

## THE FISHERIES RESEARCH BOARD\*

The Fisheries Research Board of Canada (established 1937) succeeded the Biological Board of Canada (established 1912) which in turn had succeeded the Board of Management of the Biological Stations (established 1898). Through successive names during the past sixty years, fisheries research in Canada has been developed by Boards composed mainly of university professors but tempered by the inclusion of government officials and representatives of the fishing industry. During 1958, the Board was composed of ten scientific members, six industry members and one member from the Department of Fisheries. Members are appointed for five-year terms and serve without pay or other emolument, being reimbursed only for expenses incurred in attending meetings or other Board business. A full-time paid chairman is appointed by the Governor General in Council.

The Board functions as the scientific arm of the Department of Fisheries but has the right of independent action under its Act and administers its own personnel and financial resources under the control of the Minister of Fisheries. The broad operations of the Board are designed to keep check on Canada's fishery resources in the oceans off its coast and in the freshwater areas not under the control of the provinces; to investigate the environment of various populations of fishes with a view to predicting their appearances and following their movements; and to study the causes of fish spoilage and suggest means of control. Much of the biological work of the Board is tied in closely with the work of international commissions concerned with fisheries, of which Canada is a participant. The Board's work on oceanography is closely associated with the needs of the Royal Canadian Navy and other government departments. Much of the technological work provides a basis on which the Department's Inspection Service can build regulations designed to ensure a wholesome supply of fish and fishery products to the consuming public in Canada and elsewhere.

In its biological work the Board operates out of stations situated in St. John's, Nfld., St. Andrews, N.B., Montreal, Que., London, Ont., and Nanaimo, B.C. Substations, field stations and field operations cover much of the inshore and offshore fishing areas of the oceans, including the Arctic, and some of the more productive freshwater areas.

## ATLANTIC COAST

Off Canada's eastern shores one of the principal Board researches is on the stocks of groundfishes—those varieties which frequent the bottom areas and of which cod is the most common. These studies are carried out by workers from the stations at St. John's and St. Andrews, using vessels of various sizes from small inshore vessels of ten registered tons to the Board's newest 177-foot offshore research vessel, the *A. T. Cameron*, of about 1,000 registered tons. The work is of particular interest to the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries which is participated in by ten nations in addition to Canada, all of whom have an interest in the fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic and share in the research work or contribute statistics on the catch. The results of research into the effects of exploitation have led to the establishment of regulations for various areas which have been accepted by the nations participating in the Commission. These regulations are designed to assure a continued major supply from each area.

Of historical importance and still of considerable value is the salmon resource of the Atlantic. Through the efforts of a federal-provincial Salmon Co-ordinating Committee, all of the Atlantic Provinces and the Province of Quebec co-operate in a research program with the Board, and in a conservation program with the Conservation and Development Service of the federal Department of Fisheries. The objectives of these programs are to maintain and improve the stocks of salmon using the various river systems that still offer favourable environment for propagation, and to help offset the effects of civilization and industry which change the environment to the detriment of the salmon stocks.

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