



# PRESS RELEASE

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TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1954.

The International North Pacific Fisheries Commission today made public a report outlining the roles to be played by Canada, the United States and Japan in dealing with fisheries conservation problems in the North Pacific Ocean.

The report covers the first meeting of the Commission, which was held in Washington, D.C., last February. Chairman of the Commission is Dr. Stewart Bates, Deputy Minister of Fisheries of Canada.

The report states that the concept of the freedom of the high seas, as far as fisheries is concerned, is to be maintained, but the tripartite agreement supports the principle that where a fishery has been developed and is under conservation by one or more parties, other countries which have not contributed to its development might be asked to abstain from exercising their customary international rights to fish these resources as long as they continue to be fully utilized and under scientific study and regulation.

One of the chief responsibilities of the Commission will be to make scientific investigations into the fishery resources of the North Pacific for the above purposes. The Scientific Committee of the Commission met in Tokyo last month to work out a definite programme of joint study, and will report to the next meeting of the Commission, which will be held in British Columbia in October.

In his report as chairman, Dr. Bates also announced the appointment of Milton C. James as temporary executive director of the Commission. Mr. James, a former assistant director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, has been consultant to the Department of Fisheries of the State of Washington. He has had a long record of experience in fishery investigations in the United States and has served as a United States Commissioner on the International Pacific Halibut Fisheries Commission. He will take up his new post on August 1, and has agreed to serve the new Commission until it is organized sufficiently to allow the appointment of a permanent executive director. Temporary headquarters of the Commission have been established at the University of British Columbia at Vancouver.

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