

On October 6, I announced further steps against foreign overfishing. First, Canada will continue to press its case through contacts with European Ministers. I did this on my recent visit to Europe, in meetings with the German senior Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Ignaz Kiechle, the French senior Minister responsible for fisheries, Mr. Michel Delebarre, the French Minister who chairs the EC Council of Fishery Ministers, Mr. Jacques Mellick, as well as the French trade Minister, Mr. J-M Rausch.

I explained the seriousness of the situation, the priority attached to these matters by Canada and called on their countries to help shift the EC policy to one of support for to NAFO decisions. The German Government was sympathetic, but non-committal. The French Government went further and said it would seek to aid Canada on the EC overfishing issue.

A further step by Canada is the start of a public information campaign in Europe. Through this campaign we will seek to demonstrate to European decision-makers the inconsistency of what Spanish and Portuguese fleets are doing, compared to what the EC says that it is committed to doing. The essence of the campaign is to show Europeans something about themselves that very few of them know, the irresponsibility and destructiveness of their fishing activities in the Northwest Atlantic.

Accordingly, I began my recent visit to Europe in London meeting with, and being interviewed by, leading European journalists. My message to them was simple: the EC should stop overfishing and abide by NAFO decisions.

I gave three reasons for this, three reasons that we will be repeating throughout our public information campaign:

- (1) Present EC practices are the major impediment to the proper operation of NAFO, the international organization responsible for managing fish stocks in international waters in the Northwest Atlantic. The resource simply cannot be properly managed with the EC constantly opting out of NAFO decisions.
- (2) The EC's overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic is damaging important resources, thereby harming fishermen in Canada, in other NAFO member states and, ultimately, harming their own fishermen.
- (3) The commitment of all responsible nations to the principle of sustainable development is being flouted by the EC, both in terms of its excessive catches and the targetting of juvenile flatfish in recognized nursery areas.