

Department that the Alaska actions were in violation of the Treaty. Fishers in Northern British Columbia protested by blockading an Alaska ferry system vessel, the *MV Malaspina*, in Prince Rupert harbour for three days.

To show its displeasure with the lack of progress in the Pacific Salmon dispute, the British Columbia government has sought to cancel the license that provides for the use of the seabed at the Nanoose Bay Canadian Forces Maritime Test Range. This installation is an important venue for testing torpedoes used by both the Canadian Forces and the U.S. Navy. The federal government has launched a legal challenge to the B.C. action and has undertaken to keep the range open and functioning, in line with its international commitments.

On August 22, the State of Alaska initiated an action in tort for economic loss against the B.C. fishers involved in the blockade of the *MV Malaspina*.

On September 8, the B.C. government filed a lawsuit in Seattle against the U.S. federal government and the States of Alaska and Washington. B.C. is seeking: 1) a declaratory judgment that the defendants have violated the Pacific Salmon Treaty and U.S. domestic law; 2) an order from the court compelling the U.S. Secretaries of State and Commerce to certify to the U.S. Section of the Pacific Salmon Commission that the U.S. is in danger of not fulfilling its international obligations under the Treaty; 3) an injunction against the defendants to restrain from violating the Treaty; and, 4) more than \$300 million in damages. The U.S. court will look at several procedural issues before examining the merits of B.C.'s case.