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ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ • INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA • MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, 14 February 1989.

**EEC-UNITED STATES FISHERIES AGREEMENT :
COMMISSION PROPOSES TWO-YEAR EXENSION**

441.2(103)
+ 6(CST 03)(1)

The Commission has proposed to the Council acceptance of an American offer to extend the Agreement on fisheries between the Community and the United States, with certain amendments to reflect changes in United States legislation since signature of the Agreement in 1984, until 1 July 1991.

The Commission considers that the Agreement should be extended on both economic - the preservation and possible extensions of Community fishing rights in American waters - and political grounds.

The Agreement covers fishing off the coast of the United States and is in force until 1 July 1989. On 15 September 1988, the United States Mission to the Community proposed that the Agreement be extended for two years. Consultations under Article XIV of the Agreement were held in Washington DC on 30 and 31 January.

The Agreement enables Community vessels to fish certain surplus volumes left over after the American fishing fleet's requirements are satisfied. Spanish and Italian vessels fished for squid up to 1987 and British and Dutch vessels fish for Atlantic mackerel, the volumes depending each year on the state of stocks and on American fishing and processing capacity. This year, British and Dutch fishermen will be able to take 19 000 tonnes of mackerel, the Community having asked for some 60 000 tonnes.

In exchange for fishing rights, Community vessels are required under the Agreement to engage in joint ventures with Americans by either buying American vessels' catches or purchasing processed or semi-processed fishery products.