

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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- Canadian proposal:
- (1) To authorize the Executive Secretary to close a fishery in special circumstances;
  - (2) To establish an International Observer Program in the Convention Area which lies beyond the areas in which coastal states exercise fisheries jurisdiction
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Since extension of fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles, Canada has viewed with concern an apparent increase in fishing effort in the ICNAF Area which lies beyond national fisheries jurisdiction, especially in Division 3M, Flemish Cap. It is evident that vessels of some Member Countries are fishing that Division while awaiting appropriate conditions to permit commencement of a fishery inside Canada's fishing zone or to complete a fishing voyage after allocations in the Canadian fishing zone have been taken.

As a result of observations and records maintained by Canadian surveillance officials, it is evident that overfishing of quotas has occurred in Division 3M as a result of inaction by the appropriate Member Countries in closing their fisheries when their quotas have been taken. Furthermore, Canadian surveillance has observed fishing with undersize mesh in contravention of ICNAF regulations.

Canada believes that, if such activity is not curtailed, it will present a serious threat to the conservation regime established by ICNAF, in particular the maintenance of stocks.

Canada, therefore, requests that the Commission consider acceptance of the following proposals which are designed to improve management and enforcement in the Convention Area which lies beyond the areas in which coastal states exercise fisheries jurisdiction:

1. "When information satisfactory to the Executive Secretary indicates that a national quota has been taken in the Convention Area which lies beyond the areas in which coastal states exercise fisheries jurisdiction, he shall immediately inform authorities of the Member Country, requesting that action be taken to close the fishery for the species in question. If no action is taken by the notified country within seven days, the Executive Secretary shall be authorized to close that country's fishery for the species for which its national allocation has been taken."
2. "In order to improve the level of compliance with ICNAF regulations and the acquisition of technical data, the Commission will adopt an International Observer Scheme to apply in the Convention Area which lies beyond the areas in which coastal states exercise fisheries jurisdiction authorizing Member Nations to place observers on board vessels of other Member Countries for the purpose of collecting technical data on fishing gear and methods, catches, etc."

The information collected under this Scheme shall be made available to the Commission for consideration in planning conservation measures and regulations for the Convention Area lying beyond coastal state jurisdiction.

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