



communiqué

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SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOL AMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE HIGH SEAS FISHERIES OF THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

A Protocol amending the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean was signed in Tokyo on April 25, 1978 by the representatives of Canada, Japan and the United States.

The existing International Convention, in effect since June 12, 1953, has played a significant role in the conservation and management of the fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean. However, as a result of the establishment in 1977 by Canada and the United States of 200 mile fisheries zones which included certain areas covered by the Convention, it became necessary to amend the Agreement. Following extensive negotiations agreement was reached on a final text of a Protocol to amend the existing Convention.

The main points of the Protocol are as follows:

The principle established in the existing Convention forbidding the fishing of salmon in specific areas of the Eastern Pacific has been maintained and extended. As a result under terms of the Protocol no salmon fishing on the high seas is permitted east of 175° East longitude except in the Bering Sea. This will ensure complete protection for salmon of Canadian origin.

The International North Pacific Fisheries Commission established under the existing Convention will continue in its present form.

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