

Adjournment Debate

It is unacceptable for the Government of Canada to sit while this particular issue is raised to an all-time high level of concern by fishermen in Atlantic Canada and fishermen in my own constituency of Cape Breton—East Richmond.

I must say that I am extremely disappointed in the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and particularly in the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister, who have not afforded the fishermen in my district nor the fishermen in Atlantic Canada the kind of respect and support that they need in order to curtail foreign overfishing.

There has been a proliferation of factory freezer trawler licences which have been given by this government at will to many different nations throughout the world, only to have them fish and to catch fish which in many instances is the foodstuff for the cod.

I would hope that the parliamentary secretary who will be responding to my concerns and to the questions I have raised will reconsider the approach of the Government of Canada and put pressure, real pressure, on other foreign nations that are doing overfishing in our waters and outside our 200-mile limit.

Therefore, I would also hope the parliamentary secretary would accede to the advice we have given time and time and time again on the floor of this House to unilaterally extend the nose and tail of the Grand Banks in order to extend the jurisdictional management of the waters off our coastline.

It is a resource which is not looked after properly and prudently by the Government of Canada. The fishermen in my district, fishermen in all of Atlantic Canada, who have been doing so for hundreds and hundreds of years will be denied that opportunity which they believe and I believe to be rightfully theirs.

I urge and I impress upon the parliamentary secretary here today to bring real influence, real support, for the fishermen of Atlantic Canada by doing the most appropriate thing on their behalf and on behalf of their families.

Mr. Barry Moore (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the respect and the needs of the fishermen, the minister does have the wants and the needs of the fishermen at heart.

The French allocations in Canadian fisheries waters are governed by the *procès-verbal* of agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of France relating to fisheries for the years 1989 and 1991, which came into force on March 30, 1989.

The agreement provided for its extension beyond 1991. The arbitral award in the Canada–France maritime boundary dispute was not rendered before November 1, 1991 and Canada has honoured its obligations under the agreement.

The total French quota in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has not changed from 1990 to 1992. It remains at 4,000 tonnes. The current French quota in 4T–4VN is set at 1,600 tonnes, up by 240 tonnes from 1990, while in 4RS, 3PN is set at 2,400 tonnes down by 240 tonnes from 1990.

The increase in the 4T–4VN French quota was made in 1991, as a result of a major decline in the 4RS, 3PN cod stock. France receives only the quotas provided in this agreement and not any preferential treatment.

With regard to the Spanish and Portuguese fishermen, they fish outside of Canadian fisheries waters. Far from receiving preferential treatment, they do not receive allocations in Canadian fisheries waters and do not have any access to our ports.

HISTORICAL SITES

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, the subject matter which I wish to address I had previously raised on March 17, 1992. In my original question in the House I had questioned the Minister of the Environment and my supplementary was directed to the Prime Minister.

Concerns I had that day are concerns I still share with many people in my community. There was a concern over the fact that close to North Preston, the municipal authority of the county of Halifax had made a decision to site a large municipal dump next to the community, within about seven or eight kilometres.