

*Fisheries Act*

Works (Mr. Laing), both from the West Coast. They appear to be more concerned about the problems of the fisheries on the west coast. One of these ministers should be changed, and probably it should be the Minister of Public Works.

I have mentioned some of the problems we face. I hope the minister has seen the light in respect of these problems. There has been much correspondence. I know this minister is not as stubborn as some of the other ministers, particularly the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene). I know that if he were aware of the situation, he would want to correct it. I hope he will accept my amendment.

*[Translation]*

I hope I have convinced hon. members that the fishing industry is a very important and viable one in my riding and must be supported by all Canadians.

*[English]*

I hope my amendment receives support, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak in support of the amendment moved by the hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau), I do so because of the genuine fear which this government's action has created in the hearts and minds of the inshore lobster fishermen in Atlantic Canada, especially in the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, through amendments to the Fisheries Act as proposed in Bill C-204. This bill received first reading on April 10 and came up for second reading on April 20. At that time, when speaking on the bill, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) outlined his views at some depth on the pollution of Canadian waters and indicated it was the government's intention to try to control pollution through the Fisheries Act, the Canada Water Act, the Northern Inland Waters Act and the Canada Shipping Act. However, throughout this interesting speech he made no mention of the effect on the inshore lobster fishermen if one of the clauses of this bill should receive approval by the House. In fact, he never mentioned the inshore lobster fishery at any time.

The clause to which I refer is clause 2 which simply states that section 31 of the said Act is repealed. Section 31 reads as follows:

No one shall leave any port or place in Canada to fish outside the territorial waters of Canada for fish the catching of which is at such time prohibited in

the territorial waters of Canada opposite to or nearest the place where such person proposes to fish, and no one shall bring into Canada any fish caught outside the territorial waters of Canada when fishing for such fish is prohibited inside the territorial waters of Canada opposite or nearest to the place where such fish was caught, or shall bring into Canada any vessels, boats, nets, fishing gear, implements or appliances used in such fishing.

The bill states that the purposes originally served by section 31 are now served by section 76 of the Fisheries Act and the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act. When we look at section 76 of the Fisheries Act we find the following words:

The provisions of this Act and the regulations that apply to any or all of the waters or territorial waters of Canada, without anything in the context of such provisions indicating that they apply to any specified area of the waters or territorial waters of Canada, shall, in relation to any fishing vessel on the High Seas that is subject to the jurisdiction of Canada, or any act or thing done or omitted to be done on, from or by means of any such fishing vessel, be deemed to extend and apply to the High Seas.

In other words, any vessel that comes under the jurisdiction of the Canadian government and Canadian laws, is subject to the controls exercised under the Fisheries Act whether they be vessels operating within our territorial waters or on the high seas. This is quite definite. It would appear to make section 31 redundant. However, I contend that section 31 of the Fisheries Act is more descriptive than section 76 for it states, without any reservations, that fish are not to be caught outside the territorial waters, which are now 12 miles from shore, when the catching of such fish is forbidden in our territorial waters.

The section states that no one shall bring into Canada any vessel, boats, nets, fishing gear, implements or appliances used in fishing on the high seas when the season for such fishing in our territorial waters is closed. It is this exact wording which provides the inshore lobster fisherman with the protection he feels he requires so that his inshore lobster resources will not be further depleted. Bill C-204 received second reading without an adequate explanation from the government concerning its reason for repealing section 31 of the Act. It was only when the bill came up before the Committee on Fisheries and Forestry on Thursday May 7 that the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, in reply to questions from the official opposition, gave an indication of the effect this innocuous-looking amendment would have on inshore lobster fishermen and their industry. By the repeal of section 31 of the Fisheries