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CANADA-UNITED STATES PACIFIC COAST TUNA TREATY ENTERS INTO FORCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, announced today that Canada and the United States have exchanged Instruments of Ratification of the Treaty on Pacific Coast Albacore Tuna Vessels and Port Privileges, signed at Washington on May 26, 1981. The treaty thereby enters into force on this date.

The treaty allows vessels of Canada and the United States to fish for albacore tuna in the fishing zone of the other country, provided the fishing is carried out under the terms of the treaty. It permits vessels of either country fishing tuna pursuant to its terms to enter four specified Pacific Coast ports of the other country for purposes of landing catches and either trans-shipping them in bond to a home port, selling them for export in bond, or selling them locally. It also allows the fishing vessels to obtain fuel and supplies in those ports on the same basis as vessels of the other country.

Dr. MacGuigan said that "the treaty is a successful culmination of efforts by both Governments to avoid repetition of the so-called 'tuna war'.... The treaty is a positive development in Canada/USA relations and will bring many substantive economic benefits to West Coast fishermen of both countries."