

The Information and Consumer Service is responsible for informing the fishing industry, fishermen and the general public on activities of the Department through the distribution across the country of printed material, films and filmstrips, and radio and television material. The Consumer Branch of the Service operates test kitchens in major population centres and carries out demonstrations, lectures and publicity programs to promote the consumption of fishery products.

*International Fisheries Conservation.*—Cognizant of the problems of conservation in fisheries exploited on the high seas, Canada has long been a leading proponent of and participant in international conferences, conventions and treaties with other countries involved in fisheries. The federal Department of Fisheries assumes a major responsibility for the negotiation, revision and implementation of international fisheries treaties on behalf of the Government of Canada. Canada is now a party to seven international fisheries conventions:—

- (1) the Convention between Canada and the United States for the preservation of the halibut fishery of the northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea;
- (2) the Convention between Canada and the United States for the protection, preservation and extension of the sockeye and pink salmon fisheries in the Fraser River system;
- (3) the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean between Canada, Japan and the United States;
- (4) the Interim Convention on Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals between Canada, Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States;
- (5) the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries;
- (6) the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between Canada and the United States; and
- (7) the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

The federal Department of Fisheries is represented on each of these Commissions by one of its senior officers.

The first international agreement contracted by Canada as an independent nation was a treaty negotiated with the United States in 1923 for the protection of halibut stocks of the Pacific Ocean. An international commission established under that treaty was given broader regulatory powers in subsequent conventions, most recently in 1953 when its name was changed to the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission has achieved much success toward rehabilitation of depleted salmon stocks in the Fraser River of British Columbia. Discussions were held in 1965 and 1966 between representatives of Canada and the United States to consider revision of the 1956 protocol which brought pink salmon of the convention area within the scope of the Commission's activities. Negotiations also took place during the same period in an endeavour to reach agreement on problems arising from the intermingling of salmon bound for rivers of northern British Columbia and southeastern Alaska.

Protection of the high seas fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean is the objective of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission established under a convention ratified in 1953 by Canada, Japan and the United States. The Commission conducts co-ordinated scientific research programs and recommends conservation measures to be undertaken by the contracting parties.

Fur seal stocks of the North Pacific and its adjacent seas are protected by the Interim Convention on Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals which was ratified in 1957 by Canada, Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States, and amended by a protocol in 1964. This convention was preceded by an international treaty signed in 1911 which prohibited the killing of fur seals at sea—a measure which, aided by careful management programs, made possible the restoration of depleted seal herds. At the present time, under the terms of the convention, Canada and Japan each receives annually 15 p.c. of the seal skins taken on the United States-controlled Pribilof Islands, and 1,500 skins from the harvest of the Commander and Robben Islands which are under control of the Soviet Union.