

Margaree, Nova Scotia, among other places. That man reported to me that within a reasonable period of time, because of this intensive effort on the part of salmon hatcheries, in the scattered hatcheries throughout Atlantic Canada, the salmon population did in fact return to the Bay of Fundy to a point at which it was again a viable fishery.

I beseech the minister to examine in a practical way the increment in salmon population which occurred when salmon hatcheries were developed—salmon and trout, for that matter. This may be contrary to some of the recommendations he has received from a strictly scientific point of view. The little hatchery near my home hatched up to 2.5 million salmon eggs. The little streams in which I went fishing as a boy soon became populated with “shiners”, fingerling salmon which went to sea and returned, fully grown, in adequate numbers to bring about both a professional fishing industry in the Bay of Fundy and excellent sports fishing in the streams of New Brunswick.

Now this little hatchery in my community has been closed down, phased out. It has a good water supply. It is a good facility. I wish the minister would at least consider reactivating this hatchery and experimenting in a stream or streams in New Brunswick with this one hatchery, if with no others, to determine whether or not the older fishermen in the Saint John-Bay of Fundy area are right when they say that hatcheries will, indeed, increase the number of salmon in the streams of New Brunswick and in the Bay of Fundy. I have already written to the minister on this subject and I hope he will give it serious consideration.

All the things we may wish to do with regard to financing the industry and preserving the stocks will be in vain unless we improve our surveillance program. I had the privilege of discussing this program off the Atlantic coast with a chap who worked on it for the summer. He gave me some rather startling information. In his summer employment he did not see the gear hauled on a foreign fishing vessel to know what came ashore. He did not see one haul. He spent his summer on a boat which did not see the foreign fishing vessels which he inspected haul their gear from the water. I think this would be something for the press to pursue. I do not have all the information I would like to have on this, but I think the press should do some very careful interviewing of people who have worked aboard the surveillance vessels off the east coast of Canada. They are slow. The fishing vessels are far faster than the surveillance vessels. Some fishing vessels have sailed beyond them and were not apprehended getting out of our boundary waters and into American waters where we could not apprehend them.

● (1740)

The inspection of freezer boats is such that once a boat is half loaded, what is it loaded with? How are you going to get into the holds to determine what in fact is in them? I am very skeptical of the surveillance on the high seas as I watch the surveillance on the streams. I have pleaded with the minister, I believe every year since 1972, to put the type of surveillance on

the streams of eastern Canada which would put the fear of the law into those who are poachers and on who I lay the blame for a large portion of the depletion of our salmon population.

It is all right to say that the native people on the streams have taken them all. They have taken some, but when we know through the grapevine that there is an organized marketing structure through which poachers work to get rid of their illegal catch, and that is marketed with good returns to those who caught the fish illegally, then there has to be something seriously wrong with the enforcement system. I plead with the minister. I think I made an element of progress with his immediate predecessor with respect to what should be done for surveillance of these streams and the penalizing of those who poach upon them, and I hope that this too will not have been lost by a change of government.

This bill certainly should go to committee. It should be discussed. It has some very important aspects, and it gives us in this House who are interested in fishing one of very few opportunities to discuss the industry. I think we can under this bill.

One of the things we have learned is that if we would put our foreign fishing licences into the hands of some countries which would provide markets, we might indeed get better trading opportunities. Western Europe is prepared, I think, to make some duty concessions if we are prepared to put some of the foreign fishing licences into the hands of European nations. We might have to take them from those who already have them, because I am not suggesting that we give additional foreign fishing capability to foreign fishing fleets. Rather, we should reduce it, but there is reasonable indication that it becomes negotiable if we place our foreign licences in the proper hands.

Once again I wish to repeat what the hon. member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse) said with respect to tax credits. If ever there was a hazardous industry which has cyclical opportunities of market and fish runs, it has to be the fishing industry. It and agriculture are the two riskiest industries in Canada. I think there should be the greatest opportunity possible for tax credits to make it possible for fishermen to feel that they have a future in the purchase of vessels which would be capable of earning them a living regardless of their cost. They should not be burdened with 20, 30 and 40 year mortgages as we are when we buy houses. Rather, they should be granted an opportunity so that within a short period of time they could pay for them. This is not a loss of tax money. It is a deferral of the collection of tax because, once it is paid for and once it is depreciated, then the government gets its pound of flesh in full fashion. I think this is an important and imperative thing to do.

I look forward to meeting the minister in committee, discussing this bill to a greater extent and getting to some of the finer points of some of the problems which we have on the east coast which need attention.

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I did not realize I had percolated to the top of the list.