

Oceanography.—Oceanography includes the study of the marine (and freshwater) environment in which aquatic organisms live. This is under continuing study to further knowledge in primary and secondary productivity and the occurrence of ocean and freshwater life of importance to man. Encompassed here also are investigations into the distribution and physical and chemical characteristics of major ocean currents and the physical and biological structure of large ocean areas including the ocean bottom where concentrations of fish and other aquatic life occur. Ocean climate and ocean weather as they affect the distribution of fish and other living organisms as well as the vertical and horizontal distribution of nutrient matter and the cycle of energy and life in the seas are regularly observed and correlated. These studies, as well as special studies of interest to the Royal Canadian Navy, the Department of Transport and the international fishery commissions, are carried out by the Board's two oceanographic groups operating from Halifax, N.S., and Nanaimo, B.C., with strong ship support from the Navy and the Department of Transport.

Technology.—Technological studies in general are aimed at making the best possible use of Canada's fish catches. Investigations are conducted toward improving methods of preserving, processing, storing and distributing fish products, as well as of utilizing all parts of the fish including parts now wasted. These include developments in refrigeration and the use of antibiotics as fish preservatives, of improved refrigerated rail cars for fish distribution, improvements in canning, smoking and salting of fish as well as the development of new products such as protein concentrates (fish flour) and new uses such as the development of wieners for the utilization of abundant species that are now not used for food. Fundamental studies into the structure and composition of fish proteins, fish oils, fish hormones, the energy expenditure of migrating salmon and the nutrition of marine bacteria are also under way. In recent years handling and processing techniques have been investigated for the purpose of increasing over-all production efficiency and improving the product.

Technological investigations on the Atlantic Coast are carried out at Technological Stations situated at Halifax, N.S., and Grande Rivière, Que., and applied work for Newfoundland is under the supervision of a Technological Unit at St. John's. For inland areas there is a Technological Unit in London, Ont., and a Technological Station in Vancouver, B.C., undertakes investigation of Pacific Coast problems.

The Fisheries Prices Support Board.—Under the Fisheries Prices Support Act passed in 1944, this Board was set up in July 1947 to recommend to the Government price-support measures when severe price declines occur. The Board functions under the direction of the Minister of Fisheries and consists of a chairman, who is a senior officer of the Department of Fisheries, and five members chosen from private and co-operative firms in the industry, representative of the various fish-producing regions of Canada.

The Board has authority to buy quality fishery products under prescribed conditions and to dispose of them by sale or otherwise, or to pay to producers the difference between a price prescribed by the Board and the average price the product actually commands. The Board has no power to control prices nor has it any jurisdiction over operations in the fishing industry or the fish trade. Money necessary for dealings in fishery products is available to the Board from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to a maximum amount of \$25,000,000 but only on recommendation of the federal Treasury Board and authorization of the Governor in Council.

The Board maintains a small staff for administrative activities. The work is closely integrated with that of the Department's Economics Service and, where possible, services required by the Board are carried out by Department personnel. The Board has carried out field surveys on market conditions and possibilities and on factors affecting the income of fishermen in the various producing areas. The financial position of fishermen is kept under continuous review and recommendations are made to the Government on the basis of the findings. Special investigations are made when serious problems arise in particular areas.