

Living Resources

[SUCH AS FISH AND BIVALVES]

THE TALE OF THE FISHERIES is less concerned with the need for exploitation than with the need for conservation. The fishing crisis is already here and the need for rules is acute. Dr. A. W. H. Needler, Canada's Deputy Representative who helped set up the Caracas Conference, has noted that modern distant-water factory fleets now fish with such concentrated fury that old fishing grounds are depleted in a single season. The fleets deplete and move on, endangering the coastal fisheries that depend on resources close at hand to survive.

There are four kinds of seafood involved:

Sedentary species: "organisms which at the harvestable stage either are immobile . . . or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed." It was agreed in Geneva in 1958 that coastal states have "exclusive, sovereign," rights over the oysters, crabs, mussels, lobsters, clams and other sedentary species on their continental shelves.

Anadromous species: fish such as salmon, which are born in lakes or rivers and which go to sea for a time before returning to their birthplaces to spawn. Canada has proposed that the state in which they were born should have the sole responsibility for protecting them and the exclusive right to catch them.

Coastal species: free-swimming fish inhabiting the nutrient-rich areas next to the coast. Since this species depends on the coastal land for food, Canada has proposed that the coastal states should control their management but should have only a "preferential" right in their exploitation.

Wide-ranging pelagic species: tuna and whales and other creatures that travel far and wide. Canada has proposed that these should become an international responsibility.

E. J. Hughes, RCA, *Beach at Savary Island, BC*, 1952, 20x24, National Gallery of Canada.

