

Adjournment Debate

Under the Free Trade Agreement, exports of unprocessed herring roe to the United States are allowed if the herring is given additional processing or is meant for domestic consumption. This will help to ensure that herring processing which, I may add, is very labour intensive, is maintained in Canada, thus preserving Canadian jobs.

For the best quality roe, the herring must be frozen as soon as possible after it is caught within 72 hours.

The best way to freeze herring to ensure of the herring roe of the best quality is to use the individual quick freezing process. Facilities in British Columbia have an individual quick freezing capacity of 4,000 tons a day, including 2,600 tons coming from the lower mainland and the rest from Prince Rupert. In 1990, the total allowable catches or TAC, for herring are set at 30,769 tons.

The implementation of this new measure resulted last year in two special requests. First, British Columbia processors wanted to be allowed, in cases of overabundance of fish, to export their herrings to the United States to use their individual quick freezing facilities; these herrings would be returned later on to Canada for

roe extraction. This year, this exercise was allowed to help the industry adjust its operations for the future.

Second, there was the case of a British Columbia exporter who wanted to send unprocessed herring roe directly to Japan. The exporter was advised that the government had no intention of approving the export of herring roe to any country except the United States, and again provided if some conditions would be met.

Effective March 30, 1990, 127 licences were issued, including 83 to allow herring roe to be quick frozen in the United States and then returned to Canada to be processed, 21 of which were used for a total of 357 tons. As to the process of herring roe in the United States, 44 licences were issued, 22 of which were used for a total of 325 tons. Therefore, it is not likely, that herring roe export levels will change dramatically before the end of the current fishing season.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

The House adjourned at 5.42 p.m.
