

escapement of salmon from the Saint John River which, I might add, is in a desperate condition so far as salmon spawning is concerned.

DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT CAUSED BY DRAGGERS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Can the minister advise what action he is taking regarding charges by fishermen in northwestern Newfoundland that draggers are operating in inshore waters and are again causing serious damage to fishing equipment in the area?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, we have already dispatched a departmental patrol vessel to that area and we will be getting a report shortly.

GUARDIANS ON SALMON RIVERS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Is it the intention of his department to reduce significantly the number of guardians on Canadian salmon rivers this coming season and, if so, what is the reason for this particular move?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Well, Mr. Speaker, guardians have been reduced in number, and their hourly rates of pay have been increased appreciably. The problem is partly a budgetary one, but the short answer is that there has been a reduction in the number of fishery guardians on both coasts.

WATER RESOURCES

PLACENTIA BAY, NFLD.—COMPENSATION TO FISHERMEN FOR LOSS THROUGH POLLUTION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Now that his colleague, the Minister of Transport, has had a chance to meet with representatives of the fishermen in Newfoundland can he tell the house what action the government will take to reimburse the fishermen who have been displaced as a consequence of the closing of Placentia Bay following pollution of the waters by the phosphorus plant there?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the matter of compensation to

fishermen in the general vicinity of Long Harbour is under active consideration. A team of assessors is down in that area at the present time. As soon as I receive a report from them, which I hope will be forthcoming next week, I will be making representations to the government.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McGrath: As a further supplementary question to the Minister of Transport, who was acting for the Minister of Fisheries in this regard during his visit to the affected area in Newfoundland, is he willing to tell the house what action he is prepared to recommend to the government to reimburse the fishermen, and compensate the fishermen who will be displaced by the closing of the bay?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the hon. member is asking this question of the minister in his official capacity in the administration. I would think the question should be directed to the Minister of Fisheries.

NANAIMO, B.C.—POLLUTION OF WEST COAST FISHERY

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. It has to do with pollution of water that is allegedly killing fish on the west coast. Has his department checked on incidents reported near Nanaimo and near Gold River on the west coast of Vancouver Island, where fish are alleged to have been killed as a result of toxic waste and, if so, what have been the results of this inquiry?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, detailed checks have been made on one incident, the incident at Nanaimo, and as a result the plant in question has made substantial changes in its operations.

FRASER RIVER POLLUTION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, has the Department of Fisheries taken any action to clear up the grave pollution problem in the Fraser River, which has been described as a running sewer by the fishermen's union, and if so will he indicate the measures to be taken by his department?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The second question in the supplementary would seem to require a statement of a general nature by the minister, which normally would be made on motions.