

*Adjournment Debate*

They are asking for 25,000 pounds a trip, each week, for 40 weeks. There are approximately 250 boats that we are talking about and there are 112 licensed foreigners out there fishing within our 200-mile limit. There is also a freezer factory ship fishing within our waters, close to our coastal waters, and now the offshore.

I plead with this House that what is happening to the three counties I have mentioned should not be happening anywhere in Canada. This government is strictly looking to please an offshore that was bailed out again. The National Sea Products and the Fishery Products were bailed out again last week by being able to close those communities. Not that they left the boats; they still get the plants, but the government pays out \$150 million.

We do not want that to happen in that area. We want fish. We want an evaluation of the stocks, and we want fair share of the natural resource that is at their doorstep.

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, one of the difficulties with answering these questions is that from the time that question is asked there is an add-on and we get into an area that does not cover the actual reply.

The hon. member has asked about the government's plan for addressing the problem of the Atlantic fishing industry, particularly the assistance that will be provided to communities in the Scotia-Fundy region.

The \$584 million Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program recently announced has three major elements: rebuilding the fish stocks, assistance to adjust to the current reality of lessening employment in the fishery, and economic diversification both within and outside the fishing sector. All these elements will contribute to stabilizing and generating employment opportunities in fishing communities affected by the TAC reductions.

By placing additional resources of \$150 million into the needed scientific research, data and information collection, monitoring, and enforcement, we are taking the long-term measures necessary to rebuild stocks so that employment from the fishing sector can be optimized.

Changes to the Fisheries Act will be introduced shortly. They will also enhance protection of fish stocks by strengthening statistical reporting requirements and increasing penalties for fishing and habitat offences.

As exemplified by the recent meeting with Mr. Marin of the European Economic Community, intensive diplomatic and legal initiatives are under way to address the problem of foreign overfishing outside Canada's 200-mile limit.

I am confident that all these measures, taken together, will rebuild our fish stocks so that they can once again support a viable, thriving industry.

The government and all Atlantic Canadians must face the difficult reality that the fishery cannot support all who seek employment in this area. That is why \$120 million of federal contribution to the Plant Workers Adjustment Program is so important. This initiative to help plant workers and trawlermen who lose their jobs will be developed in full consultation with the provinces, the companies, and the unions. It will offer affected workers the financial means to make choices about their future.

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The \$146 million funding for economic diversification, which will augment the over \$2 billion the federal government will spend on regional development in Atlantic Canada by 1993-94, has been provided to give fisheries dependent communities the leverage needed to diversify within and outside the fishery. Communities will be encouraged to look at such new opportunities as under-utilized species, aquaculture and new fish product development, while outside the fishery, development in tourism, ocean industries and other sectors will be considered.

Communities will be empowered to make their own decisions to create lasting employment. When you take into account these elements and the \$158 million previously announced for short term assistance and addi