



news release

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CANADA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

TO END EC OVERFISHING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and the Honourable Tom Siddon, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans today outlined a comprehensive public awareness campaign to press the European Economic Community (EC) to end its overfishing on the "Nose" and "Tail" of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

"The Canadian government is committed to stopping foreign overfishing. All Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) members with the exception of the EC have agreed once again to abide by NAFO conservation decisions and quotas. Canada wants to persuade the EC to accept its environmental responsibility: it must manage its fishery in the Northwest Atlantic on a scientific basis by complying with NAFO decisions," stated Mr. Crosbie.

Mr. Siddon recalled that the 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Report) issued a warning on the dangerous effects of overfishing. He underlined the Report's conclusion that overexploitation threatens many stocks as economic resources, and the communities and the people who depend upon them.

Since 1986, the EC has consistently rejected NAFO conservation decisions and fished at levels far in excess of the quotas set by other NAFO members. The September 1989 annual meeting of NAFO adopted conservation decisions, including quotas for 1990, based on scientific advice. The EC abstained in voting on most decisions. It will instead decide by the end of December, whether it will accept NAFO decisions or set its own unilateral quotas. This overfishing is a major factor leading to the recent declines in key NAFO stocks.

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