

The Economics Service engages in two related fields of responsibility: (1) to provide the government and the commercial fishing industry with current information, including statistical data, under the general heading of trade intelligence, and (2) to carry out studies and investigations in the primary fisheries and in the processing and distribution of fish products. In the first field, the Service works in close co-operation with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Foreign Trade Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce; in the second, there is similar collaboration with the Fisheries Research Board. In both, a necessary contribution is made to the formulation of policy for fisheries management, industrial development and market services.

In addition to these regular services, the Department assists the commercial fishing industry in several special ways. To promote efficient primary fishing operations and improve the marketing of fishery products, assistance is provided for the construction of druggers and longliners and for bait-freezing and storage facilities on the Atlantic Coast. The Fishermen's Indemnity Plan affords low-cost protection from losses of boats and lobster traps through storms and other causes. The Plan, in operation since 1953, meets a long-standing need on the part of small-scale individual fishermen. Vessels valued at from \$250 to \$10,000 may be insured with payment of a premium of 1 p.c. of the appraised value per annum. Up to Dec. 31, 1960, a total of 5,560 vessels with an appraised value of \$17,545,505 had been insured under the Plan. In response to considerable demand for a similar type of protection against unusual losses of fishing gear and equipment other than vessels, a first step was taken by the introduction of regulations giving a measure of compensation to lobster fishermen suffering abnormal losses of lobster traps, provided that a small premium has been paid by the fisherman. The premium rate varies in accordance with conditions in the different fishing areas but has been kept low. The Department also provides financial assistance to educational institutions agreeing to carry out specialized educational work among fishermen.

International Fisheries Conservation.—Conservation of the resources of the high seas can be effected only through regulation, and for this purpose international treaties have had to be made. Canada's obligations under such treaties with the United States and other countries are administered by the Department of Fisheries.

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 Convention, concerned with the preservation of the halibut stocks of the north Pacific and the Bering Sea, and the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Convention, concerned with the conservation and development of the sockeye and pink salmon of the Fraser River. Investigations carried out under the auspices of Commissions appointed under these conventions, subsequent regulation and limitation of catches, and the construction of salmon fishways appear to have been successful in arresting and reversing an earlier trend toward 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 a treaty signed in 1911, known as the (North Pacific) Sealing Convention, pelagic sealing was prohibited while the animals were migrating to and from the Pribilofs where most of them breed. This treaty had been signed by the United States, Canada, Russia and Japan, and was one of the earliest conventions on resources of the sea. In 1941 Japan abrogated the treaty and the following year Canada and the United States signed a Provisional Fur Seal Agreement under which Canada, in return for abstaining from pelagic sealing, received 20 p.c. of the annual catch, which was supervised by the United States. A conference to re-negotiate the original convention was begun in Washington in November 1955 and a new settlement was signed by the original four countries on Feb. 9, 1957.

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.