

Canada, by wise management policies and by full utilization of all available resources, is in a position to play an increasingly important part in producing fish to meet the food needs of the world's populations.

Section 1.—Governments and the Fisheries

Subsection 1.—The Federal Government*

The British North America Act gave the Federal Government full legislative responsibility for the regulation of the coastal and the inland fisheries of Canada. Under the Act, laws are made for the protection, conservation and development of the fisheries throughout the country. The provinces, however, have property rights in the non-tidal fisheries and have been delegated certain administrative responsibilities in varying degree. Consequently, though all the regulations governing fishing are made by the Federal Government, the work of administering the fisheries (enforcing the different laws and regulations, inspecting fish products, issuing licences, etc.) is done in some cases by federal officers and in others by provincial officers, according to arrangements made with the different provinces and without duplication of staff.

Specifically, all tidal or sea fisheries, except those of Quebec, are administered by the Federal Department of Fisheries while the fresh-water or non-tidal fisheries, with some exceptions, are administered by the provincial departments. The exceptions are the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island where the fresh-water fisheries are federally administered.

The work required in the conservation, development and general regulation of the nation's coastal and fresh-water fisheries is performed by three agencies under the Minister of Fisheries:—

- (1) The Department of Fisheries proper, with headquarters at Ottawa and area offices under Chief Supervisors at Vancouver, Winnipeg, Halifax and St. John's.
- (2) The Fisheries Research Board of Canada, with headquarters at Ottawa and seven stations across Canada.
- (3) The Fisheries Prices Support Board, with headquarters at Ottawa.

The Department of Fisheries.—The chief responsibilities of the Department of Fisheries throughout Canada are, in brief, to conserve and develop Canada's primary fishery resources; to encourage the development of the fishing industry in the national economy; to inspect fish products, establish standards of quality and promote the optimum utilization of the resource; and to develop a proper public understanding of the resource and the industry.

The larger part of the Department's staff is stationed in the field, working in the four above-mentioned spheres, and is comprised mainly of a protection staff and an inspection staff. The protection officers, including those on the Department's 74 patrol and protection vessels, are concerned with the enforcement of the conservation regulations under the Fisheries Act and other Acts designed to ensure a continuing maximum yield of fish. The inspection officers are responsible for the inspection of fish products and processing plants under the Fish Inspection Act and relevant sections of the Meat and Canned Foods Act.

* Revised in the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.