



# PRESS RELEASE

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The convention between the United States and Canada for the preservation of the halibut fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea came into effect today when the Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, and the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. A. D. P. Heeney, exchanged instruments of ratification in Washington.

The Halibut Convention, which was signed in Ottawa on March 2, 1953, is the fourth in a series between the two governments and replaces the Convention of 1937. The name of the Commission, originally established by the 1923 Convention, and continued since that date, has been changed to International Pacific Halibut Commission. Its former name "International Fisheries Commission" was chosen at a time when this Commission was the only one of its kind. The formation since then of other international fisheries commissions made it desirable that each be readily identified from its name, hence the addition of the descriptive words "Pacific" and "Halibut" to the name.

The Convention differs from the 1937 Convention in three particulars. The first and most important change is that the Commission may now establish more than one open season during the year. This power to declare more than one open season is expected to increase the yield from some halibut stocks which may be under-utilized at present. The size of the Commission is enlarged from four to six members, three from each country. The third change of substance is a provision for the exercise of regulatory authority respecting halibut caught incidentally to fishing for other species of fish during the open season. The 1937 convention had provided for this type of regulation only during the closed season.

The Canadian members of the International Pacific Halibut Commission are:

George R. Clark, Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries,  
Ottawa;

Richard Nelson, Vancouver, B.C.;

Harold Helland, Prince Rupert, B.C.

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