

Portuguese and Canadian delegations met at Ottawa on September 4 and 5 to discuss fisheries matters of mutual concern to the two countries.

Both sides recognized that it was imperative to ensure strict fulfillment of obligations assumed under the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), particularly in light of serious declines in the stocks. The Portuguese delegation indicated that they were taking measures to improve their fishing vessel log-books to bring about a fuller reporting of discarded by-catches, and that they would be intensifying their sampling program to improve the assessment of the state of the stocks and the yields they can support. It was agreed that under the ICNAF scheme of Joint International Enforcement steps would be taken to enable Portuguese fisheries inspectors to work with Canadian inspectors in securing improved compliance with ICNAF regulations.

The Portuguese delegation announced the intention of their Government to designate in the near future a Portuguese fisheries official stationed in St. John's, Newfoundland. The representative would deal directly with Canadian fisheries authorities on a day-to-day basis, with regard to the implementation of conservation measures and their enforcement and other related matters.

It was agreed that officials of the two sides would meet from time to time, as needed to:

- a) review problems raised by either Government regarding the implementation of agreed measures, and to make recommendations for the resolution of such problems;
- b) facilitate the coordination of statistical and scientific information;
- c) improve bilateral cooperation on fisheries matters of mutual interest.

The two delegations reviewed the Canadian proposals for the conservation and management of fish stocks off Canada's Atlantic coast first advanced at the June 1975 meeting of ICNAF and scheduled for further discussion at the special ICNAF meeting to be held at Montreal September 22-28. The Canadian side stressed the importance Canada attaches to these proposals and their possible implications for the future of ICNAF.