

A step towards international action in the investigation and conservation of the fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic has been taken by the Governments of Canada, the United States and eight interested European countries that signed an International Convention for this area in February, 1949. After ratification, an International Commission and panels for specified sub-areas will be established which, on the basis of scientific investigations, may make proposals to the interested governments for joint regulation of the fisheries in the interest of optimum conservation of the stocks of fish.

A Convention, signed in April, 1946, by Canada and the United States, but not yet ratified, provides for the establishment of a Joint Commission to develop a comprehensive plan for the effective management and maintenance of the fisheries resources in the Great Lakes, connected waters, and part of the St. Lawrence River.

Canada is one of the 15 countries which are parties to the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling which governs in some detail the conduct of whaling by fishermen of all the participating countries.

The Permanent International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, established in 1902, to which Canada sends an observer, co-ordinates oceanographic and fishery biological investigations conducted by its members in the Eastern North Atlantic, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

The most comprehensive of the international organizations having to do with fisheries is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).<sup>\*</sup> In the field of fisheries, the FAO concerns itself primarily at present with the collection, analysis, interpretation, discussion and dissemination of information. This involves statistics (including statistical standards), information on fish resources, cultural and fishing methods, and technological information. The FAO Fisheries Division also organizes studies of economic conditions relating to certain fish commodities that have been suffering from chronic difficulties, assists in the organization of regional research projects, and is doing preparatory work on international commodity standards.

### Subsection 2.—The Provincial Governments

A general outline of the work undertaken by the Provincial Governments in connection with the administration of commercial and game fisheries, assistance to the industry, educational and research work, and conservation may be found at pp. 279-286 of the 1945 Year Book. The union of Newfoundland with Canada in 1949 added a new provincial administration whose work is covered in the paragraphs below. Fishery statistics prior to Union are given in Section 4 at pp. 502-504.

**The Fisheries of the Province of Newfoundland.**—Newfoundland's cod fishery is world-famous and has been the mainstay of the Island since its first permanent settlement. Apart from cod the waters of Newfoundland yield an abundant harvest of fish which are in commercial demand, notably herring, salmon and lobster. Smelts, haddock, halibut, rosefish, caplin, mackerel, turbot, squid, etc., are also plentiful. Both the whale and seal fisheries are of major economic importance. Indeed, the fisheries of the Island of Newfoundland and of the Coast of Labrador, including of course the deep-sea fishery on the widely known Newfoundland Banks, involve nearly all the varieties of fish found in the colder

<sup>\*</sup> For an account of the work of the FAO in other fields, see pp. 402-403.