



news release

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McDOUGALL AND CROSBIE WELCOME UN HIGH SEAS CONFERENCE DECISION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable John Crosbie, today welcomed the decision by the United Nations General Assembly to convene an International Conference on High Seas Fishing in April in New York. A second session will be held in July, and the Conference should aim to complete its work by the fall of 1994.

"This Conference will provide a long overdue opportunity to develop rules for the management of high seas fisheries, in accordance with principles of conservation and sustainable development," Mrs. McDougall said.

"The International High Seas Fishing Conference is one of the recommendations of Agenda 21, the blueprint for sustainable development in the 21st century, adopted in June by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)," Mrs. McDougall pointed out.

"This conference must establish rules for the management of high seas fisheries of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks," said Mr. Crosbie.

Fishing by distant-water fleets outside Canada's 200-mile limit on the "Nose" and "Tail" of the Grand Banks has been an important factor in the decline of several fish stocks that extend out of Canadian waters into the high seas.

"During the lengthy period leading up to UNCED, Canada worked with other countries that shared our objectives to make other nations aware of the devastating effects of overfishing by foreign fleets outside the 200-mile exclusive zones of coastal states," Mr. Crosbie said. "Together with these countries, Canada is working to ensure that the UN Conference is successful in developing rules that will bring an end to overfishing on the high seas."

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