

Subsection 1.—The Federal Government

The work of the Federal Government in the conservation, development and general regulation of the nation's coastal and freshwater fisheries is performed by three agencies under the Minister of Fisheries:—

- (1) The federal Department of Fisheries with headquarters at Ottawa, Ont., and regional offices under Regional Directors at Vancouver, B.C., Winnipeg, Man., Quebec, Que., Halifax, N.S., and St. John's, Nfld.
- (2) The Fisheries Research Board of Canada with headquarters at Ottawa and biological, technological and oceanographic stations across Canada.
- (3) The Fisheries Prices Support Board with headquarters at Ottawa.

A brief outline of the functions of each of these agencies is given in this Subsection.

The Department of Fisheries.—Canada's federal fisheries service began with Confederation in 1867 but it functioned as a branch of other departments until 1930, when legislation was enacted to establish a separate Department of Fisheries. The chief responsibilities of the Department are, in brief: to conserve and develop Canada's primary fishery resources; to encourage the development of the fishing industry in the national economy; to inspect fish products, establish standards of quality and promote the maximum utilization of the fishery resources; and to develop a proper public understanding of the resources and the industry. Services rendered by the Department have been revised and broadened with the times; increased attention has been paid in recent years to the development aspects of the fisheries. About 2,000 persons are employed by the Department, most of them in conservation, inspection, protection and administration duties in fishing areas across the country. The Ottawa headquarters staff numbers about 200.

A Departmental reorganization, initiated in 1965, brought about certain structural changes, including the division of the former Conservation and Development Service into two separate Services—the Conservation and Protection Service, concerned mainly with administration of programs for protection of fish stocks and enforcement of regulations under the Fisheries Act and other legislation, and the Resource Development Service, responsible for developing programs to preserve and extend fish stocks through the application of scientific and technical knowledge. The importance of Canada's participation in international commissions and agreements respecting fisheries was reflected in the designation of an Assistant Deputy Minister to assume responsibility for international and jurisdictional affairs, and the creation of an International Fisheries Service. Another Assistant Deputy Minister is responsible for all services engaged in the day-to-day activities of the Department.

The Industrial Development Service, established in 1955, carries out a wide range of development programs to aid fishermen and the fishing industry. Projects undertaken either on its own or jointly with provincial agencies are designed to test and demonstrate technological innovations for improvement of catching, processing or distribution of fish and of fishery products. The Economics Service has two Branches—the Economics Intelligence and Research Branch provides the Government and the commercial fishing industry with current information under the general heading of trade intelligence, and the Planning and Policy Analysis Branch carries out studies and investigations in the primary fisheries and in the processing and distribution of fish products. The Inspection Service is responsible for the inspection of fish and fish products to ensure the maintenance of quality standards and controls. Field officers are regularly stationed at major fish-processing centres and 17 permanent or mobile fish inspection laboratories are operated in Atlantic, inland and Pacific fishing areas. A Special Programs Service, established in 1965, administers programs for economic aid to fishermen and the fishing industry, including the Fishermen's Indemnity Plan, the Newfoundland Bait Service and the Salt Assistance Plan. Periodic requests are received for assistance to compensate for storm damage to fishing gear and in 1965 special assistance was provided to inshore fishermen affected by poor returns.