

### 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; 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. Co-ordinated by a small corps of senior staff officers at headquarters in Ottawa, the Service carries on most of its programs at regional and field locations from coast to coast. Regional headquarters for Fisheries Management are located at Vancouver, BC; Winnipeg, Man.; Quebec, Que.; Halifax, NS; and St. John's, Nfld.; and for Ocean and Aquatic Affairs at Victoria, BC; Burlington, Ont.; and Dartmouth, NS. Research institutes and laboratories are located at a number of centres across Canada.

In addition, several appointed public corporations and boards are involved in activities closely aligned with those of the Fisheries and Marine Service including the Fisheries Prices Support Board, the Canadian Saltfish Corporation and the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

**International fisheries.** Many of the deleterious effects of man on his aquatic resources are outgrowths of historical practice, insufficient knowledge, multiple uses of water, social and economic conditions, and national and international competition. Problems under national control are corrected as conditions warrant but many resources are shared with other nations and must be managed jointly.

Canada co-operates with many other nations in obtaining scientific data and formulating management proposals required to ensure the rational development and conservation of fisheries of common concern through membership in nine international fisheries commissions and one international council. These international organizations are established under the terms of formal conventions and assume responsibility for the investigation of specific living marine resources in the defined areas to which the terms of the respective conventions apply. Canadian representatives on these international bodies are appointed by Order in Council and include officials of the Department of the Environment and members of the fishing industry. Canada is a party to the following: the *Convention between Canada and the United States of America for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea*; the *Convention between Canada and the United States of America for the Protection, Preservation and Extension of the Sockeye Salmon Fisheries in the Fraser River System* (pink salmon added subsequently by protocol); the *International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean*; the *Interim Convention on Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals*; the *International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries*; the *Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between Canada and the United States of America*; the *International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling*; the *Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica for the Establishment of an Inter-America Tropical Tuna Commission*; the *International Council for the Exploration of the Sea*; and the *International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas*.

As evidence of its support for international consultation and co-operation in fisheries, Canada maintains active membership in the Committee of Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in the Codex Alimentarius Commission which is concerned with world food quality standards.

In addition to co-operating with other nations to conserve high-seas fisheries resources