

Canadian fisheries interests and that Canada was not prepared to continue provisional implementation of the agreement. As a result, Canada terminated fishing by U.S. vessels in its fishing zone and the United States immediately responded by ceasing to permit fishing by Canadian vessels off its coasts. The two Governments agreed, however, to avoid confrontation in the boundary regions, i.e. in the areas of overlapping claims, by continuing the flag-state enforcement procedures along the lines provided for in the 1977 and 1978 Reciprocal Fisheries Agreements. Both Governments reaffirmed their commitment to pursue negotiations towards a comprehensive maritime agreement, and accordingly, the Negotiators have continued their efforts during the summer and autumn. During these meetings, the Canadian side indicated that, since the United States was unable to implement the Interim Fisheries Agreement in a manner acceptable to Canada, Canada would only agree to restore reciprocal fishing as a "bridge" towards a long-term agreement, the basic elements of which would have to be agreed upon before such resumption.

On September 15, the Government published in The Canada Gazette, Notice of a proposed Order-in-Council which revised Canada's maritime boundary claim in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank area in accordance with the legal principles enunciated in the Anglo-French Continental Shelf Delimitation Arbitration Award of June 30, 1977. Publication of the Notice was a preliminary procedural step, required by applicable legislation, which allowed the Government to alter the fishing zones boundary by Order-in-Council after the expiry of a sixty-day period. The U.S. Government protested the Canadian action. Both Governments, however, have indicated their intention to continue the negotiations towards a boundaries settlement and long-term fishing arrangements.