



news release

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CANADA FIRST TO SIGN DRIFTNET PROTOCOL

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, John C. Crosbie, today announced that Canada has signed Protocol II to the Wellington Convention against fishing with long driftnets. It is the first country to do so.

By signing Protocol II, Canada undertakes to prohibit its nationals and vessels from using long driftnets in the South Pacific. The Protocol also forbids the use of such driftnets and transshipments of driftnet catches in the waters of signatory states. Canada banned large-scale driftnet fishing from its own waters in 1987.

"This decision is an expression of our solidarity with the nations of the South Pacific," said Mrs. McDougall. "International co-operation on important environmental issues must grow, and we are working hard at the UN and elsewhere to accomplish this."

"This is the latest example of Canada being in the forefront of international efforts to curb driftnet fishing, and to promote high-seas fisheries conservation," said Mr. Crosbie.

The Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Driftnets in the South Pacific (Wellington Convention) was signed in 1989 by 21 South Pacific states. It came into force in May 1991.

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