# EC/Canada fisheries agreement

1995/0144(CNS) - 22/12/1995 - Final act

-OBJECTIVE : conclusion of a fisheries agreement between the Community and Canada with a view to increasing cooperation in the conservation and management of fish stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Area and monitoring the allocation of the TAC for Greenland halibut. -COMMUNITY MEASURE : Decision 95/586/EC concerning the conclusion of the agreement between the Community and Canada on fisheries in the context of the NAFO Convention. -SUBSTANCE : This agreement, constituted in the form of an agreed minute, an exchange of letters and an exchange of notes, signed on 20 April 1995, seeks to enhance cooperation between the contracting parties in the conservation and rational management of fish stocks in the framework of NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization). In particular, the agreement provides for: .a series of fisheries control and enforcement measures in the NAFO Regulatory Area (including a programme for the inspection of vessels operating in the area concerned, the detailed implementation of the control measures, and notably the catches made by vessels operating in this area and the introduction of a pilot observation programme, chargeable to the Union, applicable to Community vessels), .the allocation of the authorized catch for Greenland halibut in the fisheries area concerned: in 1995 the TAC for 2 + 3 Greenland halibut in the NAFO Regulatory A rea will be divided as follows: -2+3 K (Canadian 200 miles) : 7 000 tonnes (reserved for Canada) -3 LMNO : 20 000 tonnes (including 10 000 tonnes for Canada and 5013 tonnes for the Community from 16 April 1995). From 1996 NAFO will manage the quotas for Greenland halibut. Quota allocations will be in the ratio of 10:3 for the European Union and Canada. For the Union the quota will be 55.35% of the TACs allocated by NAFO. At the same time, and following various disputes resulting from Canada's expansion of the scope of its law on coastal fisheries protection (Coastal Fisheries Protection Act of 3 March 1995) and the subsequent arrest of EC vessels (notably Spanish and Portuguese) on the high seas outside the Canadian 200 mile-zone, the agreement contains an exchange of letters in which Canada is requested to suspend legal proceedings against Community vessels (notably the Spanish fishing vessel 'Estai') found to be in breach of the above legislation, and to see that the vessels and guarantees thereon are returned to the ships' Masters.