

These Ministerial discussions were followed up the next day by senior officials, led on the Canadian side by Ambassador Beesley and Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Victor Rabinovitch. The EC indicated it wanted more scientific co-operation to have greater certainty regarding acceptable catch levels. Canada indicated it wanted better surveillance and control over fleets operating outside 200 miles, as well as steps toward eliminating fishing by non-NAFO fleets. As a result, three Canada-EC working groups were formed to deal with these issues.

These working groups met throughout the summer in preparation for the annual NAFO meeting in September. They operated in a co-operative and professional manner, with an emphasis on practical measures. For example, Canada and the EC agreed to exchange sighting information resulting from aerial and vessel patrols, to improve co-ordination of at-sea inspections outside 200 miles and to undertake exchanges of inspectors on patrol vessels.

In July, the Prime Minister met with other leaders of the major industrialized countries at the Economic Summit. While much of what the Prime Minister has done to advance Canada's position against foreign overfishing has been through quiet diplomacy, the Economic Summit provided an opportunity for him to seek important international support publicly for the principles underlying Canada's position.

The Prime Minister spearheaded the adoption by the Economic Summit of a call for international co-operation in conservation of living marine resources; recognition of the importance of regional fisheries organizations (like NAFO); and respect for conservation regimes. These are important general principles. Much of the progress to date against overfishing outside 200 miles has been through achieving international acceptance of such principles and then working toward their practical implementation.

A further step along these lines was achieved during the August visit to Canada of Soviet Fisheries Minister Nikolai Kotlyar. During that visit Mr. Valcourt and Mr. Kotlyar issued a joint statement pledging both Canada and the USSR to a variety of principles to support the effective operation of regional fisheries organizations (like NAFO) in the conservation and management of straddling stocks. As an example, one principle was that "States whose nationals carry out fishing activities on the high seas must ensure that such activities do not have an adverse impact on resources under the jurisdiction of the coastal state." In other words, foreign fisheries outside 200 miles shouldn't harm domestic fisheries inside 200 miles.