

News Release

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NEW ZEALAND LIFTS BAN ON CANADIAN SALMON IMPORTS

On the occasion of the visit to New Zealand of the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, the New Zealand government announced that the ban on the import of uncooked headless, gutted, wild, ocean-caught Pacific salmon from Canada is to be removed. Trade will resume as soon as import health standards have been developed.

Mr. MacLaren welcomed this decision. "I am pleased that this problem has been resolved. It not only removes a trade irritant with New Zealand, but more importantly, it reopens the New Zealand salmon market to the Canadian fishing industry."

The New Zealand government imposed import restrictions on uncooked salmon in the 1970s because of concerns about the possible introduction of disease into the country. It recently carried out a risk assessment analysis on Canadian salmon, based in large part on information provided by scientists of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It concluded that the possibility of Canadian salmon introducing diseases was negligible.

Canada is the first foreign country to negotiate successfully the removal of such a ban.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874



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