



# communiqué

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## CANADA/U.S. TALKS ON WEST COAST FISHERIES PROBLEMS

Canadian and U.S. officials met in Ottawa September 12 to discuss the problem of albacore tuna and related West Coast fisheries matters. The Canadian delegation was headed by Ambassador Marcel Cadieux, Special Negotiator for Canada/U.S. Maritime Boundaries and Related Resource Matters, and consisted of officials of the Departments of External Affairs and Fisheries and Oceans. The U.S. delegation was headed by Ambassador John Negroponte, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries, accompanied by officials of the Department of State, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council and the State of Washington Department of Fisheries.

The talks were part of an ongoing series of discussions on a broad range of fisheries issues on the West Coast of mutual concern to the two Governments. The two sides examined the possibility of reaching agreement for the 1979 tuna fishing season but it was concluded that because of the short time remaining in the season it would not be feasible to do so. In the circumstances, the two sides focused on the possibility of developing mutually acceptable fisheries arrangements next year, including access for U.S. tuna fishermen to albacore tuna in the Canadian 200-mile zone. Although no immediate solution was found, progress was made in clarifying the issues and in identifying possible avenues for future cooperation, both bilaterally and in continuing multilateral discussions on the management of tuna resources in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. It was agreed that the two sides would meet again at a later date to pursue the discussion, after an opportunity for consultations with fisheries interests on the West Coast.