

Canadian and Spanish representatives met in Ottawa on February 19 and 20, 1976 to discuss their future cooperation in the field of fisheries. The meeting carried forward discussions held in Ottawa January 15 and 16.

The Spanish Delegation was led by Mr. Victor Moro Rodriguez, Director General of Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce. The Canadian Delegation was led by Mr. L.H. Legault, Director General, International Directorate, Fisheries & Marine Service, Department of the Environment.

The meeting followed the understanding reached on August 7, 1975 between Canada and Spain to consider the elaboration of a bilateral agreement on fisheries cooperation that would establish the terms and conditions governing continued fishing by the Spanish fleet in waters off Canada's Atlantic Coast, taking into account anticipated legal and jurisdictional changes in the regime of fisheries management and traditional Spanish fishing in such waters.

The two sides put forward proposals as the possible basis for an agreement on the terms and conditions that would govern continued fishing by Spanish vessels in areas to be brought under Canadian jurisdiction beyond the present limits of the Canadian territorial sea and fishing zones off the Atlantic coast. On the basis of these proposals they agreed to the terms of an agreement which, if approved by both Governments, would permit Spanish vessels to fish in the area concerned, under Canadian authority and control, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements.

The proposed agreement will now be submitted to the approval of the two Governments.