



communiqué

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CANADA/USA INTERIM RECIPROCAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT

The Governments of Canada and the United States completed an Exchange of Notes in Washington, D.C. on April 11 constituting an interim reciprocal fisheries agreement which will enter into force following completion of the necessary legislative action by the United States Congress. This agreement provides for the continuation of reciprocal fishing and for the establishment of new mechanisms for bilateral consultations and the resolution of disputes so as to help ensure that existing fishing patterns are maintained. The new agreement will remain in force through 1978 unless superseded by a comprehensive boundaries and resource treaty or terminated by either Government after notice.

The major changes in this agreement in comparison with the 1977 Canada/USA fisheries agreement are:

- The new agreement can be terminated by either Government on 45 days' notice.
- Bilateral consultative committees will be set up on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and differences not settled at that level will be referred to the Special Negotiators for Maritime Boundaries.
- If a dispute is not resolved through consultation, the party objecting to an action of the other party can take reciprocal action to restore the balance of fisheries interests between the two countries.