

Adjournment Debate

The decision to reduce the offshore share of this stock does not violate Principle 10 of the groundfish management plan. This stock is now under multi-year management. Over the next three years, 1991 through 1993, the TAC will decrease by more than 15 per cent. Under such conditions, guidelines in the groundfish management plan state that adjustments to the inshore-offshore ratio can be considered.

The effects on Richmond Fisheries are unfortunate, but the decision taken was part of the groundfish management plan for 1991. These decisions are based on the long-term interests of all those who depend on the fishery. For the cod stock in question the quota sharing arrangement between fleet sectors has not been decided upon for the final two years, 1992 to 1993, of the plan.

Departmental scientists are closely monitoring the fishery and should biological indicators suggest a change in the TAC, this advice will be considered. For 1991, an additional 500 tonnes of 4-VWX redfish will be available to Houston Fisheries as a result of the removal of 4-VWX redfish from the groundfish developmental program in 1991. This fish could potentially be processed at the Richmond plant.

For fishermen, plant workers and communities affected by quota reductions and stock depletion, the Government of Canada has developed the Atlantic

Fisheries Adjustment Program. This program has elements which will help rebuild fish stocks to ensure an abundant resource base in the future, provide adjustments to current realities through assistance to plant workers and trawlermen and economic diversification within the fishery and for fishery dependent communities affected by quota reductions and stock depletion.

Unfortunately, there is not a magic wand to make fish appear or reappear. This government is very sympathetic to those who are suffering from the effects of lower quotas. This government has taken measures that are responsible and sensitive, conservation for a sustainable and viable future and a comprehensive adjustment program for Atlantic Canada.

I hope the member and the members of his community will appreciate the fact that conservation is a very important ingredient in the management scheme, so that the people in his community in the long-term can have the livelihood they so richly desire and deserve.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 6.20 p.m.