

*Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act*

cumstances which are tolerable from our Canadian fishing industry's point of view, and which I would think would be better from a public relations point of view so far as France is concerned. Later this week reference may be made again to the treaty we have with the United States. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) said a few minutes ago in the House that we will be signing a reciprocal fishing agreement with Washington. We have arrangements with the United States which essentially are reciprocal. Our fishermen in most cases enjoy the same rights in their waters as we provide to United States fishermen in our waters. These reciprocal arrangements with amendments have gone on year after year.

Essentially, we are out-fishing the United States fishermen. We certainly are doing so on the east coast. It is to our advantage to have this reciprocal agreement and make it as broad as possible. They can enter our exclusive fishing zones and we can enter theirs. On the west coast this reciprocal agreement is of particular interest to Canada because a large percentage, more than half, of our west coast halibut fishery depends on access to the exclusive 12-mile fishing zone of the United States, along the coast of Alaska and in the Bering Sea. As I am referring to Alaska as well, their coast is roughly four times the length of the British Columbia coast and therefore this reciprocal arrangement on the west coast in respect of the shoreline is very much to our advantage. What I would envisage with the completion of our fisheries map of Canada, with the drawing of the remaining fisheries boundaries and the fisheries closing lines is that we will still want to have, and indeed enjoy, a good relationship with the United States and welcome any type of reciprocal fishing arrangement which in the main liberalizes reciprocity in fishing between Canada and the United States.

There are a number of other countries whose fishermen during the years have fished in Canadian waters. The United Kingdom, France, Norway, Denmark, Portugal, Spain and Italy have had a long record of performance. They have traditional fishing practices in some of our east coast areas. Their fishermen and fishing vessels will, therefore, have to be phased out over a period of time. They, however, are in a different category. Their continuance there is not based on a treaty but merely on the fact that they have come and gone over a period of many years. I am not one of those who believes in shutting out

[Mr. Davis.]

foreign fishing fleets entirely. I know there are certain species of fish off our shores, and some of them within our exclusive fishing zones, which will be of interest to people of other countries and which may not be of any immediate commercial value to Canadians. I would hope we would always encourage their development by visitors to our shores up to at least a sustained yield level of production. I could conceivably see a species like the west coast dogfish in this category, and there may be others that we may continue to want to see exploited off our east coast as well.

Having said that I am concerned, as I know many hon. members are, about the management in the sense of a sound conservation practice in respect of a limited resource. The fishery of the world is indeed a limited resource. It is in a position which cannot withstand the tremendous pressure from modern fishing gear and the latest fishing techniques. Our capability to catch fish already exceeds the supply. It certainly exceeds the ability of the resource to withstand this great attack by man. We need, therefore, to limit our efforts in many areas and scale them to the resource to make sure the resource is cropped on a sustained yield basis.

● (5:10 p.m.)

Within our own fishing zones we have begun a system of licence limitation by which we are cutting back on the numbers of vessels active in our own Canadian waters. We are reducing the fishing capacity in some cases to one-quarter or one-third. A quarter or a third fewer vessels can catch all the fish that could possibly be caught and still leave enough fish for future years which will provide a reasonable level of income for the fishermen. If we are to scale down our efforts in this way, and in a sense, to withdraw the fishing capacity from our waters, we need to have these waters managed and under control. They cannot be subject to the capricious attack of fishermen of other countries who come when it suits them, then leave and not come again for years after the resource itself has been depleted.

On the west coast beginning in 1965 the Russian, and to some extent, the Japanese fishing fleets moved in. They moved into Queen Charlotte Sound. Over a period of two years they reduced the catch per unit of effort, the quantity of groundfish that could be caught per day at sea, by approximately 60 per cent. They have not come back to