
News Release

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CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES APPOINT PACIFIC SALMON MEDIATOR

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Fisheries and Oceans Minister Brian Tobin today announced that Canada and the United States have agreed to appoint Ambassador Christopher Beeby of New Zealand to serve as mediator in their dispute concerning the implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Ambassador Beeby, currently New Zealand's Ambassador to France, is retiring from the New Zealand foreign service shortly. He will begin his duties as mediator in October. The mediation process is expected to be completed by the end of 1995.

"We are optimistic that the mediation process will help resolve a bilateral dispute regarding the management of this valuable resource," said Mr. Ouellet.

"This appointment is a crucial step in reaching agreement on implementing the equity principle under the Pacific Salmon Treaty," Mr. Tobin said. "I have every confidence that Mr. Beeby will be able to assist us in reaching a solution to this difficult issue."

The mission of the mediator will be to assist Canada and the United States in finding a solution to the problems that have been encountered in implementing the Pacific Salmon Treaty, which entered into force in 1985. While the mediation will have no binding effect, both governments are hopeful that this process will enable them to overcome past differences and to fulfil the promise of the Treaty to rebuild west coast salmon stocks and to provide to both sides the benefits of their salmon production.



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The governments anticipate that an intensive mediation process from October through December will produce an outcome that can be taken into account in the negotiation of fishing regimes for 1996 and beyond.

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