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CANADA TO ADOPT SALMON AND HERRING PANEL REPORT

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon today announced that Canada will adopt the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Panel Report on West Coast salmon and herring. An implementation plan is being developed on the basis of consultations with provincial and industry representatives.

"The Panel found that a landing requirement is a legitimate conservation measure," Mr. Crosbie said, "but that the Canadian measure for West Coast salmon and herring was too broad and need not apply to 100% of the catch."

"Pursuant to the Panel's finding, Canada is prepared to permit some fish exports but only on the basis that our conservation and management needs are met," Mr. Siddon added.

Mr. Siddon pointed out that the Panel Report recognizes Canada's sovereign right to ensure that any changes in the requirement not compromise its conservation objectives for the West Coast salmon and herring fisheries. "The continued well being of these stocks on the West Coast is and will remain our principal concern," he said.

Both Ministers stressed that Canada greatly benefits from international trade and Canada has strongly promoted dispute settlement as a method of resolving bilateral and multilateral trade disputes.

As called for by the FTA, Canada and the United States have met to review the Panel Report. Further meetings are being held.

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