During 1981 Canada also continued to participate in negotiations with the European Economic Community, the USA, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and the Faroe Islands on an Atlantic salmon convention. The negotiations were complicated by a decision by Denmark to allow Greenlanders to fish a higher tonnage of salmon off Greenland than in past years. Officials of all concerned states met to try to achieve an acceptable accommodation and a draft treaty exists as a basis for further negotiations.

On June 26, 1981 the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced that Canada had deposited a notice of withdrawal from the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling and from the International Whaling Commission. Under the terms of the Convention, Canada's withdrawal will become effective on June 30, 1982. Canada will continue to support international cooperation for the conservation of the world's whale stocks. Indeed, Canada fully intends to seek the advice of the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee and to exchange scientific data and analyses with that body, relevant to Canadian management of cetacean stocks in its 200-mile zone.