

Ottawa hosts preparatory conference on the future of ICNAF

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Don Jamieson, has announced that Canada will host an international conference in Ottawa, from March 14 to 25, to consider the development of a framework for future multilateral co-operation, including appropriate institutional arrangements, to replace the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF).

This preparatory conference intends to draft provisions for a new treaty and to work out new arrangements for the Northwest Atlantic area, which would be submitted for adoption to a subsequent diplomatic conference to be held later in 1977.

Mr. Jamieson pointed out that, as an interim measure, ICNAF had adopted amendments to the ICNAF convention which exclude waters within 200-mile national fishery limits from the management authority of the Commission, while allowing the Commission, at the request of coastal state members of ICNAF, to provide advice on the scientific basis for management of fisheries within the 200-mile zones. The meeting in March and the subsequent diplomatic conference are expected to review the question of multilateral co-operation in the Northwest Atlantic area and to establish new arrangements that take into account the need for international management of fisheries in the area beyond and immediately adjacent to the new 200-mile zones, and the need for scientific co-operation in the area as a whole.

Consumer price index

The all-items consumer price index (1971=100) advanced 0.9 per cent to 154.0 in January from 152.7 in December. This latest increase, the largest since late 1975, was mainly due to a sharp rise in the food index and to higher charges for shelter and selected household operation items. While the food index increased 1.2 per cent, the index for all items excluding food rose by 0.7 per cent. From January 1976 to January 1977, the total CPI advanced 6.1 per cent.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the

all-items CPI advanced 0.9 per cent from December to January. This included a 1.4 percent rise in the food index and a 0.7 percent increase in the index for all items excluding food.

In January, the current annual rate of change in the CPI, based on the seasonally-adjusted movement in the latest three-month period, was 7.3 per cent.

New navigational aid

A highly advanced marine radio-navigation system, capable of sending radio pulses more than 1,000 miles out to sea from a 625-foot antenna, went on the air last month. Known as Loran C, the \$3-million system manned by the Canadian Coast Guard's Western Region is one of a series of electronic navigational chains on the Pacific Coast.

A formal agreement, concluded between the Canadian and United States governments last year, provided for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the Loran C transmitting station and its associated monitor-control station in British Columbia.

Owing to its precision and reliability, the system, when it is fully operational in April, will have distinct advantages for all ships from Seattle to Alaska sailing up to about 1,000 miles off the coast of British Columbia.

The Loran C installations will also open up new opportunities for oil and mineral seabed exploration, search and rescue, fisheries management and marine sciences. It will also help in defining the 200-mile limit and identification of undersea wrecks and hazards.

The Canadian Loran C chain on the West Coast has a master station located at Williams Lake, manned by 11 specialists.

Two other subsidiary stations, operated by the U.S. Coast Guard, will work in co-operation with the Williams Lake facility. One is located at George, in Washington State and the other at Shoal Cove in southern Alaska.

How it works

The three stations will send out signals to be received by special radio units aboard any vessel which has the equipment, from giant freighters to

pleasure craft. By cross-checking digital broadcast positions with those marked on special corresponding grid charts on the ship, a precise position can be obtained, with better than 95 percent accuracy, 24 hours a day.

Moreover, ships can return to within 50 yards of the same spot again and again. This is especially valuable to fishermen in relocating wrecks or navigational hazards or for returning to prime fishing areas.

Loran C is a refined version of the Loran A system developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and implemented by the U.S. Coast Guard to fulfil wartime requirements in the 1940s. Loran A sets are now on many vessels and some can use both Loran A and Loran C systems.

From the time the new aid goes on the air until the end of April, calibration and adjustment of instruments will be done by positioning test vessels at various points along the coast and comparing their positions with readings given by satellite. U.S. Coast Guard specialists will also be at Williams Lake during this period for synchronization tests with their own equipment.

B.C.'s core curriculum

Starting in September 1977 a core curriculum, i.e. "material which *must* be learned", will be taught in schools in British Columbia. The goals of this curriculum (outlined in the B.C. booklet *What Should our Children learn?*) will govern the preparation of subject content, assessment program and upgrading of teacher education.

Curriculum guides are being expanded and curriculum development in specific subjects, particularly for secondary schools, is under way. These guides will set forth the recommended curriculum ("materials which should be learned"). As well, B.C. students will have local options, "material which may be learned."

But before the goals are finally determined, B.C. Minister of Education, Pat McGeer hopes that local trustees, teachers and others will discuss and debate the goals enumerated in the booklet so that some kind of consensus may be reached on the whole matter of curriculum.