

INFORMATION DIVISION . DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS . OTTAWA, CANADA

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(C.W.B. February 5, 1964)

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SPORT FISHING

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The recently-concluded Federal-Provincial Conference on Fisheries Development tackled a broad range of jurisdictional, administrative, research and educational problems.

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Under the British North America Act, the Federal Government has sole responsibility for the enactment of fishery regulations in coastal as well as inland waters. In many instances, enforcement of these laws has, by agreement, been undertaken by provincial authorities, mostly in the case of inland waters where sport fishing is also involved and where enforcement of fishery laws can conveniently be combined with enforcement of the provincial game laws.

The conference considered ways of improving the working arrangements between the federal and provincial governments to deal with fishery-management regulations. The desirability of achieving greater uniformity in regulatory provisions concerning similar provincial fishery-management problems was emphasized. The federal Minister of Fisheries agreed to hold meetings with interested provinces on this matter.

in historical comparisons, and were thought to be important economic indicators. All provinces were unanimous in support of the action of the Government of Canada to establish a 12-mile exclusive fishing zone measured from straight baselines from headland to headland and the inclusion of such waters as the Bay of Fundy, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait as Canadian territorial waters. It was the consensus that attempts should be made to reach

agreement with the countries involved, so as to gain international recognition for such action. The Minister of Fisheries explained that discussions were progressing with the United States. Similar discussions, he said, would be undertaken with France, which has treaty rights, and with other countries claiming historical fishing rights in the areas affected by Canadian action.

it was pointed out that further large-ship construction by the mejor fishing countries was unlikely, as profit-

well. The need was suggested for development of

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On the question of exploration with regard to various groundfish and pelagic species, the Atlantic Provinces expressed satisfaction with work already undertaken and advocated that it be continued and expanded. It was pointed out that the Fisheries Research Board had plans to expand studies of this nature, which would include such relatively unexploited species as tuna and mackerel shark.

Similarly, with regard to the Great Lakes, it was felt that not all populations of fish were being fully exploited, and emphasis was placed on the need for assistance in exploration and monitoring by the Federal Government to find out what was available and to keep track of stocks.

In the inland fisheries, there was general agreement that more precise information was needed about the productivity of lakes as a basis for sound management. An hatutatura management of the wood

The Atlantic Provinces presented views on the question of permitting trawlers of various sizes to fish within the 12-mile limit. Meetings to explore this subject had already been held with a number of provinces and further discussions were to be held. It was anticipated that policy would be established during 1964. The state of the s