

Supply

Although he did not go on a seal hunt, he saw first hand what happens to the seals on the ice in the gulf.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that we are getting a lot of tourists and a lot of development in the Magdalen Islands because people are coming from the United States, Italy and other European countries, in fact from all over the world. We are experiencing a boom in the tourism industry, unlike anything we have seen in the past 10 or 15 years. This is very important, Mr. Speaker.

However, as far as culling X number of seals from the herds is concerned, this will not harm tourism and it is certainly not a threat to the continued existence of the seal herds. In fact, what we call the "harvesting of the herd" benefits everyone.

[*English*]

It is very important not to shock the environmentalists. We can do a reasonable harvest. We can use every ounce of meat, every ounce of oil and we will sell it on the market. CIDA buys all kinds of mackerel in cans. We can sell seal meat too. We will keep our herds. We will have the seal hunters and they will have their jobs.

Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on the record a question that the minister of fisheries will undoubtedly have to answer tomorrow at the University of New Brunswick law school.

The minister of fisheries is speaking at the law school on Friday, I think at 1.30 in the afternoon, and the general public is invited to attend together with the media and, of course, with law school students who will be questioning the minister of fisheries on the subject of fisheries management as it pertains to the Law of the Sea and what the minister of fisheries and the Government of Canada intend to do under the law to protect our fisheries.

I will try to present the question in the seven minutes I have. The question is this: According to the department's own information sheets, in 1990 it gave 195,000 tonnes of fish as foreign allocations within our 200-mile zone and it issued 117 foreign licences, foreign allocations within Canada's 200-mile zone, enough to keep 19 fish plants going in Canada. That is the department's own background material. This is Fisheries and Oceans

Canada. At least, I don't know, 10,000 jobs in 20 fish plants.

The rationale, as given by the minister and the department, for giving out these foreign allocations inside the 200-mile zone is that Canada has an obligation under the Law of the Sea. This is the information package or backgrounder of Fisheries and Oceans. The Law of the Sea requires coastal states, and it goes on and on and on.

The question is if the Law of the Sea required Canada to give 119 foreign licences last year and 195,000 tonnes of fish to foreigners, then why can we not extend our jurisdiction over straddling stocks that is also required under the Law of the Sea?

The government says that it cannot extend it for transborder stocks because we did not ratify the Law of the Sea. There is no Law of the Sea. There is a Law of the Sea by custom which was signed by 119 nations at the United Nations in 1983. But then it required 60 to ratify it in their own countries and to date, only 43 have done so.

So there is no Law of the Sea. But the Law of the Sea is used to give foreigners allocations of fish within our 200-mile zone. The minister of fisheries stood in this House a few moments ago and said: "Oh, but fish that Canadians do not want are given to the foreigners". I am sorry but I have them in my riding as other members do.

Why Canadians cannot get licences to catch squid unless they are a certain group of Canadians. A man on welfare cannot get a licence to catch squid; a woman on welfare cannot get one. I cannot get one. Nobody can get one unless he or she qualifies as a full-time fisherman and has certain other qualifications. But the Cubans can get one. Oh yes, 12 miles off the coast, there is the Cuban flag. Japanese can get one. Russians can get one.

If you go out and you catch a fish that a foreigner is catching under a Canadian licence you are thrown in jail. Then you spend your time in jail. A great many Canadians have spent their time in jail, because they cannot get a licence.

Last year, Fisheries and Oceans said they gave 117 foreign vessels licences 195,000 tonnes—that is their publication—to vessels that are over 400 feet long. Why, you could drop the biggest Canadian vessel in the hold of