

time, equipped with self-contained processing and freezing plants and sophisticated fish-detecting equipment, hunting hundreds and even thousands of miles from their home waters. These fleets are well known in the waters off our coasts.

But the end to expansion is in sight. In the foreseeable future, all major fish stocks useful to man will be exploited to the maximum these stocks can bear, or even beyond. With unrestricted competition for these scarce resources, overfishing and consequent reductions in yields would inevitably follow. Already in some of the world's most valuable fisheries, such as herring, the declines have set in. For some species of whale, overfishing has caused such a serious depletion that 50 years will be required to assure their restoration. In this light, there is an urgent need for establishment of management regimes to tailor fishing pressure to the capacity of the resources to regenerate themselves.

It is ironic that, if it had not been for the Second World War, these resources might have reached the depletion point even earlier. The six years that mankind devoted to the destruction of his own species gave a needed respite to the creatures of the sea, and they multiplied virtually undisturbed during that time.

For the coastal fisherman of the Maritimes or of British Columbia, dependent on the stocks that in turn depend upon his home waters, overfishing by others can spell the end of his livelihood. Only by applying management controls, such as quotas and seasonal limits -- for example, during spawning --, can the maximum yield be available each year to coastal fishermen and long-range ships alike.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty in preventing overfishing arises from the "freedom of the high seas" idea. If fishing vessels in increasing numbers can go wherever they please and harvest any stock to the limits of their capacity, two dangerous problems arise

- conservation becomes impossible, and
- coastal states with foreign fleets on their doorsteps are deprived of a resource on which they depend.

Canada is directly affected by both these problems. With fishing communities on both coasts, we must protect the fisherman's livelihood, as well as the resources on which he depends. Farther from home, proper conservation measures will have to be applied throughout the world, or there will not be enough fish left for