

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES LAW

The pace of fisheries negotiations stayed fast in 1981. Canada participated in negotiations with some of its largest partners, including the USA, the European Economic Community and the USSR. In addition Canada continued to devote effort to multilateral arrangements, particularly the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization and negotiations on an Atlantic salmon convention.

In March 1981, U.S. President Reagan withdrew from the U.S. Senate the East Coast Fishery Resources Agreement signed by Canada and the USA in March 1979. At the same time, President Reagan formally sought Senate ratification of the Gulf of Maine Maritime Boundary Delimitation Agreement which had been linked to the fisheries agreement. The Senate approved the boundary treaty in April. On the Canadian side, the Governor-in-Council authorized ratification in October. The treaty refers the maritime boundary to a 5-man Chamber of the ICJ. With regard to fisheries, Canadian and U.S. officials are holding consultations concerning the management and conservation of Georges Bank stocks. On the West Coast, Canada and the USA continued discussions on salmon interceptions. Interim arrangements were reached for the 1981 fishery season and a consensus exists with respect to appropriate interception and escapement levels for 1982. Both parties are pursuing efforts to reach a comprehensive long-term agreement to provide for cooperative management and enforcement of Pacific salmon resources.

Further to the interim arrangements concluded between Canada and the USA in August 1980 that provided for reciprocal fishing of albacore tuna off the Pacific Coasts of the two countries, a long-term agreement was signed on May 26, 1981 and came into force on July 29, 1981. The agreement provides, inter alia, for reciprocal fishery privileges, port entry, and enforcement. In Canada's view, the conclusion of the treaty has not lessened the need for prosecution of the GATT proceeding that was initiated following the U.S. embargo of Canadian tuna in 1979. Canada has therefore continued to press the GATT panel for a finding.

In November 1980, Canada and the European Economic Community reached ad referendum agreement on a long-term fisheries agreement which seeks to match the benefits to the Community of access to fish in Canadian waters to the benefits