

Fishing for Multilateral Solutions

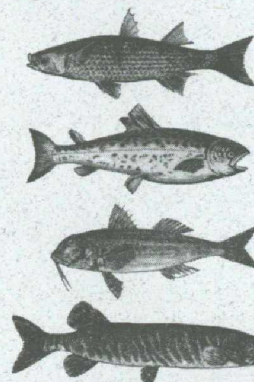
The problem of declining fish stocks off Canada's coasts, and around the world, is becoming increasingly critical. Scientists are struggling to identify all the issues, but have singled out overfishing as a primary cause. Overfishing means over-exploitation, including taking too much fish and netting fish that are too small.

Canada's Leadership

To help resolve the problem, Canada has taken action and begun to move toward sustainable fishing. This country's unilateral decision to impose a moratorium on cod fishing on the Atlantic Coast put us in a leadership role. Canada hopes, through example, to lead the way for other nations and encourage sustainable management of all marine resources.

Canada has learned from experience that conservation of fish stocks makes sense environmentally and economically. The future of commercial fisheries depends on international co-operation. The 1977 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) established an early framework for such co-operation. Following UNCLOS, Canada established 200-mile exclusive fishing zones off its shores and has administered stringent conservation regimes inside its zones since then.

The challenges Canada faces in taking a leadership role are evident in the current fishing dispute with the European Union. To protect all fish stocks living in the high seas, strict regulations, effective monitoring and, above all, international co-operation are urgently required.



Canada is making these points in its discussions with the EU and stated them again during a meeting of the United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks held March 27 to April 12 in New York.

Since 1979, the responsibility for managing stocks outside Canada's 200-mile limit has belonged to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). There are 15 contracting parties to NAFO: Canada, Bulgaria, Cuba, Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania and Russia. NAFO offers its members a forum on international co-operation in scientific research and the conservation and management of some fisheries resources in the Northwest Atlantic. It makes decisions regarding total allowable

catch limits and allocates quotas to members based on consensus or majority vote.

International Action

At the multilateral level, Canada has been among the leading advocates of a binding convention for conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas. At the Rio Earth Summit, in 1992, participating countries agreed to discuss conservation and management of these particular fish stocks. A draft binding convention, under the United Nations' auspices, was tabled in the summer of 1994 with work expected to be completed in mid-1995.

Canada has also been involved with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in trying to produce an International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Operations. Canada was the first country to ratify a flagging agreement, concluded in November 1993. Signatories must ensure their high-seas fleets comply with international conservation rules.

One thing is certain: Only through international co-operation and with a clear commitment to conserving and managing fish stocks can the world hope to continue receiving from the sea what it has for centuries taken for granted. 🌿

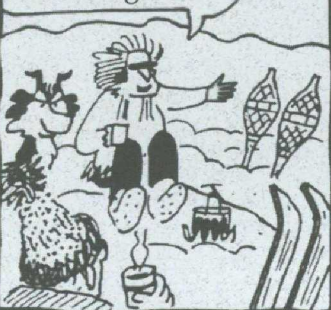
When my Great Grandpa came here, there was nothing but wilderness!



And being an energetic young man from a big industrial family back East...



He made a decision that affected this entire region!



He left it ALONE!



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Facts and Stats

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- ❖ **Sulphur dioxide** is a colourless gas with a strong odour. Oil and gas processing, ore smelting and the burning of coal and heavy oil are the major generators of sulphur dioxide. From 1974 to 1992, in Canada, the annual mean sulphur dioxide concentration decreased 61 per cent. As a result, sulphur dioxide levels rarely exceed maximum acceptable levels.
- ❖ **Carbon monoxide** is a toxic, colourless and odourless gas generated from burning material containing carbon. Most carbon monoxide is created by motor vehicles, heating of dwellings and industrial pollution. The annual average concentration of carbon monoxide decreased by 70 per cent, in Canada, from 1974 to 1992. As a result, carbon monoxide levels very rarely exceed maximum acceptable levels.
- ❖ **Nitrogen dioxide** is generated through high-temperature combustion processes including transportation and industrial fuel combustion. There was a steady decrease in annual average nitrogen

dioxide levels Canada-wide from 1977 to 1992, a reduction of 38 per cent. As a result, maximum acceptable levels are rarely exceeded.

- ❖ There are three types of ultraviolet, or "UV" rays: UVA, UV-B and UV-C. The first, **UV-A**, is the weakest form. It causes skin aging, wrinkles and can also damage outdoor plastics and paint.
- ❖ **UV-B**, which is stronger than UVA, is the most harmful to us and other life forms. It causes skin cancer and cataracts - a permanent clouding of the eye which reduces vision. Both UV-B and UVA cause suntans and sunburns. UV-B also reduces the growth of plants, and may affect the health of wildlife and other animals.
- ❖ **UV-C**, which is stronger than UV-B, never reaches the earth's surface because it is filtered by the atmosphere.

Source: *Air Quality Trends in Canadian Cities (1979-1992)* and *UV and You - Living with Ultraviolet*, Environment Canada

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