

Fisheries

In no field of civil activity has co-operation between our two countries been more marked than in the matter of fisheries. Remarkable results have been achieved with respect to both conservation and research.

Through bilateral arrangements we have been able to rehabilitate two very great fish resources — first halibut and then sock-eye salmon — both of which were threatened with extinction.

Scientific regulations and firm controls exercised by both countries working together have paid many millions in dividends to the citizens of each.

Only last week Canada and the United States signed a convention at Ottawa to bring pink salmon under the same international control.

In the realm, too, of civil defence activities we have developed a new and important field of close cooperation. For civil defence purposes the border between our two countries has been practically eliminated.

Boundary Waters

Again, one of the most important matters of immediate common concern is the problem of the development and sharing of our water resources in the Canadian and American Pacific Northwest.

Solution of this complex problem involves consideration of many diverse interests. Were it a matter merely for agreement between the two federal governments or merely a matter affecting the interests of the provinces and states concerned, it might be susceptible of comparatively simple solution.

But the issue is much more complicated than that. There exist in addition to national and state interests many municipal interests, private and public power development interests, industrial interests, problems of flood control, of wild-life, and of fisheries. In addition there exists in both countries the conflict for priorities of power use among public utilities, industry and agriculture. These many interests are not only individually different. They are very frequently conflicting. And I might observe in that connection that conflicts of interest are not always divided by the border line. In many cases they exist between different groups on the same side of the border.

But all these problems will be solved and will be satisfactorily solved. They will be solved by gathering the facts, studying the effect and implication of these facts, and by informed discussions in which both countries or their agencies participate. That is the time honored-way in which we have in the past settled all the difficulties which have arisen between us.