

A third major benefit is the ability to send other disputes under the Agreement or the GATT to binational dispute resolution. Again, we hope to use this infrequently, because we hope to solve problems through bilateral consultation. Such consultation can include the Canada-U.S. Trade Commission, of which U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and I are the members.

Where bilateral consultation, even at the Ministerial level, does not solve a problem, then recourse to an impartial binational panel is a far better way to reach a resolution than through recourse to the weapons of trade warfare. In any such battle, the Atlantic fishery would be especially vulnerable, given its heavy dependence on access to highly competitive U.S. markets.

Access to other global markets is governed by the GATT. While successive rounds of Multilateral Trade Negotiations have reduced many tariffs and non-tariff barriers for seafood products, significant trade barriers remain, notably in the European Community and Japan. Canada has a lot at stake in the current Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, nowhere more than in trade in seafood products, where Canada is the world's largest exporter.

We recently put forward in Geneva a comprehensive and, we believe, realistic proposal to improve market access on all goods traded internationally. This proposal has been taken up by the Chairman of the negotiating group on market access and stands a very good chance of being adopted by other countries.

We are proposing substantial reduction or elimination of tariffs, using a tariff-cutting formula, complemented by a request and offer approach to obtain even deeper cuts on specific products of particular export interest to us. We are also proposing substantial reduction or elimination of non-tariff barriers, such as import quotas.

Overseas markets represent 44 per cent of Canadian total fish exports. High tariffs, quotas, reference prices and certain health and sanitary regulations continue to limit or bar exports to many offshore markets.

Our goal - enhanced market access - is critical to achieving increased exports and market share, of diversifying product mix, and of expanding value-added of high quality seafood products.