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AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE EEC ON MUTUAL FISHERIES RELATIONS

Representatives of Canada and the European Economic Community (EEC) formally signed today in Brussels a fisheries agreement and a related Exchange of Letters. The Agreement was originally initialled by Canadian and EEC negotiators in Ottawa last July, and has been implemented on a provisional basis. It is a short-term agreement concerned with fisheries in 1978 and 1979, and will expire at the end of the year.

Pursuant to arrangements resulting from the Agreement, vessels of the EEC have been fishing in accordance with Canadian regulations for their 1979 allocations from stocks surplus to Canadian needs found within the Atlantic region of Canada's 200-mile zone. The Agreement also ensures that there will be no increase in the catch of salmon of Canadian origin off West Greenland for the period of the Agreement.

It is hoped that negotiation on a long-term fisheries agreement will begin in the fall, aimed at having new arrangements in place for 1980.