

"Every whale is different. We don't think of the whale as a chunk of meat when we're chasing it. I've got respect for them. You even get to the point that when you get them, you pity them. But that's not what you're out there for, so you have to get that off your mind."

The Fisheries Service of the Department of the Environment conceives the ban as being for a long, indefinite period though not necessarily permanent.

Dr. D. E. Sergeant, a Canadian biologist specializing in marine mammals, has suggested that the preservation of the great beasts may in time acquire a new necessity — at present whale meat is largely used for pet foods and seldom eaten by man, but this could change. "If the world meat demands grow," Dr. Sergeant said, "whale will be important."

Biologists and conservationists agree that if the present rate of slaughter continues, there will be few whales for any purpose within a relatively

short time. The Canadian government has in the last two years supported strongly a proposal by the United States calling for an international ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling. The resolution was passed unanimously at the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972; but the International Whaling Commission, which was founded after World War II with the purpose of controlling the slaughter of whales and which is the only authoritative body in terms of enforcement, rejected it. Dr. William Sprules, Canada's representative on the Commission, spoke strongly in favor of the moratorium and said that although Canada is no longer engaged in whaling, it will continue to be a Commission member and will continue to sponsor research on whales. He said that the moratorium is both a "biological and a financial" necessity. "Whales are unique;" he said, "if we err we must always err on the side of the whales."

