

As for the areas of agreement, the EC either voted for or joined the consensus in favour of quotas for all NAFO stocks other than the foregoing. Canada helped to build that consensus by being flexible on those decisions where we could be flexible. The EC supported NAFO quotas for seven stocks, including Southern Grand Banks (3NO) cod, Grand Banks (3LNO) American plaice and Grand Banks (3LNO) yellowtail flounder, three stocks that have suffered badly from overfishing outside 200 miles. These stocks should now have better prospects for rebuilding and, over time, provide increased catches for Canada and other NAFO members.

As for Canada-EC co-operation, we jointly sponsored the establishment by NAFO of working groups on surveillance and control outside 200 miles and on the problem of fishing by non-NAFO fleets. These NAFO working groups will carry forward the results of the Canada-EC working groups on these two topics. Involving all NAFO members in these tasks is critical to strengthening the effectiveness of the NAFO conservation and management regime.

So where do things now stand? This will depend on the results of the December meeting of the EC Council of Fisheries Ministers. Will the EC abide by the NAFO moratorium against taking northern cod outside 200 miles? If not, what will the EC do about its unilateral northern cod quota, set this year at 32,000 t? Will the EC accept the NAFO quota decisions on which it abstained, that is Grand Banks (3LN) redfish, Grand Banks (3NO) witch flounder and Flemish Cap (3M) cod?

It also depends on the results of the two NAFO working groups, one on surveillance and control and the other on non-NAFO fleets. If the surveillance and control working group is successful, then in future we will be able to have greater confidence that whatever quotas are agreed to are being adhered to. And, if the working group on non-NAFO fleets is successful, we will reduce and, if possible, eliminate a threat to conservation outside 200 miles that is serious and could become much worse.

That being said, how will the Government of Canada now pursue its objective of ending foreign overfishing? Mr. Valcourt, Mr. Clark and I have agreed on a five point approach, building on the activities of the past year and a half:

- (I) We will continue the diplomatic dialogue with the European Community;
- (II) We will continue to deliver the ecological/sustainable development message;