

counterpart on the Atlantic, has no regulatory powers but can make recommendations to the governments of the three member countries. It is unique in scope and objectives in that under the terms of the treaty it must undertake work involving new procedures and principles for which it has no precedents: for instance, the principle of abstention from fishing for certain species now fully utilized by one or more of the three countries, provided that conservation is practised and governmental regulations are enforced. Under this principle Canada and Japan will not fish for salmon in the eastern Bering Sea and Japan will not fish for salmon, halibut and herring which originate on the Canadian-United States side of the North Pacific.

Some international fisheries have not been referred to international commissions because the problems are less acute and the values of the fisheries smaller. Effective informal arrangements for investigation have, however, been made such as for the elusive pilchard which at one time appeared in great numbers off the British Columbia coast.

The Fresh-Water Fisheries.—The fresh-water fisheries of Canada in terms of volume are small compared with the operations on the coasts. They are little known to the public and the world at large, except perhaps in the sport-fishing sense. It is a fact, nevertheless, that Canada has the greatest fresh-water commercial fisheries in the world. The St. Lawrence waterway system with its chain-like series of inland seas and the Prairie Provinces' network of lakes and streams form a great cornucopia, overflowing with whitefish, yellow pickerel, blue pickerel, tullibee, trout, pike, saugers, eels and other varieties. Though there are fluctuations in the catch from year to year, the total yield has risen steadily in volume and now averages around 100,000,000 lb.—about one-sixth the size of the British Columbia catch. Two-thirds of the total comes from Ontario and Manitoba, each province producing annually between 30,000,000 lb. and 35,000,000 lb. of fish. Saskatchewan and Alberta rank next in production, followed by Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories, Quebec and New Brunswick.

In Ontario the fisheries are centred in two regions—the Great Lakes which are fished almost exclusively in the summer, and northwestern Ontario which is mainly a winter fishing operation and resembles those of the Prairie Provinces. On the Great Lakes, fish are taken inshore and on off-shore banks similar in nature to those of the Atlantic "banks". In a shallow lake like Erie the commercial varieties may be caught out in the middle of the lake. But in the deeper lakes the fish are mainly in the inshore areas. The inshore fishery is done largely with pound nets, hoop nets, seines and hooks and the fishermen use gasoline launches, skiffs and rowboats. The off-shore fishery is largely a gill-netting operation performed by a fleet of unique vessels called tugs which are designed to set and haul gill nets by mechanical means.

The Great Lakes fish populations, particularly the lake trout, have declined in recent years. Fishermen blame the parasitic sea lamprey, an eel-like creature which feeds on the blood and body juices of fish. The lamprey attaches itself to its victim by means of its sucker-like mouth and rasps a hole in the body with its sharp teeth. Because the fishermen of both Canada and the United States share in the Great Lakes fishery, an international agreement, providing for joint action in these waters in fishery research and in the elimination of the predator sea lamprey was signed at Washington in September 1954. In Canada, a Great Lakes Fisheries Research Committee was formed in 1953 by the Federal Government and the Ontario Provincial Government to co-ordinate and expand fishery research in Canadian waters and it is this agency which will provide the working nucleus of