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EXTENSION OF CANADIAN FISHERIES ZONES

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Donald C. Jamieson, and the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, the Honourable Roméo Leblanc, announced today the publication in a special edition of the Canada Gazette, dated November 1, of the text of the Order-In-Council that the Government proposes to promulgate to extend to 200 miles the fisheries limits of Canada.

In accordance with applicable legislation, this text has been published 60 days in advance of its coming into effect. The Government announced on June 4, and again in the speech from the Throne, that in light of the crisis situation pertaining in the fisheries off Canada's coasts, the areas under Canadian fisheries jurisdiction on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts would be extended to 200 miles as of January 1, 1977. This action is in conformity with the emerging consensus of the ongoing Law of the Sea Conference, and is being taken to ensure the proper conservation and management of the living resources of the sea adjacent to these coasts. This consensus is also reflected in the bilateral fisheries agreements concluded over the past year with major fishing states operating off the Canadian coasts.

The proposed Order sets out the geographical coordinates of the new fishing zones, including coordinates which delineate the limits of the zones in areas adjacent to neighbouring states. The preamble of the Order notes that the limits of the fishing zones being established by Canada are intended to be without prejudice to negotiations with neighbouring states concerning the delimitation of the maritime boundaries. The preamble refers to consultations being pursued with the U.S.A., France (regarding St. Pierre and

Miquelon) and Denmark (regarding Greenland) which have coastlines adjacent or opposite to Canada. The Government will be seeking mutually acceptable settlements with these states by way of negotiation or by third party procedures. Pending the settlement of these maritime boundaries, interim fisheries arrangements, which will protect the full range of Canadian fisheries interests, are being sought.

The Government is also aware of the importance of safeguarding the fishing interests of the native peoples in the Arctic and the need to provide for development of fisheries in the Canadian Arctic regions. Consequently the Government has decided to extend the fisheries limits in the Arctic to 200 miles by March 1, 1977.