

On Canada's Pacific coast, a large share of the total fisheries research effort is devoted to rebuilding (fisheries people prefer the word "enhancing") stocks of Pacific salmon. Once so abundant that in spring Indian tribes caught their fill by stretching their nets across the river mouths, Pacific salmon have dwindled fast in this century, partly because of over-fishing but also because of the blocking, drying-out, paving-over, pollution and general destruction of the streams and rivers that are their bases of survival. Seven years ago the government of Canada joined forces with the province of British Columbia in a program to rebuild salmon stocks with sea-run trout to raise the levels to where they were at the turn of the century. The Salmonid Enhancement Program, as it is called, is a costly undertaking. The federal share alone will cost close to \$150 million over seven years. It calls for production of large quantities of hatchery-bred salmon and for the restoration of damaged salmon streams. Intensive

research is being focused on the effects on salmon habitats of logging, mining, hydroelectric development and other industries.

The scope of fisheries and aquatic research is extremely varied, covering studies in biology; ecology; population dynamics; distribution and migrations of fish marine mammals and shellfish; and the forecasting of fish stock abundance. Studies are also directed toward the quality control of fish catches and fishery products; the development and application of aquaculture techniques in salt and fresh water; the study of relationships among species; and the calculation of sustainable yields of fish and marine mammal stocks harvested in the commercial and recreational fisheries. Specialists also carry out social and economic analyses to assist in policy formulation for all significant aspects of fisheries use, potential and management.

Aquaculture experiments by researchers from St. Andrews Biological Station, New Brunswick.



A plankton haul is used as part of sockeye salmon research: Babine Lake, British Columbia.

Read out from water samples is recorded at Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, British Columbia.

