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groundfish stocks remain entirely outside Canada's 200-mile zone in an area known as the Flemish Cap.

To ensure that stocks occurring beyond the Canadian zone were properly managed, 11 countries whose vessels had traditionally fished in the northwest Atlantic joined with Canada to form the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, known as NAFO.

The NAFO convention created a framework for international co-operation to ensure the optimum utilization and rational management of the northwest Atlantic fish stocks and recognized the special interest of the coastal state Canada, in conservation and management of these stocks.

Until 1986 NAFO worked well in the best interests of all its members including of course, Canada. Scientists from all NAFO member countries assessed the state of the stocks every year and provided the scientific basis for annual management plans. NAFO members agreed on total allowable catches, known as TACs, and national quotas.

Member countries respected the TACs and quotas. NAFO members also agreed to a wide range of conservation measures like mesh size and inspection schemes. NAFO established for itself a solid reputation in both scientific assessment of fish stocks and in fisheries management.

This conservation regime was successful in maintaining and rebuilding fish stocks. TACs for most NAFO stocks actually increased in the early 1980s.

Then in 1986, Spain and Portugal became members of the European Community. The European Community then began a policy of overfishing outside Canada's 200-mile limit. The EC decided to ignore NAFO conservation decisions and instead to conduct a unilateral excessive fishery in the waters just outside the Canadian fisheries zone. In this way the EC simply took advantage of the fact that the 200-mile zone does not protect all the fish stocks that spawn and live on the Canadian Grand Banks.

Since 1986, EC fleets have taken cumulatively more than 400,000 tonnes above their NAFO quotas in the northwest Atlantic. They have hit straddling stocks of flatfish such as grey sole and flounder so hard that NAFO TACs for those stocks have been cut in half since 1986 to avoid total depletion.

Fishing vessels fishing under EC flags have also been joined in the last few years by vessels flying so-called flags of convenience or of states that are not members of NAFO.

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In 1991 a total of 28 such vessels fished in the NAFO area and are estimated to have taken about 43,000 tonnes of fish including 7,000 tonnes of northern cod. Though they were flying the flags of countries like Panama, 19 of these vessels were crewed by either Spanish or Portuguese. The other nine were either registered in Korea or crewed by Koreans.

Overfishing in the NAFO area has focused attention, and quite rightly so, on the action of the small number of countries that do not respect NAFO rules.

But it is important for Canadians and for members of this House to realize that only one NAFO member has overfished in the NAFO area. Seven out of the eight active NAFO members besides Canada, namely Japan, Russia, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Denmark, Poland and Cuba support fishery conservation, respect their NAFO quota and have a long-standing record of co-operation with Canada.

Canada's international fisheries policy has built upon the co-operation and support of those countries to do exactly what the hon. member's motion suggests, to save a national industry and a way of life in Atlantic Canada.

Canada has not isolated itself or acted alone in protecting its fisheries resources. Instead we have worked with countries that share our objectives for conservation and rational management.

In 1977 as Canada was preparing to extend jurisdiction to protect coastal communities, agreements were reached with all our important fishery partners. They agreed to recognize the new Canadian fisheries zone and to co-operate with Canada on conservation. This was essential for Canada.

In 1976 there were over 100 non-Canadian vessels fishing in the waters that were to fall within Canadian jurisdiction. On January 1, 1977 Canada assumed control of these waters without encountering resistance.

In return Canada gave access to Canadian waters and ports to the countries with which it had signed fisheries agreements, with one important difference. They now fished only in locations permitted by Canada and only as