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MINISTERS CALL FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO ABIDE BY NAFO QUOTAS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon commented today on the speech given by European Community (EC) Commissioner Manuel Marin at the opening session of the annual Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) meeting being held this year in Brussels.

"While Mr. Marin stated an EC commitment to conservation and stressed the importance of respect for NAFO management measures, the EC has yet to commit itself to reduce the high level of its catches, which is the real problem, not just its self-appointed quotas," Mr. Crosbie said. "We will have to wait and see what the EC does in practical terms with respect to the NAFO quotas set for 1990."

"Canada's objective remains ending EC overfishing," said Mr. Siddon. "We want to see the EC abide by NAFO quotas."

The NAFO meeting in Brussels will continue until Friday, September 15. At this meeting, NAFO will establish conservation measures, including quotas for stocks it manages outside Canada's 200-mile fisheries zone.

NAFO, the international organization established to protect the fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, is made up of 12 members, including Canada and the European Community.

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In recent years, the EC has set its own quotas unilaterally and fished well above the quotas established by NAFO. EC catches have been taken in waters outside Canada's 200-mile zone.

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