

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, today announced the conclusion of an Agreement between Canada and Norway on fisheries matters.

The Agreement was negotiated at meetings held in Oslo, September 15-16, and in Ottawa on October 20 and 21, 1975. The Canadian Delegation was led by Mr. L. H. J. Legault, Director General, International Fisheries and Marine Directorate, Department of the Environment. The Norwegian Delegation was led by Mr. H. Vindenes, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Agreement, signed today by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and His Excellency Knut Hedemann, the Norwegian Ambassador to Canada, will come into force upon ratification. It sets out the terms and conditions that would govern continued fishing by Norwegian vessels in areas to be brought under Canadian jurisdiction beyond the present limits of the Canadian territorial sea and fishing zones off the Atlantic coast of Canada. The Agreement will permit Norwegian vessels to fish in the area concerned, under Canadian authority and control, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements. The Government of Canada, in exercising its sovereign rights in the extended area of jurisdiction, will determine the total allowable catch for individual stocks, the Canadian harvesting capacity in respect of such stocks, and, after appropriate consultations, allotments for Norwegian vessels from stock surpluses. Norwegian vessels will be required to obtain licenses from the Canadian Government to fish for such allotments and will operate in the extended Canadian zone subject to Canadian law. The Government of Norway has agreed to co-operate in scientific research for conservation and management purposes in the area under Canadian fisheries jurisdiction off the Atlantic coast.

The Agreement provides for the protection of salmon stocks and there is also a provision relating to the proper management and conservation of the living resources of the high seas beyond the limits of national fisheries jurisdiction. The Agreement will be subject to review by the two governments after a period of two years or after a future multilateral convention dealing with the same substantive matters is ratified by both governments. It will run for a six year period from the date of its entry into force.

The Agreement is intended to give effect to the consensus emerging from the Law of the Sea Conference, as reflected in the Single Negotiating Text which emerged from the Geneva session of the Conference. The substance of that consensus is applied in this Agreement to the bilateral fisheries relations of Canada and Norway.