



news release

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CANADA CALLS UPON EC TO RESPECT MORATORIUM ON NORTHERN COD

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable John C. Crosbie, today delivered a strong message on foreign overfishing to the Heads of Mission of the Member States of the European Community and the Head of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities.

At the meeting, Ministers outlined the seriousness of the northern cod crisis off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. As a result of new scientific information, Canada has dropped the total allowable catch of northern cod to 120,000 tonnes, a reduction of 35 per cent from the 1992 total allowable catch (TAC).

Mrs. McDougall and Mr. Crosbie called on the EC to bring its fleet under effective control, in compliance with the conservation decisions of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).

They pointed out that all countries fishing on the "nose" and "tail" of the Grand Banks, outside Canada's 200-mile limit, must take action to ensure the long-term viability of the resource. In particular, they urged that EC vessels comply with the NAFO moratorium on fishing cod in the 3L zone.

"At the most recent Economic Summit the EC joined with G-7 members in committing themselves to conservation and against overfishing. This is an issue of critical importance -- not just to Canada -- but to conservation-minded people around the world," said Mrs. McDougall.

"While the Canadian trawler fleet is tied up, fishing by EC vessels on the 'nose' of the Grand Banks must be seen as provocative," said Mr. Crosbie.

The Ambassador for Fisheries Conservation and the Chairman of the Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee will visit Brussels and key European capitals to provide briefings on the scientific evidence of the northern cod crisis and how it will impact on fisheries in Atlantic Canada.

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