

The antecedents of the present Board go back to 1898 when a Board of Management of the Canadian Marine Biological Station, consisting of eight university professors and the Commissioner of Fisheries, was created in the Department of Marine and Fisheries. This early organization was formalized by Parliament in 1912 when by special Act it established the Biological Board of Canada. Later, in 1937, as the scope and the research responsibilities of the Board were increased the Act was revised and the Board renamed the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. The Act was revised again in 1952-53, further broadening its scope. Thus the present Fisheries Research Board is a lineal descendant of one of the oldest scientific organizations in Canada and one of the oldest government-supported research organizations under the supervision of an independent scientific board in North America.

By its Act, the Board is placed under the control of the Minister of Fisheries. The Board proper consists of a permanent Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor in Council and who is a member of the Public Service of Canada, and "not more than eighteen other members" holding honorary appointments from the Minister of Fisheries for five-year terms. The composition of the Board is further defined by the Act to require that "a majority of the members of the Board, not including the Chairman, shall be scientists, and the remaining members of the Board shall be representative of the Department [of Fisheries] and the fishing industry". The scientific members are drawn principally from universities and research foundations across Canada, to include specialists in disciplines related to the Board's work. The industry members are selected from among Canada's leading business men with an intimate knowledge of fishing and the fishing industry and the Department of Fisheries representative is usually a senior staff member in Ottawa. Board members have both advisory and executive functions. The advisory functions are delegated in the first instance to regional Advisory Committees who conduct on-the-spot regional reviews and report to the Board on the operations and scientific programs with a view to their improvement. The executive functions are delegated to an Executive Committee elected from Board members and approved by the Minister.

The operations of the Board are highly decentralized, there being only a small administrative, supervisory and publications staff in Ottawa. The Board carries out biological research through five centres across Canada, oceanographic research at two locations and technological studies at five others. The Board employs approximately 800 persons, of whom about 200 are scientists.

*Biology.*—The Biological program of the Board is designed to add to fundamental knowledge concerning Canada's vast living marine and freshwater resources. Included here are life history, population and behaviour studies leading to a sound scientific basis for the conservation and management of the commercially important fisheries including those for lobsters, crabs, shrimps, oysters, scallops, clams, marine mammals and other well known economically important aquatic species of animals, such as salmon, cod, herring and halibut, as well as some marine plants, such as phytoplankton and seaweeds. Also included are studies in fish and shellfish diseases, fish enemies including the ill effects of water pollution, and such basic studies as fish genetics, physiology and behaviour, these latter with a view to improving fish cultural and farming methods and toward improving fish farm and hatchery stocks. Besides these basic studies, new fishing grounds and new species for exploitation are sought and experiments in improving fishing methods are undertaken.

The biological work on the Atlantic Coast is conducted out of research stations located at St. Andrews, N.B., and St. John's, Nfld.; work on Arctic fisheries and on sea mammals is directed from a laboratory situated in Montreal, Que.; freshwater work is carried out from a station in London, Ont.; and work on the Pacific Coast is directed from research laboratories situated at Nanaimo, B.C. The Board operates 15 research vessels for its biological studies. These vary from small inshore and lake craft to large seagoing ships specially built for this purpose. The Board also acts as Canada's research agent for three international fisheries commissions and two international sea-mammal commissions to which Canada is party.