

One source in Ottawa says the management of the fishing zone will eventually be located in Eastern Canada. The big fight will come when both Newfoundland and Nova Scotia lobby for it.

Ottawa is trying to hire up to 100 new people for fisheries management. So many newcomers will affect the quality of Ottawa's work until they gain experience.

The ideal candidate, says Dr. Dickie, would be someone trained in biology and mathematics with some experience in the fishing industry and fishing communities. Such a broad range of qualifications inevitably narrows the field.

Policing questioned

This is already producing public controversy. Can Canada police its new territory? The problem was underlined last month when three Cuban fishing vessels were caught inside the 12-mile limit.

Fishermen who have often been frustrated by the presence of foreign fleets are sceptical of Canada's enforcement capacity and Vice-Admiral Douglas Boyle, the commander of Maritime Command, has hinted that the navy may not always be available for patrol work.

Ottawa is more sanguine. All foreign fishing ships will be licensed, say officials, and the government will know where and when they will be fishing. Canada will also have the power to inspect their catches and put fisheries officers aboard.

The power to charge violators in court and, more important, the power to withdraw licences — from countries as well as individual ships — will be a powerful weapon, they say.

The 200-mile fishing limit is only the beginning of Canada's new offshore activity. When the Law of the Sea Conference reaches agreement, the fishing zone will become a 200-mile economic zone, bringing with it even more responsibility for sound management.

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