



news release

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CANADA RATIFIES THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SALMON IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister for Fisheries and Oceans, announced today that the Government of Canada has ratified the International Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean.

The Convention, which now enters into force, is the culmination of several years of negotiation with the other North Atlantic salmon-producing and salmon-fishing countries. The Final Act of the Conference was signed on January 22, 1982, in Reykjavik, Iceland, by Canada and six other countries. The Convention has already been ratified by the other participating governments excepting Sweden: i.e. the United States, the European Economic Community, Iceland, Norway and Denmark for the Faroes Islands.

The Ministers noted that the Convention recognizes that countries in whose rivers salmon originate and spawn have the primary interest in and responsibility for such stocks. Since Atlantic salmon migrate long distances feeding and maturing in the ocean before returning to their rivers of origin to spawn, international co-operation is required to minimize the interception of salmon by fishermen in waters of other states.

This agreement is important to Canada, since many salmon originating in Canadian rivers are caught along their migratory route in Greenland waters. Last year, 1,077 tonnes of salmon were caught off West Greenland. Of this amount, it is estimated that 45% was of Canadian origin. Limiting these interceptions is essential to the protection of

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Canada's Atlantic salmon stocks. In 1981, the value of commercially landed Atlantic salmon in Canada was approximately \$7 million and revenue generated by the salmon sport fishery is estimated to be in excess of \$27 million.

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), created by the Convention, will have as its prime objective, to contribute, through consultation and co-operation, to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of North Atlantic salmon stocks. Controlling salmon interceptions will be one of the Organization's prime functions.

Canada will be a member of NASCO's Council as well as a member of two of its three commissions. The first NASCO meeting will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the near future.

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