



news release

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CANADIAN MINISTERS OBJECT TO EC COMMISSION'S FISHING QUOTA PROPOSALS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Bernard Valcourt commented today on the fisheries quotas proposed by the European Community (EC) Commission to EC Fisheries Ministers for the Northwest Atlantic outside 200 miles in 1991. EC quotas for 1991 will be decided at a meeting of EC Fisheries Ministers on December 19-21.

"We strongly object to the European Commission's proposed unilateral quotas for 3LN redfish, 3NO witch flounder and particularly 3L cod," said Mr. Valcourt. "NAFO [Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization] decided in September that the EC should not be fishing these three stocks. The proposals represent no further progress towards EC compliance with NAFO decisions."

"The Commission's proposal would mean continuation of a high level of overfishing by EC fleets," said Mr. Crosbie. "While we will seek to work with the EC on improved surveillance and control, elimination of non-NAFO fleets and scientific co-operation, the Commission's proposed quotas provide no basis for discussing access to Canadian ports or allocations of surplus stocks in the Canadian zone."

"While we recognize that the EC will comply with eight NAFO quotas for 1991, it is disappointing that once again the EC is refusing to accept other key NAFO conservation and management decisions," said Mr. Valcourt. "We call on EC Fisheries Ministers to reconsider the proposed quotas when they meet on December 19."

The Commission's proposal for 1991 covers 10 stocks administered by NAFO, in addition to 3L cod which is managed by Canada. The proposed unilateral allocation for 3L cod is 27,000 tonnes, compared with the 32,000 tonnes unilateral quota set by the European Community for 1990. The Commission proposals for 3LN redfish and 3NO witch, for which the EC has no NAFO quotas, are almost the same as last year. While the EC has agreed to abide by eight NAFO quotas, the total of the proposed quota levels for all NAFO stocks is about the same as last year.

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