

The Convention requires that Canadian fishermen be given special consideration in the allocation of fish stocks on the Grand Banks beyond 200 miles, and Flemish Cap. This recognizes the extensive efforts Canada has undertaken over the years with respect to surveillance and inspection in these areas and the dependency of Canadian coastal communities on these stocks.

The new Convention will provide for the management and control of fisheries in areas of the Northwest Atlantic beyond national jurisdiction. It will continue the ICNAF scheme of joint international enforcement, to ensure that all agreed measures are effectively carried out by the vessels of the contracting parties.

Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands), the European Economic Community (on behalf of its nine members), the German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed the Convention at the ceremony. Other prospective signatories who attended the diplomatic conference held in Ottawa a year ago are expected to sign before December 31, 1978.

The proposed organization could come into being as soon as January 1, 1979, in accordance with the provisions of the new Convention if six signatories deposit their instruments of ratification by the end of this year.