

*Commercial Fishing.*—Commercial fishing is governed by necessary regulations for the purpose of protecting the fish from undue depredations and, in waters apart from the Great Lakes series, commercial fishing is greatly restricted and limited. For example, in Lake Simcoe while carp may be taken in draw seines in localized areas, gill netting is prohibited. In Lake Nipissing commercial fishing is restricted to sturgeon and whitefish, which are taken in pound nets in strictly localized areas of the Lake. Licensed operators are required to take coarse fish caught in their nets during their operations for sturgeon and whitefish. In Lake Nipigon, commercial fishing is controlled by close season, tonnage and the usual protection given by limiting the size and weight of the fish taken. Even in a lake the size of Lake Nipigon, with 1,530 sq. miles of water surface, no important species could be maintained except under moderate and restricted fishing, involving protection of fish to sexual maturity and propagational methods of a practical nature—tonnage of fish removed should equal that replaced by natural and artificial means.

The principal varieties of fish marketed from the commercially fished waters are lake trout, whitefish, herring or ciscoes, yellow pickerel or pike-perch, blue pickerel, sturgeon, pike, eels, catfish, carp and perch.

*Angling.*—Ontario's game-fish interests are vitally important to every person in the Province from recreational and health standpoints, and also from the direct and indirect benefits of a large and ever-increasing tourist trade, embracing as it does in one way or another, every branch of industry.

With the exception of a few inland lakes where commercial fishing is permitted, the majority of the inland waters are reserved for game-fishing. The principle of reserving inland waters for game-fishing has, fortunately, been supported by Dominion and Provincial Parliaments throughout the years.

The famous trout fishing in the Nipigon, and the bass and maskinonge fishing throughout the Province are well known. The abundance of the black bass, that famous fighting fish, undoubtedly accounts for the reputation which the Province enjoys for game-fishing, and one of the chief factors in the increase and development of the tourist trade.

Ontario has an extensive natural distribution of bass, maskinonge, pike, speckled trout, lake trout and pike-perch; brown and rainbow trout have been introduced.

*Fisheries Research.*—In 1929 the Department included within its organization a biological component known as the Biological and Fish Culture Branch, whose chief function is to apply the principles and facts obtained from research of fish culture and the fisheries. Biological findings cannot be forced, and years may pass before evidence of progress is seen; the structure is never complete but the scientific attitude is reflected in the results achieved.

Among the studies that have engaged attention is the survey of lakes and streams in advance of stocking to determine their suitability for the growth and reproduction of fish. Suitability varies directly with the food and shelter provided for the fish. As a result of these studies, information pertaining to a large number of lakes and streams, their individual conditions and requirements and regulatory and re-stocking methods has been obtained.

Then there is the burbot or ling problem. The Department has undertaken the removal of burbot from certain inland waters, where they were known to be numerous. The burbot, or ling, competes directly with lake trout for its food, and