



The third session of the Law of the Sea Conference recently concluded in Geneva and a fourth session is scheduled for New York in March, 1976. One of the reasons for the strong Canadian interest in this Conference is concern over the future of the salmon, a fish which thrives in both Pacific and Atlantic waters and which may soon be in danger of extinction. The following article traces the life cycle of this extraordinary fish and also outlines some of the measures Canada thinks should be taken to preserve that cycle.

SALMON: A Need To Preserve

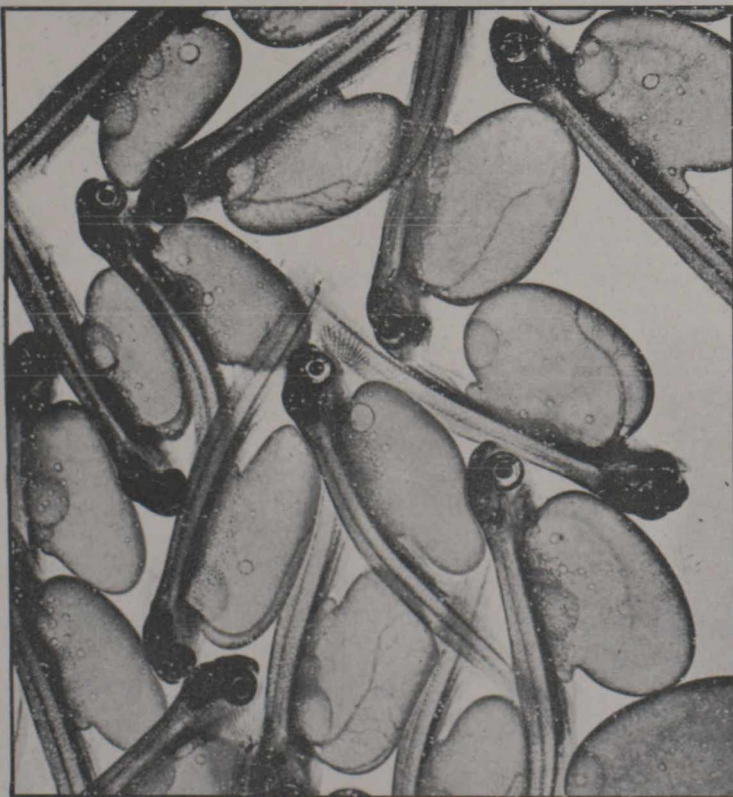
To suggest that salmon are an endangered species would certainly be misleading, yet it is true that, on a worldwide basis, their stocks are declining. As with all species of great natural abundance, there is a critical point of decline below which recovery becomes difficult if not impossible. To say that the Atlantic salmon are within sight of this critical point is no exaggeration. To suggest that high seas fisheries could push many stocks, if not the entire species, below the critical point of survival is certainly true.

Yet the challenge can be met, the decline arrested. Many new facts have been learned about the world's salmon resources over the past 30 years. For the first time, there is knowledge of the nature and pattern of their ocean movements. For the first time, there is understanding of the intimate hereditary relationship between a vast number of discrete local stocks and their precise freshwater environment. For the first time, the possibilities of rehabilitation and development of existing natural stocks have been

amply demonstrated. For the first time, there is a real prospect of restoring the runs to their original numbers and perhaps well beyond.

Canadians believe in the value of the salmon runs and their continuing potential, in the rightness of developing runs to the point of maximum sustained yield. Canadians believe that this is a practical objective and a responsibility they owe not only to themselves but to the world. It is a responsibility they are prepared to accept. They are already accepting the responsibility for control,

A highly magnified view of salmon eggs from which the fish with formed eyes and vertebrae have already emerged



Clusters of fry or little salmon just out of their eggs

