



communiqué

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NEW YEAR MARKS CREATION OF NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, today announced the coming into force of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, effective January 1, 1979.

The new Convention provides for the establishment of a Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) to replace the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) which has governed fishing in the northwest Atlantic since 1950.

NAFO will provide a new basis for the international management of fisheries in the area beyond and immediately adjacent to the 200-mile fishing zones established by coastal states in the northwest Atlantic, and will serve as a forum for scientific consultation and cooperation for the area as a whole. This new Organization is composed of a Scientific Council, responsible for scientific data review and discussion; a Fisheries Commission, responsible for the management of fisheries beyond the areas under the jurisdiction of coastal states; a General Council, responsible for the supervision and coordination of NAFO activities, and a Secretariat.

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