

The most powerful enemy to fish, however, is modern fishing gear. Whenever vulnerable stocks are concerned, fishing may be limited as to time and place, kind of gear, size of net mesh, size of fish to be taken, etc. Intensity of fishing may be controlled by licence. Fishing areas are patrolled. Persons guilty of infractions of the regulations are prosecuted. Experts are currently looking for a way to reduce the waste of immature fish in the dragger fishery. Even the alewife is receiving special consideration. This fish is traditionally salted for the West Indies trade. Now it is also in demand for lobster bait and pet food so that fishing has been intensified. Relation of catch to stocks is being studied, especially since, like salmon, the fish are taken during spawning runs.

Culture and protection of available stocks are supplemented by constant exploration for new stocks. Large scallop beds recently found offshore now support a valuable fishery in the Maritime Provinces. Assurance of steady supplies was all that was needed to stabilize a strong market.

Canada also shares in international agreements to conserve certain fish stocks in extra-territorial waters,\* co-operating with the United States to protect fish populations in the Great Lakes and regulate catches of Pacific halibut and pink and sockeye salmon to the mutual advantage of both countries; joining with the United States and Japan to preserve and perpetuate stocks in the North Pacific; and entering into a formal agreement among all nations fishing the banks of the North Atlantic to prevent over-fishing in that area.

Agricultural potential of the land masses of the globe has been measured. Food potential of the sea is only known to be enormous—complete assessment cannot be made. The North Atlantic banks provide some of the world's best sea fishing. Canada is nearer to them than any other nation and so, as competition intensifies, will always have an advantage in real cost of operations. Canada also has a greater freshwater area than any other nation and these inland waters are more amenable to fish culture than the sea. They are increasingly exploited commercially as road-building programs open up the more remote lakes. They help Canada to hold her supply position on the world market and it seems certain that they will gradually become more important during the next decade.

## Section 2.—Governments and the Fisheries

The British North America Act gave the Federal Government full legislative jurisdiction for the coastal and the inland fisheries of Canada and under this Act laws are made for the protection, conservation and development of the fisheries throughout the country. However, the provinces 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 without duplication of staff either by federal or by provincial officers, according to arrangement.

Specifically, all tidal or sea fisheries except those of the Province of Quebec are administered by the federal Department of Fisheries, and 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 administer their freshwater species. In British Columbia, 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, Newfoundland and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Federal Government maintains complete control; administration of the fisheries of the National Park areas throughout Canada is the responsibility of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

\* See also pp. 632-633.