

Canada and the United States have led the world in joint fisheries conservation development. Major examples of this joint effort are the International-Pacific Halibut Commission, concerned with the preservation of the halibut stocks of the North Pacific and the Bering Sea, and the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, concerned with the conservation and development of the sockeye salmon of the Fraser River. Investigations carried out under the auspices of these Commissions, subsequent regulation and limitation of catches, and the construction of salmon fishways appear to have been successful in arresting and reversing an earlier trend towards depletion of these fisheries. Another example 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 Alaska 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.

In 1949 the Government of Canada became a signatory, along with nine other countries, to the International Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention which came into force in 1950. The Commission established under this Convention, with headquarters at Halifax, N.S., makes scientific investigations of the fishery resources of the northwest Atlantic. The Commission has no regulatory powers but can 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. Treaty signatories are: Canada, Denmark, Iceland, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal and Spain.

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. The resulting Convention was ratified by the three contracting governments and instruments of ratification were deposited at Tokyo in June 1953. The treaty is known as the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and 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. The Commission established under this Convention 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.

The latest, and seventh, international fisheries agreement in which Canada is a signatory is the Great Lakes Fisheries Convention, which provides for joint action by Canada and the United States in Great Lakes fishery research as well as in a program for the control of the predator lamprey in these waters. This Convention came into force in October 1955.

Canada is a member of the International Whaling Commission and is obligated to collect biological data on whales caught by Canadian vessels. Whaling operations are conducted off the Newfoundland and British Columbia coasts.

Subsection 2.—The Provincial Governments*

An outline of the work undertaken by each of the provincial governments in connection with administration of commercial and game fisheries is given in the following paragraphs.

Newfoundland.—The union of Newfoundland with Canada on Mar. 31, 1949 brought about a transfer of some responsibilities in fisheries administration. The Newfoundland Fisheries Board remained the agency of government in the supervision of salt codfish marketing but fish and plant inspection, operation of bait depots, etc., became the concern of the Federal Department of Fisheries. The Board, formerly responsible to the Government of Newfoundland through the Commissioner for Natural Resources, has been made responsible to the Minister of Trade and Commerce for Canada.

* Prepared by the respective provincial departments responsible for fisheries administration.