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CANADIAN PROPOSAL
CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES BY QUOTA REGULATION FOR COD STOCKS
IN DIVISIONS 2J, 3K AND 3L

The off-shore fishery on this stock has increased to a very high degree in recent years. The most recent available data indicate that fishing mortality has been at a level well beyond that of economic sustainable yield. Further increases in fishing effort are likely to reduce substantially the yield per recruit.

Canada proposes that the 1972 meeting of ICNAF consider a quota of not more than 400,000 metric tons for the fishery on this stock in the Convention Area.

It is further proposed that this quota be allocated as follows: 40% in proportion to catches by member countries in the most recent three years for which figures are available; 40% in proportion to catches in the preceding ten years; 10% to the coastal state; 10% to provide for non-members and new entrants.

In making this proposal, Canada is recognizing the fact that the figure of 400,000 metric tons may be slightly lower than the biological maximum sustainable yield. It is Canada's view that such a figure is, from an economic point of view, well justified to restore the stock to a better economic yield per recruit.

The fishery on this stock has, as well as the off-shore component, a fishery operated outside the Convention Area by Canadian fishermen along the shores adjacent to these Divisions. These fishermen, whose whole livelihood is dependent on what they can take from this fishery during the warm weather months, have had their catches sharply reduced by the tremendous offshore increase in fishing pressure during the earlier months of the year. This proposal would also serve to alleviate in some small measure the disruption which has resulted in the fishing communities concerned.

