



news release

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NORTH PACIFIC MARINE SCIENCE CONVENTION COMES INTO FORCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable John C. Crosbie, today announced the entry into force of the Convention to establish a North Pacific Marine Science Organization.

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (nicknamed "PICES") will promote international co-operation and exchange of information on oceanography and biology of the North Pacific Ocean. Its Secretariat will be located at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, British Columbia.

"PICES will foster greater international co-operation to protect and enhance the marine environment of the North Pacific," said Mrs. McDougall.

"PICES will provide the scientific forum to address issues such as global climate change and its impact on marine resources, the prediction of the effects of oil spills, marine debris and other pollution, and the survivability of salmon and steelhead at sea," Mr. Crosbie said.

The Convention, which was opened for signature in December 1990, has been ratified by Canada, the United States and Japan. China and Russia are expected to give their formal approval to the agreement shortly. Other countries have also expressed an interest in joining the organization.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874

or

Dr. B. S. Muir
Director General
Biological Sciences Directorate
Fisheries and Oceans
Ottawa, Ontario
(613) 990-0271

Dr. John Davis
Regional Director-Science
Fisheries and Oceans, Pacific Region
Sidney, British Columbia
(604) 363-6515