

Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act

these resources must have proper access to them either through purchase or engaging in fishing activities in some of the areas that might be within the limits we could claim through adopting this principle.

I should like to conclude by saying I am glad to know the government has moved as far as it has in these two bills we have before us. I hope that the unanimous vote given to Bill C-202 would be repeated in respect of this one if one were to be called. Unless there is some indication to the contrary, it would hardly be necessary for us to call another formal, recorded unanimous vote on this bill as we did on the other one. We could perhaps take the two of them as being read together to ensure that Canada's interest in the general safety of the world is, in our view, enhanced by the kind of legislation that has been put before us by the government.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words today about Bill C-203. This legislation will amend Canada's Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act. It will push our territorial sea out from three miles to 12 miles. It will also enable the government to draw a number of important fisheries closing lines.

The extension of our territorial sea by an additional nine miles is important in so far as Canada's fishing interest is concerned, but more important particularly to our commercial fishermen and to Canadians generally is the completion of our fishing zones. As a result of this all important legislation, we will be able to complete a fisheries map of Canada. We will be able to draw fisheries closing lines across the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, across the Bay of Fundy and across Queen Charlotte Sound on the west coast.

Those of you who followed my announcement last year about the drawing of baselines on both our coasts will recall that we drew a series of straight baselines from headland to headland. We published maps of Canada's existing sea within these lines to down along the east coast of Nova Scotia, for example, and down the west coast of Vancouver Island. They enclosed literally hundreds of bays and inlets. They declared those bays and inlets not only to be exclusive fishing zones of Canada but also, because of the nature of our legislation of 1964, Canadian territory as well.

Now, we are introducing another concept. It is the concept of fisheries closing lines. These closing lines will finally enclose large addi-

tional bodies of water such as the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Queen Charlotte Sound on the west coast.

The idea of fisheries closing lines is a new one. It is new to our fisheries in Canada and it is new to the international fishery. It is a new idea which we Canadians have invented to suit our own fisheries situation, yet I know it is also one which, like the 12-mile fishing limit which Canada pioneered in the 1950's, will recommend itself to other countries, particularly to other fishing countries of the world.

I would draw hon. members attention more specifically to subsection (1) of Section 4 of our present Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act. This is to be repealed and the following substituted in its place:

—the fishing zones of Canada comprise such areas of the sea adjacent to the coast of Canada as may be prescribed by the Governor in Council.

In other words, the cabinet can approve and by Order in Council set certain co-ordinates on the map of Canada and then draw fisheries lines between these co-ordinates, thereby describing as exclusively Canadian, or for the exclusive Canadian management, large bodies of water in this country. Where we have already drawn straight baselines we will continue to claim an additional 12 miles as being part of our fishing waters in Canada. But there are still important gaps. These gaps on the east coast, such as the gap across Cabot Strait and the Strait of Belle Isle, can be closed by fisheries closing lines.

There is an important distinction here between baselines, as the terms used in the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act of 1964, and the additional or supplementary concept of fisheries closing lines. Baselines in our legislation apply to two things; they apply to territorial sea as well as to the fishing zones of Canada. The fisheries closing line concept, on the other hand, applies exclusively to fishing. It does not necessarily apply to territory. It applies to the protection of the living resources in the fishing waters of Canada. It does not apply to transportation, it does not apply to shipping as such, it does not apply to aircraft flying over the zone in question and it does not apply indeed to submarines passing under the surface of the water.

Perhaps I should put it another way. We are putting the finishing touches with this fisheries closing line concept to the fishing map of Canada. Under this legislation we will be able to close all the remaining gaps around

[Mr. Barnett.]