

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. 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, Britain, France, Italy, Norway, Portugal and the Federal Republic of Germany.

A step toward 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 is studying the northern Pacific fisheries and will determine the application of the treaty principles and promote and co-ordinate the necessary scientific studies.

The seventh, and latest, international fisheries agreement to 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 and 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 in some years off the coasts of Newfoundland and British Columbia.

The Fisheries Research Board.—The Fisheries Research Board of Canada is a research organization established by Act of Parliament for the purpose of conducting basic and applied research on Canada's living aquatic resources, their environment and their utilization. It is the only Canadian federal research agency in this broad field.