



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

No: 29
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: MARCH 29, 1979

SIGNATURE OF THE CANADA/U.S.
FISHERIES AND BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS,
WASHINGTON, MARCH 29, 1979

Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Roméo LeBlanc announced today that four Agreements will be signed with the United States this afternoon, two relating to the Atlantic coast and two concerning the Pacific coast.

The East Coast Fishery Resource Agreement establishes a Canada-USA Fisheries Commission and provides for co-operative management, and for access and entitlements to specific stocks of mutual concern. (See attached Joint Statement of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Secretary of State Vance of February 14, 1979.)

The Treaty to submit the delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine area to binding dispute settlement and the annexed Special Agreement provide for the submission of the case to a five judge Chamber of the International Court of Justice for a final decision on the placement of the boundary. Should the International Court of Justice be unable to function under the formula mutually agreed upon by the Governments of Canada and the United States, the dispute will automatically be referred to a special five member independent International Court of Arbitration.

The two Pacific Coast Agreements include a Protocol to the International Pacific Halibut Convention which will permit continued Canadian access to halibut off the coast of Alaska for the next two years and an Exchange of Notes giving the United States access to groundfish off British Columbia for a similar period.