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# news release

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## **CANADIAN MINISTERS OBJECT TO EC COMMISSION'S FISHING QUOTA PROPOSALS**

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Bernard Valcourt commented today on the fisheries quotas proposed by the European Community (EC) Commission to EC Fisheries Ministers for the Northwest Atlantic outside 200 miles in 1991. EC quotas for 1991 will be decided at a meeting of EC Fisheries Ministers on December 19-21.

"We strongly object to the European Commission's proposed unilateral quotas for 3LN redfish, 3NO witch flounder and particularly 3L cod," said Mr. Valcourt. "NAFO [Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization] decided in September that the EC should not be fishing these three stocks. The proposals represent no further progress towards EC compliance with NAFO decisions."

"The Commission's proposal would mean continuation of a high level of overfishing by EC fleets," said Mr. Crosbie. "While we will seek to work with the EC on improved surveillance and control, elimination of non-NAFO fleets and scientific co-operation, the Commission's proposed quotas provide no basis for discussing access to Canadian ports or allocations of surplus stocks in the Canadian zone."

"While we recognize that the EC will comply with eight NAFO quotas for 1991, it is disappointing that once again the EC is refusing to accept other key NAFO conservation and management decisions," said Mr. Valcourt. "We call on EC Fisheries Ministers to reconsider the proposed quotas when they meet on December 19."