

salmon of the Fraser River. Investigations carried out under the Commissions' auspices, subsequent regulation and limitation of catches and, in the case of salmon, the construction of fishways, appear to have been successful in arresting and reversing an earlier trend towards depletion of these fisheries. Another case of restoring a depleted marine resource by international agreement and action is that of the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. Under the Provisional Fur Seal Agreement, Canada receives 20 p.c. of the fur-seal skins taken annually by the United States Government from the Pribilofs. Only surplus animals are killed and the herd, once reduced almost to extinction by uncontrolled slaughter, is now believed to consist of more than 3,000,000 seals.

In 1949, the Government of Canada became a signatory, along with ten other countries, to the International Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention which came into force in 1950. The work of the Commission established under this Convention concerns the scientific investigations of the fishery resources of the northwest Atlantic. The Commission has no regulatory powers but will make recommendations to the respective governments regarding measures that may be necessary for maintaining the stocks of fish that support the international fisheries in the Convention area. The first meeting of the Commission was held at Washington, D.C., in April 1951. At that time the Treaty had been ratified by Canada, Denmark, Iceland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Other signatories to the Treaty are France, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain. Temporary headquarters of the Commission is at the Fisheries Research Board Biological Station, St. Andrews, N.B.

A step towards international action in regulating the high seas fisheries of the northern Pacific Ocean was achieved in December 1951, when Canada, the United States and Japan conferred at Tokyo and reached an agreement on fisheries problems. A draft convention was drawn up and referred to the three Governments for acceptance but it has not as yet (November 1952) received final ratification. The Convention aims at providing the maximum sustained yield of the fishery resources of the northern Pacific non-territorial waters with each of the parties assuming obligations to encourage conservation measures. It provides also for the establishment of a commission representing the three parties. The commission will study the northern Pacific fisheries, determine the application of the treaty principles and will promote and co-ordinate the scientific studies necessary for ascertaining conservation programs.

Under existing principles of international law, all nations have an equal right to exploit the fishery resources of the high seas. Problems have arisen when attempts have been made to conserve certain resources and the Convention is the first attempt to meet these problems. By joint agreement, Canada, the United States and Japan are prepared to waive some of these international rights and, under certain conditions, to abstain from fishing stocks that are under conservation by one or more of the other parties. Halibut, salmon and herring off the British Columbia coast meet the conditions of the Convention and Japan has agreed to abstain from fishing these resources.

Canada is a member of the International Whaling Commission and was represented at the third annual meeting of the Commission in 1951 at Capetown, Union of South Africa. Canada is obligated to collect additional biological data. Whaling operations are carried out off Newfoundland and the British Columbia coast.