

On April 29 the USITC announced its finding that subsidized imports have, or threaten to cause material injury to the U.S. domestic fish industry. The Commission arrived at this conclusion after due consideration of the many factors which have contributed to the financial situation facing the U.S. fishing industry. The Commissioners' decision represents the final outcome of a process which began in August 1985, when U.S. fishermen filed their petition seeking relief from the imports in question.

The decision means that the previously announced finding by the U.S. Department of Commerce, that various Canadian federal and provincial programs constitute subsidies, will be implemented through the application of U.S. countervailing duties on certain fresh whole groundfish. The duty rate has been set at 5.82 percent.

The Ministers indicated that their immediate priority and concern is the impact of this case on Canada's fishing industry. The government will review the situation with the industry and provincial governments concerned.