

*Supply*

utilized species in the Canadian zone. They are not eligible to take part in commercial ventures involving any fishing by their vessels in Canadian waters.

These restrictions however have failed to induce the co-operation that we sought and vigorously pursued. The cumulative impact had begun to take its severe toll and in 1989 this government initiated a comprehensive campaign bilaterally and multilaterally aimed at ending foreign overfishing in the northwest Atlantic outside the 200-mile limit.

[*Translation*]

We will be pressing ahead on all fronts in 1992. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has laid out an ambitious plan of objectives and initiatives for the first half.

[*English*]

We have undertaken a high-level political initiative lead by the Prime Minister to ensure leaders of the EC, its member states and other nations are aware of the serious consequences of overfishing.

At the Houston and London summits of the G-7, for example, the Prime Minister pressed the issue with his colleagues. He obtained commitments in the communiqués to conservation of living marine resources including compliance with the regimes established by regional fisheries organizations through effective monitoring and enforcement.

In bilateral and multilateral discussions at every opportunity we have sought to persuade the EC to return to compliance with NAFO decisions.

We have participated actively and constructively in bilateral working groups on science, surveillance and control and non-NAFO fishing which were set up following ministerial meetings with the then new EC fisheries commissioner, Manuel Marin.

There have been some signs of progress such as the acceptance of eight of the eleven NAFO management decisions for 1991 and for 1992, but clearly not as much as we would like.

In 1991 the EC initiated implementation of the NAFO vessel reporting system and assigned a fisheries patrol vessel to the regulatory area for seven months. It will increase its presence in 1992. That will be of some assistance but surveillance data confirm that EC vessels in 1991 were still taking catches significantly in excess of quotas.

[*Translation*]

Early last summer our special ambassador for fisheries conservation who was appointed to co-ordinate and carry forward Canada's diplomatic, legal and information initiatives in this important area initiated bilateral consultations with the European Community. The EC rejected Canada's proposals to help resolve the problem, but we remain committed to working out a resolution with them which ensures compliance with NAFO decisions.

[*English*]

Respect for the 3L cod moratorium is critical. The minister of fisheries and I called in EC heads of missions on February 27 to impress on them the sense of crisis that is prevailing and the need for urgent response on the part of their governments. We pointed out to them that it is not simply in the interest of the Canadian fishery but also ultimately in their interest that this overfishing comes to an end.

• (1640)

Ambassador Gherson will be returning today from his current mission to the EC to present the scientific evidence on the northern cod stocks and to urge the EC to stop fishing contrary to the NAFO moratorium. EC capitals are now reviewing Canadian findings and our early information is that they are quite shaken by the data we have given them.

We have continued to press our case within NAFO and have provided leadership to the work that has begun to improve its system of surveillance and enforcement. The number one priority in international fisheries management is improving effective control.

All NAFO members must agree on the measures necessary to ensure that conservation decisions are enforced. It is not simply just ourselves or the result will be a failure.

At our request a special session on surveillance and control is being held in May. We have undertaken bilateral initiatives and we have led work within NAFO aimed at eliminating fishing by vessels registered in countries that are not members of NAFO.

The Panamanian government has at last been co-operating with our officials on steps to end the use of Panamanian flagged vessels in northwest Atlantic fisheries and further meetings are scheduled.