

Section 2.—Governments and the Fisheries

Subsection 1.—The Federal Government*

The British North America Act gave the Federal Government full legislative jurisdiction for 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 by agreement assumed 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 either by federal officers or 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 freshwater or non-tidal fisheries, with some exceptions, are administered by the provincial departments. Quebec takes responsibility for all its fisheries including those in salt waters. Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta look after their freshwater species. In British Columbia and Newfoundland provincial government control extends to the freshwater forms and the Federal Government is responsible for marine and anadromous species. In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Federal Government maintains complete control; administration of the National Park areas throughout Canada is the responsibility of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The work of the Federal Government in the conservation, development and general regulations of the nation's coastal and freshwater fisheries is performed by three agencies under the Minister of Fisheries:—

- (1) The Department of Fisheries proper with headquarters at Ottawa, Ont., and area offices under Chief Supervisors at Vancouver, B.C., Winnipeg, Man., Halifax, N.S., and St. John's, Nfld.
- (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 staff of the Department is stationed in the field, and is comprised mainly of a protection staff and an inspection staff. The protection officers, including those on the Department's 76 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 and are also 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.

The conservation program is carried out by the Conservation and Development Service of the Department. Protection officers not only enforce regulations pertaining to restricted areas, close seasons, limitations in location and types of gear but also inspect spawning streams and keep them clear of obstructions. Biologists investigate such problems as pollution and water supply, and the engineers of this Service construct fishways to enable fish to bypass dams. Hatcheries are maintained to restock waters where the fisheries are under federal administration.

* Revised by the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.