

IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENCOUNTERED SEVERAL DIFFICULTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1978 CANADA/USA INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT ON BOTH THE PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC COASTS.

ON THE PACIFIC COAST, THE PROBLEM RELATES TO THE TERMS UNDER WHICH CANADIAN FISHERMEN WOULD BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO WATERS OFF WASHINGTON STATE TO TROLL FOR SALMON.

ON THE ATLANTIC COAST, THE PROBLEMS RELATE TO UNRESTRICTED U.S. SCALLOP AND POLLOCK FISHERIES IN THE GULF OF MAINE/GEORGES BANK AREA AND WHAT WE VIEW AS EXCESSIVE ALLOWABLE U.S. CATCH LEVELS FOR COD AND HADDOCK.

THESE DIFFICULTIES WERE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING BETWEEN CANADA AND U.S. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 28 AND AT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE CANADIAN AND USA SPECIAL NEGOTIATORS FOR MARITIME BOUNDARIES IN OTTAWA ON MAY 11-12 AND AGAIN IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 26. AT THE MAY 26 MEETING AND DURING SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT THESE PROBLEMS CANNOT BE RESOLVED IN A WAY THAT WOULD PROTECT CANADIAN INTERESTS. MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE COME TO THE RELUCTANT CONCLUSION THAT THE 1978 INTERIM RECIPROCAL FISHERY AGREEMENT CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE U.S. IN A MANNER COMPATIBLE WITH PRESERVING AND PROTECTING OUR FISHERIES INTERESTS. ACCORDINGLY, I WISH TO ANNOUNCE