

10.2 Fisheries

The federal government has full legislative jurisdiction over the coastal and inland fisheries of Canada and all laws for the protection, conservation and development of these fisheries resources are enacted by Parliament. The management of fisheries is, however, shared with provincial governments to which certain administrative responsibilities have been delegated.

The federal Department of the Environment through its Fisheries and Marine Service, exercises responsibility for the management of all fisheries, both marine and freshwater, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. In Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the management of all fisheries is conducted by the provincial governments. In Quebec, the provincial government manages both marine and freshwater fisheries but the inspection of fish and fishery products produced for sale outside the province is carried out by the federal Department of the Environment, as it is in all other provinces. In British Columbia, the fisheries for marine and anadromous (fish that migrate to the sea from fresh water) species are managed by the Department of the Environment but the provincial government manages its freshwater fisheries. In the national parks the fisheries are managed by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment.

In most instances, licences for sport fishing are distributed by the respective provincial governments which retain all revenues so collected. Sport fishing licences in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories are issued by the federal Department of the Environment.

The mutual interest of federal and provincial governments in fisheries problems is recognized in the undertaking of joint studies and programs, frequently on a regional basis. Regional committees have been established in recent years for periodic discussion. Four groups have evolved: the Federal-Provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee (consisting of representatives from the federal government and from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec); the Federal-Provincial Freshwater Fisheries Committee (representatives from the federal government and Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan); the Federal-Provincial Ontario Fisheries Committee; and the Federal-Provincial British Columbia Fisheries Committee. Sub-committees make recommendations for industrial development, research and marketing problems. The main committee in each case co-ordinates, where practicable, all activities in the respective fields of responsibility of its members and suggests means of carrying out fisheries programs and projects of common concern. These include the development of methods and techniques in the catching of fish and of shore and plant facilities, and studies of the economics of fisheries to ensure that any proposed program of development is soundly based.

10.2.1 Federal government activities

The work of the federal government in the conservation, development and general regulation of the nation's coastal and freshwater fisheries is performed by the Fisheries and Marine Service which incorporates the scientific staff and establishments formerly administered by the Fisheries Research Board.

The Fisheries and Marine Service. Canada's Fisheries and Marine Service, a major component of the federal Department of the Environment, undertakes a broad range of responsibilities and activities related to the aquatic environment and the living resources of ocean and inland waters. These include: management of Canada's ocean and inland fisheries; hydrographic surveying and charting of navigable coastal and inland waters; administration of small craft harbours; fisheries and oceanographic research contributing to the understanding, management and optimum utilization of renewable aquatic resources and marine waters; environmental impact studies affecting coastal and inland waters and research in support of international agreements relating to fisheries management and marine environmental quality.

Jurisdiction over fisheries is exclusively federal under the British North America Act, 1867, although administrative responsibilities have been delegated over the years to some provinces.

Functions of the Fisheries and Marine Service are grouped under two major units: Fisheries Management, and Ocean and Aquatic Affairs, each headed by an Assistant Deputy Minister reporting to a Senior Assistant Deputy Minister. Co-ordinated by a small corps of