

Many thousands of tonnes of such fish are taken annually by vessels from Spain and Portugal in a recognized nursery area outside 200 miles. This is grossly irresponsible conduct.

At the outset of the recent NAFO meeting, it seemed that the European Community was about to take a different approach. EC Fisheries Commissioner Manuel Marin spoke about a commitment to conservation, but during the NAFO meetings the EC did not deliver on that commitment.

We will press them to do so, particularly during this fall, when they will make two decisions: first, whether or not to object to NAFO-set quotas; and second, if the EC does object a decision on the level of quotas that the EC sets for itself in the Northwest Atlantic for 1990.

We will, through a public information campaign in Europe, seek to hold up a mirror before European decision-makers to show the inconsistency of what Spain and Portugal have done compared to what the EC says it is committed to doing. The essence of the public information 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.

This effort will be undertaken in consultation with provincial governments and in co-operation with the fishing industry and the fishermen's union. It will involve them and Mr. Beesley in a variety of activities in Europe.

It will involve our embassies in all the capitals of the European Community. And, it will involve further activities by other Canadian Ministers, all of which will be announced as we proceed.

We will be targetting key decision-makers in the European Community and its member states, as well as influential journalists and commentators.

We have three simple and important messages:

- First, the EC is the main impediment to the proper operation of an important international conservation and resource management organization, NAFO.