

UPDATE ON PACIFIC SALMON

Canada and the United States have entered into mediation on the equity principle of the Pacific Salmon Treaty and have appointed Ambassador Christopher Beeby of New Zealand as mediator. Agreement by the two countries on the equity issue would facilitate future negotiations on long-term salmon fishing arrangements.

The Pacific Salmon Treaty, signed in 1985 by Canada and the United States, was based on two principles: equity, to ensure that each country receives fishery benefits corresponding to the salmon spawned in its waters; and conservation, to prevent overfishing and to maximize production. Equity is of concern to Canada because American fishermen have increased their interceptions of Canadian-origin fish by more than 50 per cent since the treaty was signed, while Canada has reduced its interceptions of American salmon by more than 40 per cent. The imbalance means approximately \$70 million lost to Canadian fishermen.

Canada, which has undertaken comprehensive efforts to conserve salmon runs in its waters, is also concerned that without a new agreement on fishing arrangements, weak salmon stocks will decline severely. Of particular concern

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to Canada are chinook salmon from the west coast of Vancouver Island. In 1992 and 1993 these stocks were subject to exceptionally high predation by mackerel, which had migrated further north than usual due to warm ocean temperatures. Consequently very low abundance was forecast for 1995 and 1996.

Canada reduced its 1995 catch of chinook salmon by 50 per cent or more, depending on abundance. Washington and Oregon imposed similar conservation measures. Alaska, however, unilaterally announced a reduction of only 4 per cent in its chinook catch off the southeast coast for 1995, which would have been insufficient to deal with the conservation problem. Alaska's cooperation is important since, on average, 90 per cent of the chinook catch in southeast Alaska is taken from stocks originating in Canada and the U.S. Northwest.

U.S. Pacific Northwest tribes, with Washington and Oregon, filed suit to stop Alaska's 1995 commercial fishery for chinook salmon. Canada supported the action by filing a brief as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) containing

scientific information on the impact of Alaska's actions on the bilateral rebuilding program for chinook established in the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

On September 7, a U.S. Federal District Court judge in Seattle granted a temporary restraining order suspending the Alaskan chinook fishery until September 30, effectively precluding any further commercial chinook fishing this year. The judge's ruling found that "the estimated impact of Alaska's proposed 1995 plan, even using the evidence upon which Alaska relied at the preliminary injunction hearing, poses the threat of irreparable harm to those depleted stocks."

Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Brian Tobin, said, "...I hope that this decision will not be seen in terms of winners and losers, but rather as a signpost to remind us of the reasons that led to the endorsement of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. We must recommit to the principles of this treaty, to the notion of our shared responsibility for conservation, and to the recognition that the best outcomes are those negotiated at the Pacific Salmon Commission table."

U.N. RAPID REACTION

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The report offers several ideas for future consideration, among them establishing a standing U.N. emergency military force, creating regionally-based peacekeeping headquarters and finding an independent source of revenue for the U.N.

Mr. Ouellet told the General Assembly that the report is only the first step for Canada, which is prepared to provide personnel on loan to the U.N. to help it establish an operational-level peacekeeping headquarters and to build

up its capacity in human rights, legal advice, humanitarian assistance and other civilian areas.

Canada is working with other countries that contribute peacekeepers to build support for reforms to improve the U.N.'s response to crises.

Canada's report on the U.N.'s rapid reaction capability is available in English and French on the Internet. The address is: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

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