

**FISHING IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC OCEAN
OFF CANADA'S EAST COAST**

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- 1970 -- Canada extends territorial sea limits from three miles to 12 miles from coast.
- 1977 -- Canada declares 200-mile fishing zone. Rebuilding of stocks inside the zone begins with strict regulations and quota controls for Canadian fishermen in support of conservation management measures.
- 1979 -- Formation of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) formerly International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), to manage the portions of the Grand Banks' fishing grounds outside the Canadian 200-mile zone (including the 'Nose' and 'Tail' of the Grand Banks and the Flemish Cap).
- 1982 -- International adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1985 -- First signs of management difficulties in the NAFO area, due to increased catch effort by Spanish and Portuguese fishing fleets on the Nose and Tail of the Grand Banks.
- 1986 -- Spain and Portugal join the European Community.
- 1986 -- Using a procedure under the NAFO Convention, the
1988 European Community unilaterally adopts its own quotas for NAFO stocks, far above the quotas set by NAFO membership. EC catches far above its historical shares. Vessels from several non-NAFO countries began to fish routinely in the NAFO area despite having no quotas.
- January 1989 -- EC again sets unilateral quotas far above NAFO voted quotas. Scientific advice indicates serious stock declines in important fish stocks where overfishing has been significant in recent years (flounder, plaice, cod).
- Sept. 1989 -- NAFO confirms scientific advice on declining stocks and reduces several key TACs. EC abstains for first time on most votes at NAFO annual meeting. The EC has not yet indicated if it will again refuse to comply with NAFO conservation decisions by setting unilateral quotas.