

EXCESSIVE CATCHES BY SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM, BUT SO IS THEIR HARVESTING OF IMMATURE FISH. A RECENT RANDOM SAMPLE OF FLATFISH IN THE HOLD OF A SPANISH TRAWLER YIELDED 275 FISH WEIGHING 51 KILOGRAMS. THE AVERAGE WEIGHT OF THOSE FISH WAS 187 GRAMS. THEIR AVERAGE LENGTH WAS 17 CENTIMETERS. THIS SORT OF HARVESTING CAN BE DISASTROUS FOR THE FUTURE.

OVERFISHING IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC IS DAMAGING AN IMPORTANT WORLD RESOURCE, HARMING CANADIAN FISHERMEN, HARMING FISHERMEN FROM OTHER NAFO MEMBER STATES AND, ULTIMATELY, HARMING EUROPEAN FISHERMEN.

THIS IS REALLY A PROBLEM OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHICH THE BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION DEFINED AS:

"DEVELOPMENT THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS."

THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE FLEETS, THE EC IS COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF PRESENT, AS WELL AS FUTURE, GENERATIONS TO HARVEST THESE FISHERIES RESOURCES IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY.

CANADA AND FRANCE SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS SET OUT IN THE BRUNDTLAND REPORT. FOR EXAMPLE, CANADA AND FRANCE ARE AMONG THE NATIONS WHICH SIGNED THE HAGUE DECLARATION IN MARCH, CALLING FOR STRONGER INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

WE JOIN WITH OTHER NATIONS IN OUR SHARED CONCERN ABOUT ISSUES SUCH AS DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER, THE DESTRUCTION OF TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS AND DESERTIFICATION. OVERFISHING IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC IS A PROBLEM TO ADD TO THIS LIST.

CANADA IS SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF FRANCE IN PERSUADING THE EC TO SUPPORT AND ADHERE TO THE DECISIONS OF NAFO, THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THESE RESOURCES.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH THE THOUGHT THAT GIVEN THE TRANSFORMATIONS UNDERWAY HERE IN EUROPE IN ANTICIPATION OF 1993, AND IN CANADA AS A RESULT OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. THERE IS A DEFINITE SENSE OF ENERGY AND ACTIVITY IN EUROPE AS INDUSTRY PREPARES FOR 1993, AS COMPANIES MERGE AND ACQUIRE NEW PARTNERS. THERE ARE AGGRESSIVE AND CAPABLE CANADIAN FIRMS FROM VANCOUVER TO MONTREAL, FROM QUEBEC CITY TO ST. JOHN'S WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF EXPERTISE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY READY AND EAGER TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION HERE IN EUROPE USING FRANCE AS A BASE. I WOULD HOPE THAT ENTERPRISING FRENCH COMPANIES INTERESTED IN THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET WILL ALSO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE SPECIAL ADVANTAGES WHICH CANADA OFFERS AS A PLACE TO ESTABLISH OPERATIONS.