

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Press Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Dee Dee Myers

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2922

FolderID:

Folder Title:

[Press Guidance] - June 10, 1994

Stack:

S

Row:

94

Section:

2

Shelf:

11

Position:

2

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release

June 10, 1994

STATEMENT BY CHRISTINE SHELLY, ACTING SPOKESMAN

CANADA'S ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

Canadian Fisheries Minister Tobin on June 9 announced the first of what he described as a series of measures to signal Canadian unhappiness with the failure to reach agreement on renewing provisions of the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Canada plans to charge a C\$1,500 (about US\$1,100) per trip fee for U.S. commercial fishing vessels to pass through the Northwest Passage along the Canadian coast. This Canadian step could endanger the lives of U.S. fishermen who must pay this fee or risk the more dangerous open waters in transiting between Southeast Alaska and Washington state. We have requested a copy of the new regulations and will review carefully the international legal issues associated with this Canadian requirement as well as options for U.S. responses.

We are surprised that the Canadian Minister described these measures as necessary to force the United States to resume negotiations. Rather, the United States has regretted that Canada broke off fishery regime negotiations and would welcome Canada back to the negotiating table at any time, without preconditions by either side.

We are particularly concerned that, despite the Minister's protestations of sensitivity to conservation concerns, the stated plan to maximize Canadian fishing interests and minimize those of the United States will present very serious threat to many depressed and even endangered species of salmon from Washington and Oregon.

The United States believes that Canada should put aside this confrontational approach and return to a reasoned dialogue that can allow the two countries to reach a mutually beneficial resolution of this difficult issue.

EQUITY ISSUE UNDER THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

Q: What is the United States reaction to the assertion by Canadian Fisheries Minister yesterday that the United States has not made a serious offer to come to terms on the equity issue under the Pacific Salmon Treaty?

A: THE U.S. NEGOTIATOR PROPOSED A FRAMEWORK FOR RESOLVING THE "EQUITY" -- OR CATCH ALLOCATION -- DISPUTE LAST OCTOBER AND HAS FOLLOWED UP THIS YEAR WITH A VARIETY OF PROPOSALS, INCLUDING A METHODOLOGY FOR MEASURING "EQUITY" UNDER THE TREATY.

CANADA HAS REJECTED ALL U.S. EFFORTS TO FIND A COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE AND HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNWILLING TO SWERVE FROM A NEGOTIATING STRATEGY THAT WOULD RESULT IN THE CLOSURE OF TRADITIONAL U.S. FISHERIES ON FRASER RIVER STOCKS IN PUGET SOUND AND FISHERIES IN ALASKA.

CANADA'S FIGURES FOR THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE VALUES OF SALMON INTERCEPTED BY EACH COUNTRY'S FISHERMEN OVERSIMPLIFY THE COMPLEX QUESTION OF DETERMINING WHAT BENEFITS EACH COUNTRY IS DUE UNDER THE TREATY.

CONSERVATION ISSUE UNDER THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

Q: Does Canada have conservation concerns for salmon stocks under the Pacific Salmon Treaty as significant as those of the United States?

A: POPULATIONS OF U.S. STOCKS OF CHINOOK AND COHO SALMON FROM OREGON AND WASHINGTON ARE SERIOUSLY DEPRESSED THIS YEAR. SOME OF THESE STOCKS ARE ALREADY LISTED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.

U.S. OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES OFF THE COAST OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER THIS YEAR TO CONSERVE THESE STOCKS. MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO ASSIST COASTAL ECONOMIES AFFECTED BY THIS DISASTER.

CANADIAN FISHERMEN CATCH A GREAT MANY OF THESE FISH. TO THE CONTRARY, CANADIAN STOCKS CAUGHT BY U.S. FISHERMEN ARE HEALTHY -- RETURNING IN RECORD NUMBERS.

CANADA HAS NOTED A CONSERVATION CONCERN FOR A SINGLE STOCK, EARLY SKEENA COHO. THE UNITED STATES HAS OFFERED TO DISCUSS WITH CANADA OPTIONS WHICH FISHERY MANAGERS IN BOTH COUNTRIES COULD TAKE TO CONSERVE THE STOCK.

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PACIFIC SALMON TREATY

Q: What can be done to make the Pacific Salmon Treaty work better?

A: COOPERATION IS THE KEY TO AN EFFECTIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PACIFIC SALMON TREATY.

FOR EXAMPLE, CANADA HAS DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB REBUILDING FRASER STOCKS FROM NEAR EXTINCTION EARLIER THIS CENTURY. THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL FOR DECADES IN THIS EFFORT. AS A RESULT, THE SALMON ARE RETURNING IN RECORD NUMBERS TO THE BENEFIT OF FISHERMEN OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

THE UNITED STATES NOW NEEDS THAT KIND OF CANADIAN COOPERATION IN TURNING AROUND THE DRAMATIC DECLINE IN DEPRESSED U.S. STOCKS.

THE UNITED STATES IS WORKING TO RESOLVE A BROAD ARRAY OF PROBLEMS FACING SALMON IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS ON RENEWING TREATY PROVISIONS EXISTS WITHIN THIS CONTEXT. CONFRONTATION, ON THE OTHER HAND, COULD LEAD TO AN UNRAVELLING OF DECADES OF JOINT EFFORTS.