

Off the Pacific Coast, in addition to the valuable salmon catch, fishermen take great quantities of herring and halibut as well as soles, grey cod, lingcod, crabs and oysters.

During the past decade Canadians have developed a new appreciation of these vast fisheries resources available in the waters in and around Canada. More people are writing and reading and talking about fish and asking questions about how to buy and cook it. New interest is being shown in conservation measures designed to maintain a continuing yield of salmon, halibut, lobster and other heavily fished species, and the consumption of fish products has been going up, slowly but surely.

This increased attention being focussed on Canada's fisheries resources has developed mainly as a result of post-war changes in the world food-supply picture. The production of animal fats and proteins from sources other than the sea has not kept pace with increasing world populations. Nations that see no hope of increasing the production of protein food from their limited land areas have turned to the sea—the world's greatest storehouse of raw materials. Special agencies have been set up under the United Nations to help other countries develop the sea fisheries off their own shores. Canada, through the Colombo Plan, has contributed substantially towards the establishment of a fishing industry in Southeast Asia.

Other countries having limited sea fronts are sending their vessels thousands of miles across the ocean to share in the fishing grounds of the high seas. And Canadians have watched with concern as increasing numbers of these vessels fill their holds on the rich fishing grounds a few miles off Canadian shores. Their concern has been heightened by the belief expressed that the same pressure for food supplies from the sea may exist in Canada one hundred years from now. Alert to this possibility, both the commercial fishing industry and government agencies have initiated steps to develop the resources to the fullest extent. The industry has invested new capital in modern boats and gear. More fish are being caught and new products are being devised so that greater utilization of all species can be effected.

As a result of government activity there is now more fisheries legislation on the statute books than at any time in Canadian history. Of major importance in this respect are the bilateral and multilateral treaties worked out with other countries for the conservation and development of high seas fisheries off Canada's Atlantic and Pacific Coasts as well as those of the inland Great Lakes.

These are some of the factors that have given impetus to the ascendancy of fisheries in the national scene. Of course there are others—geographical and historical—which have long influenced the growth of Canada's fisheries.

It is climate that largely determines the life picture in water as in air. Fish are very much like land animals. They have their own preference in food and surroundings. They tend to congregate in the regions where their particular food is most plentiful and the climate is agreeable. Food is undoubtedly the most important factor and food is dependent on sunlight, dissolved chemicals and temperature for its growth and on the ocean currents for its location.

The sardines, herring and many other similar forms of fish feed entirely on plankton. Some salmon find sustenance on the shrimp forms, others are fish-eating and the cod are almost entirely flesh eaters. All of these are completely dependent on the first link in the chain of "sea-food"—the plankton—plenitude of which determines the number of fish that any part of the sea will support. The great