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CANADA-U.S.A. INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS ON PACIFIC SALMON

Canadian and U.S. federal officials met on June 19 in Washington, D.C., to consider recommendations made by their Special Negotiators dealing with bilateral Pacific salmon issues.

The Special Negotiators, Dr. Michael P. Sheppard for Canada, and Dr. Dayton P. Alverson for the United States, recommended in a progress report issued June 11 that both countries continue efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement to provide for co-operative management and enhancement of the Pacific salmon resource. At the same time they recommended that both countries implement certain interim arrangements for the remainder of 1981 and for 1982 to improve conservation of the Pacific salmon stocks in a manner that will be of mutual benefit.

Participants at the June 19 meeting noted that support for the recommendations appears widespread in both countries. In both Canada and the United States federal and state fishery management agencies have expressed general concurrence with the approach recommended by the Special Negotiators. They have also indicated that they will work to enact the provisions of the interim arrangements during 1981 and will actively work to finalize 1982 management regimes so that they are in conformance with the recommendations.

After reviewing the recommendations of the Special Negotiators and noting the support they have received in both countries, the governments of Canada and the United States wish to reaffirm their support for the efforts of the Special Negotiators to reach a comprehensive agreement. The governments concur in the belief of the Special Negotiators that a long-term agreement for co-operative management and enhancement of the Pacific salmon resource is urgently required to ensure adequate conservation and optimum utilization of the stocks and that the fishing communities on both sides are deeply committed to reaching an accord.

In addition, the governments consider that the 1981 and 1982 interim arrangements recommended by the Special Negotiators will build on the progress of the negotiations and materially assist both sides in achieving a long-term agreement. The governments intend to work during 1981 and 1982 to ensure that all relevant fisheries are conducted in accordance with the recommendations of the Special Negotiators. The governments are also studying the desirability of incorporating the recommendations into formal arrangements.

The governments acknowledge that proposed research projects are important to the success of long-term arrangements, and note that the Special Negotiators have recommended that certain projects be conducted in 1982. Both governments are at present considering the projects recommended for next year.