
for an eventual international agreement in this area. Canada was also holding discussions with the United States looking to a bilateral agreement on weather modification activities having potential transboundary effects.

At the regional level, Canada was involved in the negotiation in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) of an "Action Proposal on Transfrontier Pollution". This set out a number of principles recommended by the organization to guide members in the formulation of their environmental policies.

Legal questions often play an important part in environmental issues between Canada and the U.S., particularly those involving boundary waters which are governed by the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. Discussions with United States officials took place during 1974 concerning the implementation of the 1972 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. This was an attempt by the two countries to meet their mutual obligations under Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty not to pollute boundary waters or waters flowing across the boundary to the injury of health or property on the other side. Discussions with U.S. officials concerning the Garrison Diversion irrigation project in North Dakota were also aimed at ensuring that this obligation under Article IV would be met with regard to the Souris and Red Rivers in Manitoba. The two were to receive return flows from the project if it was completed according to the agreed plans.

Legal questions also arise in the context of the International Joint Commission, which was created by the Boundary Waters Treaty. In June 1974 the British Columbia government filed a request with the IJC seeking to reopen the Commission's 1942 Order of Approval authorizing the City of Seattle to raise the height of the Ross Dam in the State of Washington. This would result in further flooding of the Skagit River Valley in B.C. This request raised several complex legal

issues which it was thought might have to be resolved in the Commission.

An important environmental issue involving legal questions not related to the Boundary Waters Treaty was that of the anticipated increase in tanker traffic off the west coast between Valdez, Alaska, the terminus of the Trans-Alaska pipeline, and the American refineries in Puget Sound. One aspect of the problem being discussed by members of the Department with American officials concerned liability and compensation principles and procedures which would be applicable in case of future oil spills.

International fisheries

In 1974 the Department of External Affairs pursued its active association with the Department of the Environment in a wide range of negotiations and conferences relating to international fisheries. These included negotiations with the United States on developing equitable arrangements for the salmon resources of the Pacific Coast, resulting in the extension of the Canada-United States Reciprocal Fisheries Agreement for another year. In addition, the Department participated in meetings of international commissions regulating fisheries and the conservation of marine mammals on both coasts such as the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) and the International Whaling Commission. Bilateral discussions were held on various fisheries matters that arose during the year involving countries whose fishing fleets operated off the Canadian coast. For example, in November 1974 officials of Canada and the U.S.S.R. met to arrange for the settlement of claims by Canadian lobster fishermen whose gear had been destroyed by the operations of the Soviet fishing fleet off the east coast.