

Ambassador Beesley will interrupt his work at the U.N. General Assembly in order to chair a formal consultation with industry and provincial government representatives in St. John's on Tuesday, October 31.

Canada approaches the issue of foreign overfishing bearing in mind our rights as the coastal state and the obligations of states operating distant water fleets, as provided for under the Law of the Sea. The Law of the Sea does not now provide the legal basis for unilateral extension of fisheries jurisdiction beyond 200 miles. In the jargon of the Law of the Sea, the area beyond 200 miles remains the "high seas".

However, the Law of the Sea does call on the coastal state and states operating distant water fleets to co-operate toward the goal of conservation and responsible management of straddling stocks. Canada will continue to seek to have that international legal framework under the Law of the Sea work through NAFO.

If the international legal framework cannot be made to work in spite of our best efforts, then Canada will seek to achieve acceptance by the international community of nations of a more clear and effective set of rules for this purpose.

This, while a longer term and by no means certain undertaking, is an important part of Ambassador Beesley's new responsibilities.

Canada's Atlantic fishery is faced by a series of challenges. Some of these I have spoken about. Others will be addressed by my colleague, Mr. Siddon, when he speaks to you tomorrow.

Let me just leave you with one closing thought. The Prime Minister, Mr. Clark, Mr. Siddon and I, along with our colleagues in the government, are committed to working with the fishing industry to meet the challenges that it now faces. Our goal is to make possible a brighter future for the fishing industry and for Atlantic Canada.