

Canadian and Portuguese representatives met in Ottawa from March 9 to 11, 1976, to discuss their future cooperation in the field of fisheries. The meeting carried forward discussions held in Ottawa on January 7 and 8, 1976.

The Portuguese delegation was led by His Excellency Ambassador Luiz Gois Figueira, the Portuguese Ambassador to Canada. The Canadian delegation was led by Mr. L.H. Legault, Director General, International Directorate, Fisheries and Marine Service, Department of the Environment.

The meeting followed the understanding reached on September 5, 1975, between Canada and Portugal to consider the elaboration of a bilateral agreement on fisheries cooperation that would establish the terms and conditions governing continued fishing by the Portuguese fleet in waters off Canada's Atlantic coast, taking into account anticipated legal and jurisdictional changes in the regime of fisheries management and traditional Portuguese fishing in such waters.

The two sides put forward proposals as the possible basis for an agreement on the terms and conditions that would govern continued fishing by Portuguese vessels in areas to be brought under Canadian jurisdiction beyond the present limits of the Canadian territorial sea and fishing zones off the Atlantic coast. On the basis of these proposals they agreed to the terms of an agreement which, if approved by both Governments, would permit Portuguese vessels to fish in the area concerned, under Canadian authority and control, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements.

The proposed agreement will now be submitted to the approval of the two Governments.