



**Statement on the International Fisheries Agreement Clarification Act from Eric Schwaab,
NOAA Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries Service**

December 23, 2010

We are pleased with passage of the International Fisheries Agreement Clarification Act. Secretary Locke and NOAA leadership worked with Congressional leaders to craft effective legislation that will help level the playing field between the United States and Canada for important transboundary fisheries. We thank the members of Congress from New England for working with us and passing the legislation.

This legislation paves the way to reopen discussions with Canada on fishery management measures, such as catch limits for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. As soon as the President signs this legislation, we will quickly initiate discussions with our Canadian counterparts and the New England Council, so we can move forward to help New England fishermen and families.

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