



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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The Department of External Affairs announces that representatives of the United States and Canada signed today in Washington a Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries.

The Canadian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Arnold Heeney, and the Canadian Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Stewart Bates, signed on behalf of Canada. The Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Walter Bedell Smith, and the Special Assistant for Fisheries to the Under-Secretary of State, Mr. William C. Herrington, signed on behalf of the United States.

The Convention provides for joint action by the United States and Canada in the field of fishery research and the elimination of the predatory sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. To carry out this task, both governments agree to establish a Great Lakes Fishery Commission of three appointees from each country.

The duties of the Commission include the formulation of research programs regarding the Great Lakes fisheries and the formulation and implementation of comprehensive programs for the destruction of the predatory sea lamprey which have been playing havoc with some of these fisheries, especially the whitefish and lake trout fisheries. The Commission may recommend to the governments, on the basis of research findings, measures to make possible the maximum sustained productivity in the Great Lakes fisheries. The Commission will have, however, no regulatory powers. In the performance of its functions the Commission will, wherever feasible, make use of the existing state, provincial and federal agencies in each country.

The Convention, with an initial duration of ten years, will become effective upon ratification by both countries.
