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# news release

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## NEW FISHERIES AGREEMENT REACHED WITH USSR

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announced today that Canada and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) have reached agreement on a number of outstanding fisheries issues including the opening of the USSR market for Canadian processed fish products and a new fisheries treaty. Mr. De Bané will travel to Moscow to sign the new fisheries treaty on May 1.

"The agreement, on markets and on the new treaty, reaffirms the desire of both countries to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship in fisheries matters and to expand their economic cooperation in this field," Mr. MacEachen said.

The agreement establishes an entirely new market for Canadian fish products. The USSR has never bought Canadian processed fish before, but will now, in 1984, purchase \$12 million in fish products from Canada. Soviet vessels will also land 200 tonnes of northern capelin in this country free of charge, for processing and product development in Canadian plants. Canada will allow Soviet vessels to catch 100,200 tonnes of fish in Canadian waters, all surplus to the requirements of Canadian fishermen in 1984.

"Not only will the agreement increase sales of Canadian fishery products," Mr. De Bané said, "it will encourage closer cooperation on matters of conservation and optimum utilization of the resource."

The 1984 agreement follows three years of intensive negotiations and the new treaty will replace the treaty which Canada concluded with the USSR in 1976.

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