



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUÉ

No. 251

December 18, 1987.

GATT PANEL ON SALMON AND HERRING

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, together with the Honourable Tom Siddon, Minister for Fisheries and Oceans, announced today that the Government was working closely with industry in developing Canada's approach to the recent GATT Panel ruling on federal export restrictions for West Coast salmon and herring.

Minister Carney indicated her deep concern about the Panel finding and the disturbing implications which it raised for the British Columbia fish processing industry. In response to the GATT report, Miss Carney stated that she and Mr. Siddon had already been in close touch with the processing industry, unions and fishermen and would be consulting with all interested parties in developing the Government's approach.

During her meetings, Miss Carney had assured the industry that they would not be faced with any sudden changes as a result of this Panel ruling and that the GATT system provided ample time for full consideration of all options.

Miss Carney noted that the Panel report would be discussed in the GATT Council in early February, at which time Canada would raise its concerns about the broader implications of the findings. She indicated that, among the policy options to be explored, would be a bilateral solution with the U.S. or the application by Canada of alternative regulatory measures which would ensure the integrity of Canada's West Coast fisheries conservation and management regime.

"We will be seeking a solution which is consistent with our GATT obligations and with the long-term interests of the British Columbia fisheries sector", said Miss Carney.

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