

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Canadian proposal on the national allocation of TACs

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 be applied to all TAC's for 1976, irrespective of the provisions of the Canadian proposal for the reduction in fishing effort by all countries other than the Coastal State, in all tonnage classes of vessels. Application of this principle to certain stocks for which the TAC is close to the catching capacity of the coastal state will mean that minimal quantities of those TAC's are available for division among other nations. In recognition of this situation, Canada proposes that no nation other than the coastal state or states be allocated any portion of the TAC's for such stocks, except as necessary to avoid impairment of fisheries conducted for other species which take small incidental quantities of them. The following are examples of such stock:

Cod in Subarea 4, Division X
Haddock in Subarea 4, Division X
Herring in Subarea 4, Divisions VWa and XWb
Yellowtail Flounder in Subarea 3, Divisions LNO
American Plaice in Subarea 3, Divisions LNO

It is certain that, by themselves, Canadian fishermen are capable of taking the entire TAC's of these stocks. They are important to Canadian fishermen operating along the Atlantic seaboard whose vessels generally have a limited range and species capability. Furthermore, the maintenance of the landings is essential to the economic and social well-being of the coastal communities from which these vessels operate. The declining catch per unit of effort, and the restrictions imposed on certain fisheries as a result of ICNAF conservation measures, have created grave difficulties to Canada's coastal fishing industry, at both the fishing and processing level, and to the numerous communities dependent on this industry.