



news release

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GATT-CONSISTENT LANDING REQUIREMENT FOR WEST COAST

SALMON AND HERRING ANNOUNCED

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon today announced the enactment of new regulations implementing a GATT-consistent landing requirement for Pacific salmon and herring that will maintain Canada's ability to manage and conserve these fisheries.

"The landing requirement will ensure our continuing ability to meet our fishery management and conservation needs," commented Minister Siddon. The landing requirement will require all commercially caught Pacific salmon and herring to be delivered and off-loaded at shore-based provincially licensed buying stations for fisheries conservation and management information collection, including biological sampling. Under the new landing requirement American and Canadian buyers will have equal access to purchase unprocessed fish caught in Canadian waters.

At the same time as the landing requirement is being implemented, export prohibitions on unprocessed pink and sockeye salmon and Pacific herring are being removed today in compliance with Canada's obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. In March, 1988, the GATT ruled that these export prohibitions violated international trade rules. At that time, the Government announced that it would remove these prohibitions.

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Minister Crosbie said that "With the removal of the GATT-inconsistent export prohibitions, the Government of Canada considers that the United States should terminate its action under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act regarding the determination of unfair trade practice with respect to these products. Any U.S. retaliation would be unjustified. We are acting to live up to our GATT obligations, and we expect the U.S. to do the same."

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