

Fisheries Closing Lines

privileges with the United States and the activities of United States fishermen in the areas concerned will not be affected by the promulgation of the fisheries closing lines.

Anti-pollution provisions of our Federal Fisheries Act and the Canada Shipping Act will apply within the limits of our new fishing zones, thus adding additional scope to Canada's efforts to preserve and improve the marine environment around our shores.

I would now like to table a four-page statement which was prepared in consultation with the Department of External Affairs. It provides additional information on the promulgation of the fisheries closing lines as defined by the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act. May I ask the permission of the House, Mr. Speaker, to have this statement appended to today's *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: For statement referred to above, see Appendix.*]

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the statement made by the Minister of Fisheries which indicates that action will finally be taken to conserve some of our fisheries resources. I know this announcement will be welcomed by all Canadians, and it will be especially welcomed by fishermen and processors on the east and west coasts.

While waiting for some action on this matter, many of our fishermen were beginning to realize the meaning of the word eternity, for history records that legislation respecting our territorial waters and fisheries laws was introduced by the Hon. Paul Martin, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, with much fanfare back on May 20, 1964. At that time the minister said that the bill respecting the territorial sea and the fishing zones of Canada was not enabling legislation. "On proclamation", he said, "the 12-mile fishing zone will be established—there can be no doubt about this point." A lot of fish have passed over the rails of foreign fishing vessels since that date. Today we see our fisheries resources seriously affected. In fact they have been depleted to the danger level as a result of the inaction and procrastination of this government.

I would point out that the announcement made by the minister today is long overdue, and in our view it is only a beginning. It is only the beginning on the long road back toward obtaining and retaining fishing resources which rightfully belong to our Canadian fishermen. However, I say it is only a beginning since the action taken today will leave many problems still unresolved.

The exclusive fishing zones, for example, as announced by the minister are not complete protection for the stocks of fish on our coasts. The only way to provide for proper conservation is to vest in the coastal states ownership and jurisdiction over the fishery resources on the continental shelf. This would be a logical extension of the United Nations convention on the continental shelf which already recognizes ownership of resources on and under

[Mr. Davis.]

the sea-bed of the shelf. Even this would not provide protection for anadromous species like salmon which roam far to sea during their early stages. Canada's Atlantic salmon are being intercepted on the high seas of the Atlantic, and the International Commission for the North Atlantic Fishery has expressed grave concern about the depletion of this valuable resource. In our opinion, nothing short of universal acceptance of the abstention principle will adequately protect Canadian salmon on both coasts.

● (11:30 a.m.)

Finally, this country must do everything within its power to work toward convening another United Nations Law of the Sea Conference at which we must strive for acceptance of at least two principles. One of these principles is the continental shelf concept for our fisheries resources. The other is the universal acceptance of the abstention principle for an anadromous species like salmon. In order to bring this about we need someone in the Department of External Affairs who recognizes the value to Canadians of our fishing industry, as it is obvious that the present minister does not share our concern. In fact, the present minister was only recently in Europe and he made no effort, according to his own statement to me in the House, to resolve the differences which exist between Canada and France over fishing rights surrounding the French-owned islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. In view of the importance of the fishing industry I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) will consider strengthening the Department of External Affairs with someone knowledgeable on fisheries matters so that progress can be made at the international level toward solving some of our thorny fishing problems.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my appreciation to the minister for his kindness in sending us a copy of the statement he made earlier so that we could have a look at it. I think it might have been worth while if we could also have had a look at the four-page statement to be appended to *Hansard*. It would have made his statement more meaningful because the statement the minister made is sufficiently bare to leave a few gaps in our understanding of what has taken place. I believe it also indicates that we cannot have a great deal of faith in what the minister and the government say concerning fisheries matters because when the bill to amend the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act was before the standing committee during the last session the minister said that in a matter of a few days he would have the fisheries closing lines established, but those few days have dragged on into seven months. That does not lead us to have much faith in the pronouncements of the minister about what he intends to do but indicates that we should pay more attention to what he does or does not do.

One point that has been dealt with extensively before the committee and in fishing circles, a matter with which we have concerned ourselves for some time, is the extension of our jurisdiction to the continental shelf and continental slope. The minister himself made a great play on that idea before the committee and elsewhere, saying