

A step towards international action in regulating the high seas fisheries of the northern Pacific Ocean was achieved in December 1951, when Canada, the United States and Japan conferred at Tokyo and reached an agreement on fisheries problems. The resulting convention was ratified by the three contracting governments and instruments of ratification were deposited at Tokyo in June 1953. The treaty is known as the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean and aims at providing the maximum sustained yield of the fishery resources of the northern Pacific non-territorial waters with each of the parties assuming obligations to encourage conservation measures. The Commission established under this Convention will study the northern Pacific fisheries, determine the application of the treaty principles and will promote and co-ordinate the scientific studies necessary for ascertaining conservation programs. Temporary headquarters of the Commission is at Vancouver, B.C.

Canada is a member of the International Whaling Commission and is obligated to collect biological data on whales caught by Canadian vessels. Whaling operations are conducted off the Newfoundland and British Columbia coasts.

Subsection 2.—The Provincial Governments*

An outline of the work undertaken by each of the provincial governments in connection with administration of commercial and game fisheries is given in the following paragraphs.

Newfoundland.—The union of Newfoundland with Canada on Mar. 31, 1949, brought about a transfer of some responsibilities in fisheries administration. The Newfoundland Fisheries Board remained the agency of government in the supervision of salt-codfish marketing, but fish and plant inspection, operation of bait depots, etc., became the concern of the Federal Department of Fisheries. The Board, formerly responsible to the Government of Newfoundland through the Commissioner for Natural Resources, became responsible to the Minister of Fisheries for Canada.

The Provincial Government is concerned mainly with improvement and development in fishing and production methods and has conducted experiments in long-lining and deep-water trawling, in the construction of multi-purpose fishing craft and in the exploration of potential fishing grounds. Steps are being taken to secure more efficient use of fisheries salt. Loans have been made available to processors for the establishment or development of fishing fleets and processing plants, and to fishermen for the construction and purchase of modern vessels capable of a greater variety of fishing operations and larger production.

In 1951, the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland established the Newfoundland Fisheries Development Committee, consisting of representatives of fishermen, processors and exporters, and of both Governments. The objective of this Committee is to establish the role of each sector of the industry and each government, jointly or severally, in the organization and development of the fisheries. Action has been taken by both Governments in certain matters considered as necessary preliminaries to an over-all program, such as an economic and sociological survey of fishing settlements and the encouragement of the use of community rather than individual stages and rooms by shore fishermen.

* Prepared by the respective provincial departments responsible for fisheries administration.