

salmon, but those spawned in one tributary can be distinguished from those of another. The netters, who catch most of the salmon caught, supply the canneries. The Canadians and Americans stay in their own territorial waters, and in the case of the Juan de Fuca entrance to the Fraser, where salmon come through the waters of both, they divide the catch equally between them under the terms of the 1930 convention.

Trolling regulation presents more difficult problems. Between April and October, trollers drop ten to fifteen multi-hooked lines from each boat to catch undamaged salmon to sell whole to gourmet markets. Until the last five years they caught mostly coho and chinook salmon since other species heading for the spawning grounds would not take the bait. Now the trollers have lures that attract sockeye and pink as well. Since the trollers work offshore, they are more likely to catch immature fish and intermingled stocks from both countries' river systems.

Both netters and trollers from one country are likely to catch salmon native to a stream in the other. Canadians "intercept" American-spawned fish off the west coast of Vancouver Island and Americans catch Canadian-born fish in Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the waters off Alaska.

In 1971 the two countries began negotiating methods to fix the value of intercepted fish. In 1977 the extension of fishery jurisdictions by both countries to 200 miles offshore brought the question of the reciprocal access granted to trollers of both countries into focus and made the negotiations much more complex. At the UN Law of the Sea Conference, both nations accepted the concept that every country has the primary responsibility for managing and increasing the numbers of migratory fish born in its territory. Negotiators are now seeking arrangements to provide for a high degree of coordination in future enhancement programs as well as for current

interceptions. They are endeavouring to provide for cooperation in the conduct of fisheries for all species from Alaska to northern California. Both countries agree that a maximum possible increase in the number of salmon available is the proper goal. Both wish to begin new enhancement programs as soon as they can be assured that they will benefit from them.

Negotiations have been slow partly because some of the advisers from both countries are fishermen, who can meet only in the off-season. British Columbia, Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Indian groups from both countries are also represented.

At the conclusion of negotiations a new international salmon commission will probably be formed to coordinate research and data collection and to assure that management and enhancement policies are in accord with the desires of the two countries as expressed in a new treaty. In the past both countries have contributed to the maintenance and enhancement of Fraser salmon. Canada takes about 58 per cent of the Fraser sockeye run. It believes that future divisions of the catch should reflect the fact that it will have sole maintenance and enhancement responsibilities on the river, which is entirely in Canadian territory. A formula is also needed to ensure that in the matter of interceptions each nation can catch an amount of salmon commensurate with its own production.

Box Score

On March 29, 1979, the United States and Canada agreed on rules governing reciprocal access to their respective fishery zones off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, including quotas available to fishermen of one side fishing in the zone of the other.

The cast nets form ovals on the sea. Netting operations are relatively easy to regulate.

