



MEMORANDUM

Regarding a new Halibut Convention.

I.-Facts leading to new convention.

Under the convention of 1923 between Canada and the United States for the preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean, the International Fisheries Commission, created by that convention, had the duty imposed upon them of making a thorough investigation into the life history of the Pacific Halibut and of making recommendations as to the regulation of the fishery, with a view to preserving and developing the fishery.

This investigation (which lasted three years) was duly made by the Commission, who, in 1928, published the results thereof and made recommendations.

The results indicated that the Fishery was in a state of serious depletion and that the process of depletion was going steadily on.

The recommendations were mainly that proper governmental authorities be given power to establish areas in each of which a limitation as to the total quantity of fish that may be taken therefrom may be fixed, and that such limitation may be reduced from time to time as found necessary; that certain areas may be closed to all fishing; that the use of certain types of fishing gear be prevented; that the existing closed season provided by the Convention (Art. I) be modified; and that all vessels engaging in the fishery in convention waters be licensed, so as to assure obtaining adequate statistical data.

These recommendations were approved by both Governments. The approval of the Canadian Government was given by Order-in-