

8-22-1991

# G.a.t.t. Arbitration Commission Rules Against U.S. Embargo Against Mexican Tuna

Barbara Khol

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

---

## Recommended Citation

Khol, Barbara. "G.a.t.t. Arbitration Commission Rules Against U.S. Embargo Against Mexican Tuna." (1991).  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/7063>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [amywinter@unm.edu](mailto:amywinter@unm.edu).

## **G.a.t.t. Arbitration Commission Rules Against U.S. Embargo Against Mexican Tuna**

*by Barbara Khol*

*Category/Department: General*

*Published: Thursday, August 22, 1991*

On Aug. 21 in Geneva, an arbitration commission of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) ruled against the US embargo against Mexican tuna imports. The embargo, imposed in October 1990, was justified on the ground that the Mexican tuna fishing fleet inadvertently kills thousands of dolphins every year. According to the ruling, the embargo is contrary to GATT's "current" dispositions since it sanctions activities outside Washington's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The commission also ruled that "dolphin-safe" stickers placed on canned tuna in the US do not violate US obligations under the GATT, as asserted by the Mexican government. A can of tuna bearing the above sticker assures consumers that the product was acquired in a manner considered non-harmful to dolphins. The arbitration commission's rulings will be debated by the GATT Council on Oct. 8-9. The US embargo of Mexican tuna has become a test case for GATT in the delicate area of conflicts over environmental protection issues. GATT member-nations have not yet established a consensus on the viability of including environmental protection concerns as part of the rules and regulations governing global trade. (Basic data from AFP, 08/21/91)

-- End --