

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pickersgill: He does not know the answer to that.

Mr. Walker: I will be very happy to get that information for the hon. member.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I have a further supplementary question. Could the Minister of Public Works tell the house how many thousands of completed houses are unsold?

Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, the number is less than might be expected under all circumstances and, as a matter of fact, is less than two weeks supply. I can get the exact number for my hon. friend, but in view of the great impetus to housing the number is remarkably small.

Mr. McIlraith: It is a matter of interpretation of the facts.

FISHERIES

NOVA SCOTIA—PROTESTS RESPECTING SALMON FISHING REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. Is the minister aware of the protests being made by the commercial salmon fishermen of Nova Scotia and in particular of Cape Breton regarding the severe regulations which are being imposed this year, particularly on those fishermen who operate salmon traps in exposed areas off the coast?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. I am aware of the views of the commercial fishermen in the areas referred to by the hon. member. I should like to point out, however, that in the exposed areas referred to no weekly lift period is imposed as in other areas. I have been trying to find an equitable solution to the problem.

Hon. members are no doubt aware that, working with the provincial administrations concerned which have an interest in the Atlantic salmon fishery, chiefly from the sports fishing point of view, the department has been attempting for a number of years to get agreement on uniform regulations. There is no question but that stringent conservation regulations are needed on both the angling and commercial fishermen in the whole of the Atlantic coast areas in order to assist in our attempt to rehabilitate the runs of Atlantic salmon. Unfortunately, however, achieving the desired degree of uniformity has not yet been possible.

[Mr. Garland.]

Mr. R. S. MacLellan (Inverness-Richmond): I should like to ask a supplementary question. Would the Minister of Fisheries tell us what action he has taken to meet the protests of the commercial fishermen of Nova Scotia regarding the change in the regulations this year?

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, when it became evident that these particular commercial fishermen in Nova Scotia were being faced with what they felt were severe restrictions, I immediately took up the problem with the appropriate authorities of the government of Nova Scotia. I regret to say, however, that I have been unsuccessful in persuading these authorities to change their strong recommendations regarding the regulations which, in their view, should be imposed on the commercial fishermen of Nova Scotia. I suggested to the appropriate Nova Scotia government authorities that their recommendations for such restrictive regulations should not be implemented all in one season but rather in stages. Because of the strong views of the province that there was urgent and immediate need for restrictive measures, I have been unable so far to obtain agreement to my suggestions.

[Later:]

Mr. Clement O'Leary (Antigonish-Guysborough): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Who has the final responsibility for the regulations covering commercial salmon fishing in Nova Scotia, the Minister of Fisheries or the province of Nova Scotia?

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, the regulations are passed by federal order in council, but we attempt to co-operate with the provinces concerned in an effort to make the regulations uniform throughout the Atlantic provinces.

[Later:]

Mr. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to clarify my reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough. I wish to add that the federal government attempts to co-operate with the provinces by passing regulations that are in conformity with the provincial recommendations where the provinces have a special interest in a given type of fishery.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is there any doubt that the federal authorities have the ultimate jurisdiction in this matter?

Mr. MacLean (Queens): No, Mr. Speaker.