

Federal fisheries exhibit

Methods for controlling foreign fishing within Canada's new 200-mile zone were demonstrated at the World Fishing Exhibition which opened August 31 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Devoted to the theme "The 200-Mile Zone — New Era for Canada's Fisheries", Canada's exhibit on the Halifax waterfront included videotape, text and photographic displays on fisheries management, ocean research, marine pollution-control and Canada's role in developing a new law of the sea.

Throughout the eight-day exhibition the Halifax staff of the Fisheries and Marine Service International Surveillance Branch carried out its normal routine of tracking movements and fishing operations of vessels of the 18 countries licensed to fish in Canada's 200-mile northwest Atlantic zone.

A computerized system, when linked to terminals in St. John's, Vancouver and Ottawa, plays a vital role in monitoring northwest Atlantic fisheries in the developing new era of the 200-mile limit. For example, an inspection officer sighting a vessel of which he has only the hull colour and the side number can obtain through the computer full information on its identification — its movements, what species it is fishing, its catch and effort quotas, date of entry into Canadian waters, expected data of departure and other pertinent details.

Other features of the exhibit included models of two Coast Guard vessels and an oceanographic research device, known as Batfish. The exhibit was sponsored by Fisheries and Environment Canada in conjunction with the Department of External Affairs and Transport Canada.

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Potential energy crop

A native North American plant is waiting in obscurity for the day a worsening energy supply could bring it into commercial prominence. For several years, researchers at Agriculture Canada's Morden, Manitoba Research Station have been studying the Jerusalem artichoke, preparing for the time when commercial production is feasible.

The Jerusalem artichoke, which bears no resemblance or relation to the thistle-like globe artichoke plant, is a member of the sunflower family. Unlike the cultivated sunflower, it produces numerous underground tubers (once used as food by Indians and early settlers), that can be harvested in autumn or left in the ground to be dug in the spring.

Because of the high carbohydrate content, the tubers' greatest potential may be as a source of ethanol for a gasoline substitute. Scientists in many countries are studying plants, such as cassava and poplar trees, for potential sources of ethanol. Canadian researchers, Drs. B.B.

Chubey and D.G. Dorrell believe Jerusalem artichoke, with few natural enemies, its high carbohydrate content, high yields and ease of cultivation, has great potential.

Jerusalem artichoke has a high fructose content — a sugar sweeter than the common, crystalline table sugar. Fructose is difficult to crystalize, but it could be marketed in a liquid state to compete with high fructose corn syrups.

"Canada now imports most of the high fructose corn syrups used by food processors," Dr. Dorrell says. "If Jerusalem artichoke were used to make high fructose syrups we wouldn't have to rely on imported sugars and wouldn't have to convert corn, a valuable crop in its unrefined state."

The plant has been a heavy yielder in test plots — about 20 tons to the acre. On a commercial basis, it is expected to at least match the yield of sugar beets — 12 to 16 tons to the acre — and its dry pulp would be more valuable for livestock feed, having a 25 percent protein content compared with beet pulp's 10 per cent.

News briefs

While in Canada to attend the general meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization, held in Montreal, the Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Central African Empire, Jean-Pierre Bouba, visited Ottawa on September 21, 1977. He met with Jean-Pierre Goyer, Minister of Supply and Services and adviser to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in *francophone* matters, Jean-Jacques Blais, Postmaster General, and Michel Dupuy, President of the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Federal Government plans to issue Canada Savings Bonds this autumn at an average yield of 8.06 per cent if held to maturity. The interest rate in the first year will be 7 per cent and the rate for each subsequent year until 1986 will be 8.25 per cent. Sales are limited to \$15,000 for each Canadian resident or estate of deceased persons. Corporations are not permitted to buy the bonds.

Food prices have dropped five-tenths of one per cent during four weeks, continuing a decline that began in late July

and early August, the Anti-Inflation Board reports. But food prices are 9.9 percent above those of a year ago, chiefly because of large price increases earlier this year.

Finance Minister Jean Chrétien has been appointed governor for Canada of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, a position traditionally held by the federal Finance Minister. Mr. Chrétien visited Washington recently for the annual meetings of the two bodies.

Canadian National Railways wants to increase the number of bilingual positions among employees who deal with the public from an average of 30 per cent to about 50 per cent across Canada.

Statistics Canada's seasonally-adjusted trade figures for August reveal a surplus of \$326 million, compared with a \$270-million surplus in July. It was the ninth consecutive monthly trade surplus.

Laval University, the oldest university in Canada, is celebrating its one-hundred-and twenty-fifth year. On December 8, 1852, Queen Victoria presented the school, formerly a seminary, with a royal charter, acknowledging its status as a university.