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SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN MEETING OF EXPERTS ON HIGH SEAS FISHERIES SPONSORED BY UN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable John C. Crosbie, announced today that senior officials of both departments are participating in a meeting of experts on the conservation and management of high seas living resources sponsored by the United Nations.

The July 22 to 26 meeting, held at the UN Headquarters in New York, will examine problems relating to high seas fishing with a view to developing general guidelines to ensure effective implementation of the high seas conservation provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"Canada's participation reflects the high priority that Canada attaches to effective conservation of marine living resources," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada's position that measures are required to ensure conservation of living resources of the high seas was affirmed in the recent declaration of the Heads of State of the G-7," she added.

The meeting, called by the UN Under Secretary-General responsible for the Office of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, brings together experts from 33 countries and international organizations. It follows a conference on this issue hosted by Canada in St. John's, in September 1990.

"The UN meeting is an indication of the growing awareness and acceptance by the international community of the need for internationally agreed measures to eliminate overfishing on the

high seas and ensure that coastal state interests are fully recognized and protected," said Mr. Crosbie. "Canadian officials will participate actively in the meeting to achieve these objectives."

This issue will also be brought to the fore by the Canadian delegation to the next preparatory meeting of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Geneva in August.

The results of the New York meeting will serve as the basis for a report to be prepared by the United Nations.

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