

On April 24, 1970 Canada and the USA concluded an Agreement concerning Reciprocal Fishing Privileges between the two countries. The Agreement was signed for Canada by Dr. A.W. H. Needler, Deputy Minister, Department of Fisheries and Forestry, and for the United States by Ambassador Donald L. McKernan, Special Assistant for Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of State. Ambassador McKernan is in Ottawa for the annual meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. The Chairman of this Commission is Dr. Needler.

The Agreement will allow the fishermen of both countries to continue, on a reciprocal basis, the commercial fisheries activities which they have carried out up to 3 miles off the coasts of the other country up to the present time and prior to the first establishment of exclusive fishing zones by either Canada in 1964 or the USA in 1966. The Agreement formalizes the informal reciprocal fishing rights arrangements which have existed between Canada and the USA since the establishment of their respective fishing zones. Advisers from Provincial, State and Federal governments and representatives of the fishing industry from both coasts of both countries took part in the negotiations leading to this Agreement.

The areas covered by the Agreement include east and west coasts of Canada and the USA and the species covered include all those involving commercial fisheries affecting both countries.

This Agreement will have no effect on the territorial or jurisdictional claims of either country. Article 6 of the Agreement provides that:

"Nothing in this Agreement shall prejudice the claims or views of either of the parties concerning internal waters, territorial waters, or jurisdiction over fisheries or the resources of the continental shelf; further, nothing in this Agreement shall affect either bilateral or multi-lateral agreements to which either Government is a party."

The Agreement is for a period of two years and applies only to commercial fisheries and to the areas referred to in the Agreement.