

Under the former treaty, the Commission had power to limit or prohibit the incidental catch of halibut taken by vessels fishing for other species during the close season only. Additional power is now being given to the Commission so that it has the right also to regulate such incidental catch during the open season.

The first treaty limited the Commission's powers to regulate the fishery by a three-month close season and this was ineffective in stemming the decline. Evidence of the success of the Commission's work following the second revision of the Convention is shown in the increase in Canadian halibut landings. During the years that intervened between 1932 and 1952, the Canadian halibut fishery increased its total annual yield about four-fold - from 6,500,000 pounds to 24,500,000 pounds. The landed value of the 1952 Canadian catch, including livers and viscera, was about \$4,200,000 or 20 times the 1932 value.

The total Canadian and United States catch in 1952 from the areas under regulation was 62,282,000 pounds, the largest catch in 37 years.

When the Commission was first established evidence of over-fishing was apparent. Since that time it has regulated the areas to be fished, and changed the quota for areas as it seemed advisable at the time. The Commission established nursery areas where fishing was completely prohibited, and also set quotas for the entire fishery.

Present members of the Commission are Mr. George R. Clark, Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Ottawa; Mr. George Nickerson, Prince Rupert, B.C.; Mr. Milton C. James, Washington, D.C.; and Mr. Edward W. Allen, Seattle, Washington.

Dept. of Fisheries,  
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