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OVERFISHING: MINISTER CROSBIE CONCLUDES ROUND OF EUROPEAN MEETINGS

October 19 -- International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie has expressed Canada's concern regarding overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic in discussions with Ministers of the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and France, and in public statements to groups in those countries.

Canada is seeking the support of France, West Germany and other member states of the European Community (EC) in persuading the EC to support and to adhere to the decisions of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the international body responsible for managing these resources.

The Canadian concern was raised also during a meeting in Paris of the Canada-France Joint Economic Commission, co-chaired by Minister Crosbie and the French Minister for International Trade Jean-Marie Rausch.

In commenting on the Joint Commission meeting, Mr. Crosbie expressed appreciation for the hearing Canada had received on this subject.

"We have received a very sympathetic hearing from the French ministers, who have been supportive of the position we have outlined and supportive of the need for conservation," Mr. Crosbie said.

"While I don't want to speak for the French government, my impression is that it understands our concerns and is sympathetic. France currently holds the presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Community and I am sure this will be helpful to us."

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