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tains a definition of sustainable development. It is taken from the Brundtland report, from what is an international consensus on the definition of that phrase and means: The development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

If there ever there has been a Canadian situation which demonstrates the principles of sustainable development, or at least the lack of them it has to be in the manner in which we so frequently have approached our fishery be it frequently on the Atlantic seaboard and on the Pacific coast as well.

The main area of my experience with the fishery has been the Atlantic salmon. There is much to learn from the management history and experience we have gained over recent years with Atlantic salmon that may well be applied to all fishery resources. The salmon story has both domestic and international implications much as is the case with the Atlantic groundfish crisis. It required in the case of Atlantic salmon a demonstration of leadership here at home before we could get the attention of the international fishery organizations and fishery countries. Salmon management involved other domestic conflicts, commercial fishermen in ocean migration routes, sports anglers in fresh water spawning rivers, native Indians at key locations in tidal estuaries, all competing vigorously for a diminishing resource despite clear signals that that stock was in serious trouble.

In the case of Atlantic salmon, Canada did finally start to act when we were just on the brink of disaster. A 10-year ban was imposed on the Maritimes commercial fishery for salmon. Angling limits were reduced first from six fish per day to four and then to two, and now large salmon are not permitted to be harvested at all. The total season limit for all fish, smaller fish only, in fact, is down to 10. What a dramatic action to reduce a daily limit to almost what is now a season limit.

We have introduced catch and release programs to preserve the resource and yet to permit the continuity of the very valuable recreational fishery.

I have the honour to chair National Recreational Fisheries Conference to be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, two weeks from now in which the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans national action plan for a sustainable fishery into the next century will deal with the recreational component. That is hardly an

expression of management vision that would deserve the negative implications of this resolution this afternoon.

In terms of the Atlantic salmon, if I may go on with the analogy, allowances which were established in 1989 to initiate headland river by river system management received fierce opposition even from those to which the management plan is most designed to help. Those who are most dependent on our fishery resource are frequently, it seems the ones who most vigorously oppose its preservation. This seems to illustrate the reality of our changing perspective when we have abused nature's bounty.

We have been to the edge of extinction with the salmon resource and with our own eyes we have seen it because the salmon resource is spawned and born in our own rivers. We are able to count and even measure the size of the returning resource and yet we have been unwilling to believe even the reality of our own numbers.

When all is concluded, obviously people have got to be our greatest concern, and those who live by fishing are obviously in great difficulty in many places in the Atlantic region today. But we cannot respond to the circumstances of those people by plundering the resource. I would like to say that as my colleague, the parliamentary secretary to the minister, has outlined, there are programs in place, there are actions we are taking to speak to the circumstances in which those people find themselves today. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with its programs and with its mission statement from which I would like to read, has the following goal:

To undertake policies and programs in support of Canada's economic, ecological and scientific interests in the oceans and inland waterways and to provide for the conservation the development and the sustained economic utilization of Canada's fishery resources.

• (1710 )

This government, for the first time ever, is committed to sustainable development, to the realization that the resource is the key.

**Mr. Simmons:** Madam Speaker, first of all I want to congratulate my friend from Fredericton on his address. I am not sure his heart was completely in it but I understand that. He and the gentleman before him, my friend and colleague from Burlington, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment, have together, during the last 20 minutes, made a number of points that