

both countries' pollution abatement programmes under the agreement, of monitoring progress toward achieving the water quality objectives contained in the agreement, and of recommending to governments improvements in programmes, regulations and objectives. Moreover, the Commission has the power to make public at its discretion any of its findings and recommendations.

An informal joint scientific research project between Canada and the United States, known as the International Field Year for the Great Lakes, began on April 1 with a view to improving the scientific basis for management of the Great Lakes water resources. Negotiations were initiated during the year to formalize this project under a bilateral governmental agreement.

West Coast tankers

During 1972, Canada continued to make known to the United States its serious concern about the proposal to bring Alaskan oil by tanker along the coast of British Columbia into the confined waters of the Juan de Fuca Strait to the United States refineries in Puget Sound. A number of notes on the subject were delivered to the U.S. authorities, including the text of the unanimous resolution of the House of Commons of June 9th, together with the SSEA's statement during the debate on this question. A meeting was held in Washington on July 10 between the Honourable Jack Davis, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Russell Train, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, at which both agreed, *inter alia*, on the desirability of pursuing joint water quality research activities in the boundary areas of the West Coast, and on the need for developing appropriate legal procedures for dealing with Canada-United States environmental disputes and claims.

Toward the end of the year, it became clear that the U.S. Administration continued to favour the trans-Alaska pipeline and the transport of oil from the port of Valdez to markets in the lower 48 states. It was not clear, however, whether consideration was being given to alternative arrangements for bringing the oil into Puget Sound *via* the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

A number of issues related to the transportation of oil by tanker in the vicinity of the Canadian coastline were discussed by officials of the two countries. These included an oil pollution contingency plan for the West Coast; arrangements for improving the navigation and communications systems in the waters adjacent to the border area; the legal problem of liability and compensation in the event of an oil spill; and co-operation on environmental protection of the West Coast.

The Canadian attitude toward the trans-Alaska pipeline, as expressed on several occasions by the SSEA, was that the pipeline is a matter of internal U.S. jurisdiction and Canada has no say in the matter. The problem that concerns Canada is whether the oil would pose a pollution threat to this country after it leaves Alaska. Canada continued to urge that some other destination be found than the refineries in the confined waters of Puget Sound where, as was demonstrated during 1972, an oil spill will inevitably, through the action of tides and the prevailing winds, affect the Canadian shore-line.

Other concerns

On August 31, 1972, the International Joint Commission submitted its report to governments on trans-boundary air pollution in the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers area. This report was the subject of a series of Canada-United States meetings initiated later in 1972. On September 21, the two governments exchanged notes establishing the Canada-United States Committee on Water Quality in the St. John River Basin, and submitted a related reference to the International Joint Commission.

Other inland environmental matters which were discussed with the U.S. authorities were: the pollution of the St. Croix River flowing into New Brunswick, and the possible flooding of the Skagit Valley in British Columbia; the impact of North Dakota's Garrison Diversion irrigation project on the quality of the Souris River entering Manitoba; and the United States proposals regarding flood control measures on the Pembina River (flooding from which affects Manitoba).