

*Adjournment Debate*

fortitude on the part of this Government to go out and claim our natural rights to what is within our 200-mile limit. We have had a Government with a toothless policy, *vis-à-vis* foreign overfishing. December 10, 1988, the European Council of Ministers announced unilateral quotas 12 times higher than those permitted by NAFO. Ministerial response was a press release denouncing the plan and calling on his European counterparts to be more far-sighted in their thinking. Since then, how many freezer factories took the Minister's advice to heart? Precise control of overfishing requires surveillance and enforcement, the lack of which led to the demise of ICNAF and will likely spell the end of NAFO also.

• (1820)

As an aside, this Government does not even know if this over-harvesting by foreigners is affecting the under-utilized species and the food chain for the fish caught inshore. After decades of politely being brushed off in our effort to strengthen international institutions, we must now know that we have to rely on our own enforcement capabilities to protect our fish stock. The 200-mile limit will be respected only if there is reason to. It is fundamentally unacceptable that the Government stands by as dually negotiated international agreements are flouted while domestic fishermen squabble over what is left of a steady dwindling resource.

Let me talk about foreign overfishing, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure you that out of 170 boats outside the 200-mile limit, two weeks ago, the average catch was probably 40 to 80 tonnes per boat. Seventeen days of production for one of those boats equals the total production of one inshore plant in South West Nova that employs up to 30 people. This plant is modern but today has no access to fish to continue operating. We have 40 to 60 foreign boats within the 200-mile limit doing the same amount of damage. I say to this Government and to the Governments in the Atlantic that they have to have political fortitude. There are hard decisions to be made. Those decisions mean that National Sea and Fisheries Products, if there is over-capacity, should go out and claim the 200-mile limit. Do not resort to going against the equity principle the Department of Fisheries own policy on equity. It is the inshore communities that need to benefit from the resource on their doorstep.

The current crisis is severe, but we must not permit ourselves to be blinded to the over-all health of a good Atlantic groundfishery. We must have better enforced protection of fish stocks from overfishing. We must reform the enterprise allocation system to protect the interests of a once thriving inshore sector better. If we do

not, a way of life in thousands of small towns may not survive.

Do we have the political will? I say to the federal Government and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) that I have not seen it. The offshore has not been responsible. It should be made to go to the 200-mile limit. The inshore fish gets a better price than the offshore. It needs less fish to get that price and less fish are needed to create a job onshore. What about quotas? The quotas from 1984 to 1989 in the inshore decreased 44 per cent while the offshore decreased 3.2 per cent.

If the Government follows the path that it seems to be following in protecting our giants in the fishing industry which is not the direction that I feel it should be going, that direction should be to save the many hundreds of inshore communities all along the east coast of the Atlantic provinces.

**Mr. Ross Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to respond to the Hon. Member for South West Nova (Mrs. Campbell). I promise to be more succinct than perhaps I was the last time, but that denies me the opportunity to respond in as vigorous a way as I would like to considering some of her comments.

Under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Atlantic Groundfish Management Plan, there are not, and there have never been, any "plant quotas" or "community quotas" in either the offshore or the inshore sector. Licences and quotas are allocated to individual fishermen or companies, which are free to land and process fish at the location of their choice. This is a long-established principle of the Atlantic groundfish management accepted by all components of the industry. This allows companies and fishermen to improve operational flexibility and provide for integrated harvesting, processing and marketing.

Reallocating part of fish quotas given to companies might only result in displacing the problem as other communities would be affected. The problem is one of major reductions in groundfish quotas over the past several years. In such a context, companies must be allowed to make the decisions which will ensure their long-term viability.

• (1825)

Under the 1989 groundfish management plan, a permanent transfer of 12,000 tonnes of cod, haddock, pollock, redfish and flatfish has already been made from