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# news release

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## INTERNATIONAL COURT CONFIRMS CANADA'S CLAIM OVER DISPUTED WATERS

An International Court of Arbitration, established to resolve the Canada-France maritime boundary dispute, rendered a decision today in New York City largely confirming Canada's jurisdiction over disputed waters located south of Newfoundland and St. Pierre and Miquelon.

The decision was made public by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Kim Campbell, and Fisheries and Oceans Minister John Crosbie.

At issue were the fishing and potential oil and gas resources in a zone known as 3Ps, as well as St. Pierre Bank, a large detached bank that is part of the Grand Banks.

"This is a good day for Canada and for our relations with France," said Mrs. McDougall. "Together, Canada and France have given the international community a model for settling disputes peacefully and honourably."

"With today's ruling, we see that the international legal system not only can, but does work," Ms. Campbell said. "We congratulate our representatives for the skill they displayed in making such a compelling case for Canada."

"The Court awarded France very little of the area that it had claimed," said Mr. Crosbie. "France had claimed an area, outside the 12-mile territorial sea, of 13,703 square nautical miles, but was awarded only 2,537 square nautical miles. A portion of this is in the deep waters of the Laurentian Channel, which contains virtually no fisheries resources."

"Elimination of the large disputed zone means that management of the groundfish resources in subdivision 3Ps is now under Canadian control," said Mr. Crosbie. "France's claim had encompassed virtually all of St. Pierre Bank, but the area awarded to France appears to contain very limited amounts of groundfish, but more scallop resources."

Mr. Crosbie said that his officials are undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the decision with the fishing industry, and preliminary results will be made public at a news conference on Thursday, June 11, at 1:30 p.m. in St. John's.

To ensure an orderly implementation of the ruling, Canada and France have agreed that fishing vessels will be given 45 days to adjust to the new boundary. Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans is notifying the Canadian fishing industry of the geographical co-ordinates of the new boundary, which will be precisely set out in an Order-in-Council.

The Government is also assessing the implications of the ruling on Canada's oil and gas interests. A drilling moratorium, agreed to by both countries, has been in effect over the disputed area since 1967.

(A map of the area is attached.)

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# The Court Line and the Parties' Claims

