

Supply

This industry is not a simple one. The late Don Jamieson, if he were here today, would probably describe it as a multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, multi-purpose industry, and he would be right. But the members opposite do not seem to take into account the vagaries of nature. They think that just because fish swim around in schools, they can be educated to come whenever they are required. That is not so.

Back in those years Senator Kirby and the DFO managers, some of whom are still available, were projecting what they thought would happen around 1990. My colleague for Cape Breton—The Sydneys will remember that they were saying that in 2J3KL, which is the heart and soul of northern cod off Newfoundland, it was quite possible that by the early 1990s you could get 400,000 TAC without any problem. Well, that is not the case.

The marine biologists and oceanographers are the first to concede that the vast oceans around this continent are hiding a lot of data that they do not have. Nobody can foresee with certainty what mother nature will do from one year to the next.

I want to take a bit of time and simply put on the record some of the things that my ministry is attempting to do through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency to alleviate this difficult situation. I would like to put this on the record. My colleague from South West Nova read a very interesting letter into the record. I think this would be at least as informative as the letter that she read, although I have a great deal of sympathy with what her constituent said.

• (1550)

We have, through ACOA, contributed in excess of \$50 million to alleviate some of the problems inherent in the fisheries in Atlantic Canada. We have done so in different ways. We have contributed to a national centre for fisheries innovation which is a joint venture in Newfoundland between Memorial University and the Newfoundland and Labrador Institute of Fisheries and Marine Technology. This is something that is very useful for the future of the fishery. This centre's mandate is to focus intellectual and technological resources from the university, the institute and the private sector on the particular problems of the Atlantic fishery so we will understand more of the root causes that make this such an important industry to control, to the extent that this is

possible. This is with the goal of making the industry more productive and profitable. Also, the centre will assist in creating markets for traditional under-utilized species by emphasizing quality control, packaging and productivity, something that will allow us to get value-added and other attributes that are necessary to keep this industry productive and to enlarge it.

ACOA's action program also provides operating funding to the Canadian Centre for International Fisheries Training and Development which was established in 1986 to market Canadian fisheries expertise world-wide. ACOA has contributed \$7.5 million of its action program funds to the creation of the Canadian Centre for Marine Communications which will provide the first applied research and development facility mandated to help marine communications industries in Canada. This centre is committed to market-driven research and development work. It will benefit the small and medium-sized high technology firms in Atlantic Canada which are already seizing opportunities to develop marine communications products that can be manufactured in the Atlantic region for sale to world markets.

As these three centres gain impetus, they will focus the attention of international markets more and more upon Atlantic Canada as a region to be reckoned with. The gain of small fishermen is multiple. They will receive access to first-rate technology equipment and training, exposure to sophisticated marketing techniques and participation in a dynamic, multi-faceted industry.

I think again it is only fair to point out that the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister for International Trade are together taking every step that is possible in a reasonable way to find ways to enhance, improve and foster the prosperity of the fisheries on both coasts of this country. For my hon. friends to say that the minister of fisheries does not care or that he is not faithful in his duties or that he does not visit the regions is patently false. She knows that. I know that when you are getting into partisan debate on something as important to Atlantic Canada as fisheries, there is always the temptation to get into these similes and metaphors.

Perhaps, to paraphrase the late Ogden Nash, one thing that Canadian politics would be very much the better for would be a more restrictive use of simile and metaphor,