of the House, when your brother and sisters and brothers-in-law and cousins and friends, today, as I stand here, do not have jobs. They are not sure when they are going to have jobs, how long they are going to have jobs this year and God knows what is going to happen next year.

This is the human face. This is what is involved and this is what we have to put an end to.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Charles-Eugène Marin (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity today to address the issue of the 200-mile limit and the pillaging of resources in that area.

Mr. Speaker, I will share my speaking time with the hon. member for Fredericton—York—Sunbury, and I might speak for just a bit more than 10 minutes.

• (1320)

I would like to acknowledge the depth of concern expressed by the hon. member for Burin—St. George's in his motion concerning the pillaging of transboundary fish stocks off Canada's east coast and the possibility of extending Canada's functional jurisdiction in an effort to combat the problem.

His sincerity in raising the issue is beyond question. However, sincerity alone will not carry the day. The government must deal in facts. As you know, the February 1992 report of the Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee on the state of the northern cod stock revised downward the estimates for the over-all biomass and for the age seven years and older biomass. The over-all biomass level is thus estimated to be at approximately the same level as in 1980 and the spawning stock biomass level to be slightly below that in 1979.

In each of those years the TAC was set at 180,000 tonnes. The CAFSAC report went on to state that 1992 catches for the first half of the year should be restricted to the lowest level possible. CAFSAC will provide advice in July for the remainder of the 1992 fishery.

In recognition of the current state of the northern cod fishery, the Minister of Fisheries and Ocean introduced, on February 24, a conservation ceiling for managing the resource. The ceiling of 120,000 tonnes for 1992 represented a 65,000 tonnes reduction in the total allowable catch for northern cod and was announced as part of a six-point program.

The first point concerns management of the fishery. CAFSAC recommended that the catch during the first six months of 1992 be reduced to 25,000 tonnes, about half the level for the same period of 1991. This measure was adopted, effectively ending the winter fishery by offshore trawlers in Divison 3L. Other measures to conserve the stock will be worked out in consultation with industry representatives as events unfold.

In view of the reduced state of capelin stocks, upon which northern cod feed, the offshore capelin fishery in the Canadian zone in 1992 has been closed. Harvesting of cod by offshore trawlers during peak spawning periods has been banned. Fisheries, where cod is a by-catch, can be undertaken during the first half of 1992, provided this by-catch remains within acceptable limits.