

of a 200-mile limit in bilateral fisheries agreements negotiated during 1976 with the major fishing nations operating off Canadian coasts; Norway, U.S.S.R., Poland, Spain and Portugal. Fleets of these countries account for 88 per cent of all fish catches by foreign fishermen in Canada's Atlantic zone and most of the foreign catch in Canada's Pacific zone.

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC IN 1977, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT ICNAF HAS ALREADY ADOPTED REGULATIONS FOR 1977?

A. Canada undertook, as a transitional measure for 1977 only, to give effect to those regulations agreed within ICNAF with Canadian concurrence. Any foreign fishing in Canada's zone in 1977 is subject to Canadian licensing and enforcement procedures. Fish quotas set by ICNAF for 1977 generally correspond to those Canada would have set if the 200-mile fishing zone had been in force at that time. At Canada's insistence, total allowable catches of northwest Atlantic fish stocks have been set at levels low enough to ensure rebuilding of the stocks. Canada as a coastal state estimated its catch requirements on the basis of harvesting capacity, subject to conservation limits, and largely succeeded in having these amounts set aside for Canadian fishermen. For many stocks inside Canada's 200-mile zone, including most of those off Nova Scotia, only Canadian fishermen will be able to fish in 1977. For other stocks, foreign fishermen will be able to take that portion of the total allowable catch of a given stock which is surplus to Canadian harvesting capacity.

Q. WHAT ARE THE 1977 TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES AND NATIONAL FISH QUOTAS?

A. At ICNAF's 1976 meetings total allowable catches and national fish quotas were set for more than 50 stocks. For groundfish (cod, flounder, haddock and similar "white-fish" species) traditionally fished by Canadian fishermen, allowable catches for all nations combined have dropped from a 1976 level of 956,600 metric tons to 668,500 metric ton in 1977, a reduction of thirty per cent. Foreign fleets have absorbed nearly all the quota reductions on these stocks; their total share has dropped by 47 per cent, the reduction for some countries running as high as 68 per cent. Canadian quotas for the same groundfish stocks have risen, slightly, to 339,600 metric tons in 1977 from 336,000 tons originally allocated for 1976. The Canadian

percentage of the total thus rises from 35 per cent in 1976 to 51 per cent in 1977. Most of the surplus allocated to foreign nations lies in areas relatively far from the major Canadian fishing grounds. Even in these distant grounds, Canadian quotas, generally, will increase.

Q. WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF ICNAF?

A. Canada hopes that a revised ICNAF or some successor body will regulate fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic outside Canada's 200-mile fishing zone and provide for scientific and technical consultations on fisheries management. In December 1976, ICNAF adopted amendments to the Convention (subject to the approval of Member Governments) that restrict the Commission's management authority over fish stocks to the area beyond 200 miles, while providing for the Commission to offer scientific advice to coastal states upon their request.

In order to consider the framework for future multilateral fisheries cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic, a preparatory conference on the future of ICNAF was held in Ottawa in March 1977, to discuss the creation of a new Commission designed to provide (a) for scientific cooperation both within and beyond 200 miles and (b) for management of fish stocks beyond the 200 mile limit. A second preparatory meeting is scheduled to take place in June 1977, and the Government of Canada will be the host of a Diplomatic Conference, which is to be convened in Ottawa in October 1977, to consider the adoption of a new Convention on future multilateral cooperation on the Northwest Atlantic fisheries.

