

STRADDLING FISH STOCKS MANAGEMENT

- The impact of the severe depletion of groundfish stocks including northern cod on Atlantic Canada has been devastating, particularly in coastal communities in Newfoundland and Cape Breton, where no alternative livelihood exists.
- Sharply declining high seas fish stocks in many other regions of the world have focused international attention on the need to resolve the problem.
- Foreign overfishing has been the subject of intensive bilateral and international initiatives by Canada.
- Bilaterally, an agreement has been concluded with the European Union (EU), whereby the EU has undertaken to abide by Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) conservation decisions, with Canada setting the total allowable catch for northern cod.
- Under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Canada has concluded an agreement to promote compliance with international conservation measures by fishing vessels on the high seas.
- Following the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Canada has played a leadership role UN Conference on High Seas Fisheries negotiations for the establishment of an effective conservation and management regime.
- Non-contracting parties (reflagged and other) have become the principal cause of overfishing cod and flounder in the NAFO area.
- Diplomatic representations in 1992 and 1993 have resulted in agreements with Korea, Morocco, Venezuela and Vanuatu to remove their vessels.
- NAFO and bilateral efforts will be made shortly with Panama, Honduras, Belize, Sierra Leone and the United States.
- Unilateral action against flagless and reflagged vessels will be taken if necessary.