

The Department of External Affairs recently presented an Aide-Mémoire to the Danish Ambassador in reply to a Danish Aide-Mémoire concerning fishing for salmon on the high seas. Canada has for some years pressed for the prohibition of Atlantic salmon fishing on the high seas. At the 1969 meeting of the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, a Canadian proposal originally made in 1967 for a total ban was adopted, although Denmark cast a negative vote. The Danish Aide-Mémoire presented certain technical arguments as to why they voted against this proposal. The Canadian Aide-Mémoire presented technical arguments to refute the points outlined in the Danish Aide-Mémoire.

In our view, high seas fishing for salmon, by its very nature, does not discriminate as to the river of origin of the fish, and increasing high seas fishing will make salmon management impossible. It is necessary to carry out such management on a river-by-river basis and sometimes even by separate runs in one river. Increasing high seas catches of salmon will rapidly result in smaller total returns. Salmon are a species separate from the general high seas fishery and no other fishery is so dependent upon the positive efforts of particular states in their home rivers to assure its continuance. We pointed out that the maintenance and growth of Canadian salmon runs depend on research and development and also abstaining from using the rivers for other purposes which, taken together, are costly to Canada's economy. Canada has consistently opposed high seas fishing for salmon and has ensured that its own fishing fleets in the Pacific Ocean adhere to strict regulations by fishing within national fishery limits in order to carry out good conservation methods.

The Canadian Government therefore expressed the hope that the Danish Government would reconsider their position.