

*Private Members' Business*

Since declaring its 200-mile limit in 1977, Canada has controlled the management of fish stocks within that limit. Fisheries outside the Canadian 200-mile limit are managed by NAFO.

NAFO was successful in maintaining and rebuilding stocks until 1986 when Spain and Portugal joined the European Community and the European Community began overfishing.

Using a provision in the NAFO convention the EC began adopting its own quota for NAFO stocks. Between 1986 and 1991, the EC reported catches of straddling stocks were 420,000 tonnes above NAFO quotas. Moreover, vessels from several countries that are members of NAFO began to fish routinely in the NAFO areas despite having no quotas.

In 1990, however, the EC accepted eight of its ten NAFO quotas for 1991 but did not respect the NAFO moratorium on northern cod in division 3L. In 1991 the EC caught an estimated 49,000 tonnes of northern cod. In 1992 the EC again accepted eight of eleven NAFO decisions but maintained its objections to the EC moratorium on 3L cod.

The EC has taken important steps to control its fishery in 1992. However, an EC patrol vessel spent 10 months in the NAFO area. The EC passed regulations to close most of its fisheries in the NAFO regulatory area as the quotas were taken including, in the case of division 3L, cod.

At this year's meeting of NAFO in September all NAFO members, including the EC, unanimously adopted a ban on fishing of northern cod outside the 200-mile zone. The EC also took a major positive step by agreeing to all its NAFO quotas.

The EC ministers responsible for fisheries will decide this fall on revisions of the EC common fisheries policy which, if they are adopted as proposed by Commissioner Marin and effectively implemented, will constitute a major step toward effective control of EC fishing vessels in the northwest Atlantic.

Since 1989, we have pursued diplomatic, legal, environmental and public information activities working in every possible international forum to put an end to foreign overfishing. Our efforts are bearing fruit.

At the beginning of this year, for example, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced a stepped up Canadian campaign to save the northwest Atlantic fish stocks.

On January 10, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans spoke at a conference in London sponsored by the Royal Institute on International Affairs. He warned that time was running out for fishing communities that depend on fisheries resources on the high seas. He stated that tangible progress must be made in 1992. One week later, he delivered a similar message to industry and government representatives in Tokyo.

In April, the minister visited Panama and secured the agreement of the Panamanian government to take enforcement action against vessels under its registry, re-flagged Spanish, Portuguese and Korean vessels, that fish contrary to NAFO conservation decisions.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs have asked their counterparts in the Government of Korea for their co-operation to end fishing by their vessels in the northwest Atlantic.

The issue of overfishing was the leading item on the agenda when the Prime Minister met on April 23 with the President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, and Prime Minister Silva of Portugal. President Delors made a number of commitments that helped set the tone for the positive developments that followed.

At Cancun in May an international fisheries conference adopted a resolution supporting many of the conservation principles Canada has been promoting.

Later that month the Organization of American States also adopted a resolution at Canada's instigation calling on the earth summit to convene an international conference on high seas fishing. As the members of this House know the 188 countries at the earth summit agreed to convene such a conference.

At Canada's request a special meeting of the NAFO Fisheries Commission was held in May on the need for more effective international control in the NAFO area through such measures as an observer program and minimum mesh size.

At its annual meeting in September NAFO did approve several new surveillance and control measures. A pilot project will begin in January 1993 to place observers