

"Elimination of the large disputed zone means that management of the groundfish resources in subdivision 3Ps is now under Canadian control," said Mr. Crosbie. "France's claim had encompassed virtually all of St. Pierre Bank, but the area awarded to France appears to contain very limited amounts of groundfish, but more scallop resources."

Mr. Crosbie said that his officials are undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the decision with the fishing industry, and preliminary results will be made public at a news conference on Thursday, June 11, at 1:30 p.m. in St. John's.

To ensure an orderly implementation of the ruling, Canada and France have agreed that fishing vessels will be given 45 days to adjust to the new boundary. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans is notifying the Canadian fishing industry of the geographical co-ordinates of the new boundary, which will be precisely set out in an Order-in-Council.

The Government is also assessing the implications of the ruling on Canada's oil and gas interests. A drilling moratorium, agreed to by both countries, has been in effect over the disputed area since 1967.

(A map of the area is attached.)

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