



news release

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FOUR COUNTRIES AGREE TO PROTECT SALMON

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, John C. Crosbie, today announced a four-country agreement on the text of a proposed convention to prohibit salmon fishing on the high seas of the north Pacific Ocean.

After two years of negotiation, representatives from Canada, Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States undertook on September 20 to recommend the text of a new convention to their respective governments. The convention is expected to come into force by the spring of 1992.

"The convention is a breakthrough for Canada. By protecting salmon stocks that originate in Canada's waters, it will help ensure Canadians receive the benefits they are entitled to from Canada's salmon stocks," said Mr. Crosbie.

"The four nations have shown co-operation and foresight in reaching this agreement. It recognizes the need for high seas fishing to be conducted in a responsible and sustainable manner," said Mrs. McDougall.

The new agreement will formally close this fishery to Japan, the only one of the four countries which has a high seas salmon fleet, numbering some 150 vessels. It also includes measures to minimize the amount of salmon taken in other fisheries, and to return these salmon to the sea.

Canada, Japan, the Soviet Union, and the United States are the major states of origin of Pacific salmon.