



news release

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CANADA AND U.S. REACH AGREEMENT ON SALMON AND HERRING

TRADE DISPUTE

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon today announced that Canada and the U.S. have reached an agreement on a long-standing trade dispute over Pacific salmon and herring. The agreement, negotiated under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), will fully protect Canada's ability to conserve and manage its stocks of these fish. (The full text of the agreement is attached.)

"The Federal Government has ensured that 100 per cent of the catch will still be available for inspection and biological sampling in order to ensure that our conservation and management objectives are met," Mr. Crosbie said.

"Through a system of at-sea landing stations, we will be able to administer the same biological sampling and inspection as is currently in place at shore-based stations," Mr. Siddon said.

An FTA Panel which reported on this issue last fall said that while Canada's landing requirement for B.C. salmon and herring is a valid conservation measure, not all of the catch needed to be subject to Canada's full conservation regime, provided that adequate statistical confidence could be maintained for management purposes.

The Panel ruled that, to be consistent with Canada's international trade obligations under Article XX of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Canada's landing requirement should be modified.

The report said: "In the Panel's view, one way that a landing requirement could be considered 'primarily aimed at' conservation, would be if provisions were made to exempt from landing that portion of the catch whose exportation without landing would not impede the data collection process."

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