

The percentage of immature fish had been 40 per cent of the catches, for not using the appropriate netting, which means the destruction of the stocks.

Undersized fish, illegal equipment, a systematic wiping out of the stock. How much more proof does the minister need? Why does he not do what he has to do and take control of the transboundary stocks on behalf of all civilized nations?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, the problem has never been that I need any further proof of what is happening in connection with overfishing beyond the 200-mile limit.

The problem is that the regime in place in the area outside the 200-mile economic zone is taken by the world to be international waters and no one state has any control over fishing practices in those waters. Therefore, we have to proceed with a campaign of persuasion to try to persuade any country that may be violating proper fishing practices to cease these violations.

I do not have the time to go into all the details of the campaign that we have under way but I can say, Mr. Speaker, that we are having signs of progress and that in a recent trip to Cuba and to Panama we had definite success and definite pledges of support in connection with our campaign.

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that Cuba and Panama are not the particular problem. He knows also that his Prime Minister last week caved in to the EC's insulting promise that it would cut back on its quota.

Why did somebody not explain to the Prime Minister before last week's meeting that the EC has no quota out there? NAFO has had a moratorium out there since 1986.

Does the minister not agree that the Prime Minister in his meetings last week did absolutely nothing to advance the cause of stopping foreign overfishing and indeed may have damaged the over-all strategy?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency): Mr. Speaker, the exaggerated rhetoric of the opposition certainly does not help in solving this overfishing problem, nor does it help Canada's image before the countries that it has to deal with. I suggest to

Oral Questions

the hon. member that he cut back on his use of rhetoric in this matter.

The Prime Minister took a very firm stand at a meeting with President Delors and the Prime Minister of Portugal last week. We are making progress. We had a positive response from them. The proof of the pudding will be in the eating, so we will see what happens in the next several months. But there is nothing to be gained by gratuitous insults and allegations of the nature that the hon. gentleman makes from time to time.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture who knows that thousands of Saskatchewan producers have been left without predictable bankable individualized coverage as a result of unilateral changes made by the province of Saskatchewan to the Gross Revenue Insurance Program. Indeed, even as we speak Saskatchewan producers are gathering at the legislature in Regina to protest these arbitrary changes.

Has the minister consulted with the province of Saskatchewan? Has he in fact encouraged the province of Saskatchewan to consider reverting to the 1991 GRIP program or, at the very least, to come forward with a similar program which respects the fundamental principles of the Gross Revenue Insurance Program, the fundamental principles which involve individual coverage and predictability?

Some hon. members: Order, order.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I can understand why our colleagues in the New Democratic Party are a little touchy about my colleague's question.

My colleague is accurate. The producers in Saskatchewan wish to have a predictable program. They wish to have a bankable program. They wish to have a program which they can rely on.

That was changed by the new government in Saskatchewan. I have assured that government that the federal government would return to a 1991 GRIP. We are prepared to pay the full cost on the federal government side. I encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to return to the farmers in Saskatchewan the predictability,