

European Community

News Release

FISHERIES AGREEMENT EEC - CANADA

On 20 December, 1983 the Council of Ministers of the European Communities adopted new measures to implement the Long Term Fisheries Agreement (LTA) of December 1981 between Canada and the European Communities. Recently a series of discussions have taken place between the two parties to find a satisfactory solution to certain difficulties concerning the implementation of the LTA.

At the end of 1981, the Community and Canada concluded a long term fisheries agreement in force until the end of 1987. Under the terms of the agreement Canada allows certain rights for Community vessels to fish in Canadian waters. In return, Canada obtains certain tariff reductions for fish products entering the EEC market.

The 1984 Community quotas are:

- 16,000 tons of cod
- 7,000 tons of squid

The quota of Canadian fish products allowed to enter the Community at reduced tariffs has been set at 29,500 tons (19,000 of which are frozen cod filets).

There are no modifications to the quotas allocated the Community under the accord of 1981. The implementation of the fishing rights, however, has been more accurately defined. Two conversion factors have now been formalized with regard to all catches of cod. A kilo of frozen cod filets will equate 3.2 or 3.7 kilos of fresh cod (with or without bones). Accurately defined factors will prevent uncertainties of the past regarding conversion.

In order to facilitate access of Canadian fish products to Community markets, the European Community has agreed to:

- fix at 4% the tariff on frozen cod filets (instead of two tariffs at 4 and 6% respectively as provided for in the 1981 agreement);
- permit the Canadians to export, smaller packages to the Community (4 kilos till the end of 1986 and 2 kilos in 1987). This will permit Canadian exporters to supply not only wholesalers but restaurateurs as well.

With regard to the United Kingdom, a traditional market for Canadian fish products, the new arrangements guarantee that at least 53% of the total Canadian reduced-tariff quota be granted access to the U.K.

For further information, please contact Finn Olesen, Head of our Press and Information office.

 **Delegation of the Commission
of the European Communities**
Press and Information Service

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