

SAINT-PIERRE AND MIQUELON

France is claiming a 200-mile exclusive economic zone off Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. Canada's position is that France is entitled in law to no more than a 12-mile territorial sea around Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. For a number of years the two countries have sought to resolve this dispute by seeking a mutually acceptable negotiated solution.

These negotiations are complex, since they have implications for the management of the fish stocks that would straddle the eventual boundary, and because each party's assessment of the possibility of finding hydrocarbons in the disputed zone influences its position on the line. In order to maintain a favourable climate for these negotiations, the parties have agreed to refrain from inspecting each other's fishing vessels in the disputed zone.

Canada made some new proposals during the last round of negotiations held in Ottawa on May 15 and 16. The French will reply during the next round, scheduled for Paris on October 22 and 23.