

Coastal Fisheries Protection Act

these problems, we see the wholesale destruction of our Atlantic salmon by Denmark, a country which is also a member of the International Commission of the North Atlantic Fisheries.

In this instance Denmark is sailing a ship she does not own, and she has no intention of contributing toward its maintenance. I say this because 55 per cent of the salmon which migrate each year to Greenland waters are spawned and reared in North Atlantic rivers. About 70 per cent of these fish would return to their home rivers if they were not taken by foreign fleets. The Danes are using Japanese driftnets which are very effective in catching salmon.

It is estimated that Denmark's trawlers are costing United States and Canadian fishermen an annual loss of Atlantic salmon valued at \$2½ million, and the loss to our tourist industry in Atlantic Canada by the declining salmon runs in our rivers cannot be estimated. We can only guess the figure, but I feel certain it would run into millions of dollars. Something must be done soon to eliminate the fishing for Atlantic salmon on the high seas, or this species will be lost to us forever.

For all these reasons I suggest that the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry use his good offices to call immediately an international fisheries conference. Hopefully, he will succeed where it is obvious the Secretary of State for External Affairs has failed. Unless action is taken soon, all the minister's words and all his expressed concern for the plight of the fishermen will be just so much sea spray over the taffrail.

Having stated our concern over some aspects of the legislation, I have an amendment to propose which I hope will strengthen the bill. The purpose of our amendment is to give provinces the right to exercise the option whether or not foreign fishing vessels or persons aboard such vessels will be allowed into that province for all or any of the following reasons: to unload, land or tranship any fish, outfit or supply, ship or discharge any crew member or other person, purchase or obtain bait or any supplies or outfits. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Cardigan (Mr. McQuaid):

That all the words after the word "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefore:

"this bill be not now read a third time but be referred back to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry with an instruction that the committee consider inserting therein a provision that where the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of a province so recommends, the Governor in Council shall make regulations to authorize foreign fishing

vessels to enter Canadian fisheries waters, or persons to be in that province or in Canadian fisheries waters, for the purpose of doing in that province all or any of the things described in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subsection (2) of section 3 of the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act."

● (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):

Mr. Speaker, at the outset of my remarks I take great pleasure in joining the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) in expressing my best wishes and those of my colleagues to Dr. Ozere. Those who have come to know him, particularly at meetings of the Fisheries Committee, have enjoyed his wealth of knowledge and the good-humoured way in which he has presented fisheries matters to the committee. I am sure all hon. members hope he will come back to see us from time to time and that his wealth of knowledge will be available to us when we need it in the future, whether or not he continues much longer in his present position.

I agree with the opinion expressed by the minister on this legislation when he spoke in the House on second reading. I disagree with the necessity to refer it back to committee, as suggested in the amendment which is before us and which in my view really goes beyond the scope of the bill. As I understand the bill, it is simply a matter of bringing this legislation up to date with respect to technological changes and advances in the industry. In that sense it does not in any way add to the powers that the minister now has under the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, except that it makes clear that certain types of vessels ancillary to the operations of certain types of fishing fleets shall, for the purposes of this act, be included as fishing vessels and therefore come under the control of the minister.

As I understand the act, the minister now has power to declare whether foreign fishing vessels can enter Canadian ports for any purpose. The question of whether they enter ports on the Atlantic coast or the Pacific coast is not in any way altered by the provisions of the bill before us. For that reason I believe this to be a matter requiring a flexible policy to deal with situations that may arise from time to time on any or all of our coasts.

In other words, while I agree with the policy that prevents foreign fleets doing certain things, I think it is logical that the situation that has existed on the Atlantic coast, whereby fishing vessels are allowed to enter Canadian ports for supplies and servicing, should be decided upon after considering the