

AGREEMENT ON SALMON CONSERVATION: Agreement was reached October 25 by Canadian and United States delegates at a conference called to work out means for co-ordinating national and joint conservation programmes for pink and sockeye salmon of common concern in the Juan de Fuca-Fraser River area of the Pacific Coast. The conference agreed that this objective might best be achieved by expanding the authority of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission through amendment of the Sockeye Salmon Convention of 1930, thus permitting the Commission to investigate the pink salmon stocks of the Fraser River and regulate the fishery.

The Commission's objective would be to maintain the pink salmon stocks at the level of maximum sustainable productivity and to ensure insofar as practicable an equal division of the catch of pinks by Canadian and United States fishermen. The Commission would be empowered to begin regulation of the fishery immediately after the entering into force of the Agreement.

The International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, which was established in 1937, consists of three representatives each from Canada and the United States. It has had responsibility for the investigation and management of the sockeye salmon of the Fraser River system.

The agreement will provide for division of the catch and will increase the size of the Commission's Advisory Committee by adding one member from each country in order to give broader representation from the industry. The agreement also provides for a co-ordinated investigation by research agencies of the two governments and the Commission of pink salmon stocks which enter the waters described in the convention. It calls for a meeting in the seventh year after entry into force to review the results of this investigation and to determine what future arrangements concerning pink salmon conservation might be desirable. The agreement has been referred to the two governments for signature.

The conference also took note of the serious threat which off-shore net fishing poses to the conservation of both pink and sockeye salmon stocks and adopted a resolution calling this matter to the attention of the governments and recommending immediate action on their parts to solve the problem.

The conference was under the chairmanship of George R. Clark, Deputy Minister of Fisheries of Canada and head of the Canadian delegation. Vice-chairman was W.C. Herrington, of the Department of State, Washington, D.C., who headed the United States delegation. Representatives of the governments of both countries, the Department of Fisheries of the State of Washington, and of fishermen, fish processors and vessel owners from the State of Washington and British Columbia took part in the discussions.

ELECTRONIC BUOYS: Miniature floating radio stations are going to help Canadian and United States scientists study the currents of the Bay of Fundy.

The immediate results of the study will be to discover the drift of surface water so that fisheries scientists can determine the origin of herring stocks in the Bay. They hope eventually to be able to make long-range predictions of herring movements and abundance.

Scientists of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at its Biological Station, St. Andrews, N.B., the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institute are co-operating in the study, which is of great importance to the large sardine and herring industry of the two countries.

The Canadian scientists have set adrift three "transponding" drift buoys in the region of Trinity Ledges and Lurcher Shoals in southwestern Nova Scotia. They are allowed to drift in the Fundy currents for two weeks during which time they are mothered by the Federal Department of Fisheries vessel "Harengus". A Fish and Wildlife Service PBY aircraft will assist in spotting the buoys daily.

The pole-life buoys--20 feet long and six inches in diameter--are weighted so that only two feet of the buoy shows above water. To it is attached a 12-foot long ship antenna.

Inside the cylinder is a modern miracle of radio. It is a miniature transmitting station which not only transmits a signal twice a day to the "Harengus" but also will automatically answer the mother ship whenever it calls the drift buoy. The buoy transmitter sends a signal of 15 seconds duration on a frequency of 2,398 kilocycles.

The buoys are international orange in colour with white stripes. Plastic tags are attached asking the finder to return the buoys should they become lost. An appeal has also been made to mariners and fishermen asking them to report sightings of the buoys, giving the code number of the buoy, the time, date and position.

The experiments will be repeated each month in order to furnish the scientists with a precise measurement of the drift. This will augment the 300 drift bottles which are already floating in the Bay of Fundy with messages inside telling the finder that a reward awaits him for reporting the bottles and other information to the Biological Station.

The Bay of Fundy herring industry is very valuable to Canada's east coast fisheries, as well as to the New England States. Sardines--small herring--canned in the Maritimes had a market value in 1955 of \$2,960,000. The total landings of all herring by Canadian vessels in the Bay of Fundy amounted to 33,150,000 pounds with a landed value of \$528,000. Herring, other than sardines, is used for human consumption, fish meal, bait, and animal food. The scales are used in the making of pearl essence.