

I. INTRODUCTION

One of our most important resources on Earth, indispensable for human survival, is what is commonly called water. A basic social asset and a human necessity, water has had innumerable uses. Besides its common utility relating to living beings' natural thirst and personal needs like cleansing and cooking, water is also required as the basic commodity for irrigation, industry, electricity, etc. It has provided many widely used means of transport. Over and above these, water provides an important vocation to the mankind, viz., fishery and trade in sea food. In the present paper we are concerned with three most important water-based resources of humanity, viz.,

- (a) fishing and fishery
- (b) ferry and navigation
- (c) hydro-electricity.

It is the particular question of rights in these three resources to which this study is specifically addressed. And it will include all aspects of these rights including state policies, legislation, judicial decisions, problems sought to be solved through state control and the impact of all these on the public utility and potential of the resources under study.