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THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

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Canadian views on the national allocation of the herring quota for Divisions 4W, 4X in 1974

In ICNAF Comm.Doc. 73/13, Canada proposed national allocation of all quotas (old and new) in 1974 on the following basis:

"From the total allowable catch of each stock as recommended by STACRES and agreed by the Commission, first deduct the estimated catch by the coastal state (whether in the Convention Area or outside it); divide the remainder mainly on an historical basis with an allowance for new entrants, non-members and special needs - perhaps 45% on the basis of the Member Countries' catches in the last three years for which records are available, 45% on the last 10 years and 10% for new entrants, non-members and special needs."

Canada believes that this principle should apply to the national allocation of 1974 herring quotas to be decided at the Mid-Term Meeting of the Commission in Rome in January 1974. Canada is particularly concerned about the allocation of the total allowable catch for herring in Div. 4X and part of Div. 4W in 1974. Even before the advent of the foreign fisheries, Canada had developed the fishery on this stock to the full, largely within Canada's territorial seas. At the present time, there is no question but that, by themselves, Canadian fishermen are capable of taking the entire total allowable catch. The Canadian catch is taken very largely by small vessels specialized for herring fishing, which are not capable of diverting their effort to other areas or species. Restrictions imposed over the past two years have caused great hardship to the small herring fishermen and to the numerous small communities dependent on their efforts. In some areas, particularly in southwestern New Brunswick, this dependence is almost complete. Because of the critical economic and social problems faced by these small boat fishermen, Canada believes that the Commission, at its 1974 Mid-Term Meeting, should recommend actions which would move significantly toward meeting the Canadian requirements for herring in the Div. 4W-4X area, taking into account Canada's capacity to take the entire total allowable catch. Canada, therefore, will be proposing that the Canadian share of the total allowable catch in the area in 1974 be increased very substantially over that agreed to in 1973, with a proportionate reduction in the allocations to other nations.