



Bulletin

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EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONES ESTABLISHED

The Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, Mr. Jack Davis, announced on December 18 that Canada had proclaimed "fisheries closing-lines" designating major areas on both its east and west coasts as exclusive Canadian fishing zones. The areas in question are the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy on the Atlantic coast and Queen Charlotte Sound and Dixon Entrance-Hecate Strait on the Pacific coast.

The closing-lines will come into effect at the end of February immediately upon the lapsing of the mandatory 60-day waiting period, which began on December 26, imposed by the amended Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act.

EFFECTS FAR-REACHING

The effects of this action will be to assert Canadian jurisdiction over fisheries conservation and management in an additional 80,000 square miles of coastal waters, and to extend to these waters the effective range of Canada's anti-pollution programs. The Gulf of St. Lawrence has an area of nearly 60,000 square miles, the Bay of Fundy 3,600 square miles, and Dixon Entrance-Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound, 18,500 square miles.

Canada's territorial sea was extended to 12 miles from three miles by amendments to the Terri-

torial Sea and Fishing Zones Act approved by Parliament last June. Provision for the establishment of fisheries closing-lines was also contained in these amendments.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

The establishment of these exclusive fishing zones will enable the Canadian Government to exercise jurisdiction whereby the important living resources of these waters can be managed and protected for the benefit of Canadian fishermen. Anti-pollution provisions of the Fisheries Act will be applied within the closing-line limits of the new fishing-zones, thus adding new scope to Canada's efforts to preserve and improve the environment. Proposed anti-pollution provisions of the Canada Shipping Act are also intended to be applied within the fishing-zones.

Along sections of Canada's Atlantic and Pacific coasts, where straight baselines were established in previous years, Canada's exclusive fisheries jurisdiction extends to the outer limit of the 12-mile territorial sea as measured from these straight baselines.

AREAS DEFINED(1)

Fisheries closing-lines are to be drawn in:

(1) Gulf of St. Lawrence

(a) Across the Cabot Strait, a total distance of 54 miles extending from Money Point on Cape North, Nova Scotia, to St. Paul Island, N.S., to Cape Ray, Newfoundland.

(b) Across the Strait of Belle Isle, a total distance of 45 miles from Eastern White Island, Nfld., to Northeast Ledge off Belle Isle, to Double Island, Labrador.

(2) Bay of Fundy

From Whipple Point, N.S., a distance of 23 miles to Gannet Rock, then a distance of 38 miles to Yellow Ledge, Machias Seal Island and North

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(1) See maps on P. 6.