

The Great Lakes, and the larger bodies of water in the Prairie Provinces and Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories are fished extensively in the summer, the fishermen using boats up to 46 ft. in length (e.g., the whitefish boats on Lake Winnipeg) as well as skiffs and canoes. Gill-nets and pound-nets are the chief gear. Production is channelled through permanent shore stations with docking, icing, cooling, grading and warehousing facilities.

Winter fishing on large and small lakes with gill-nets set through holes in the ice is carried on by teams of men, many of whom are only part-time fishermen with their chief occupation in farming, lumbering or the fur industries. Accommodation for the fishermen as well as handling facilities are available at hutted camps or in the form of mobile cabooses. Dog teams, horses, cars and snowmobiles are used to haul fish and equipment.

Most of the catch is marketed fresh or frozen, with a large proportion going to the United States.

Section 2.—Governments and the Fisheries*

Subsection 1.—The Federal Government

The Federal Government has the sole legislative authority over both the coastal and inland fisheries of Canada [British North America Act 1867, sect. 91 (12)]. Under the Act, laws are made for the protection and conservation of the fisheries in all the provinces. The provinces, however, have property rights in the non-tidal fisheries. The Federal and Provincial Governments, under various arrangements, have divided the administrative (but not the legislative) authority over fisheries. The Federal Government legislates for and administers the fisheries in all Canadian tidal waters, except those of Quebec. In Quebec, the Provincial Government undertakes the enforcement of federal laws in respect of both tidal and non-tidal fisheries.

In the non-tidal waters of Canada the Federal Government administers the fisheries of Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The non-tidal fisheries of the other provinces are administered by the provincial authorities which enforce, on behalf of the Federal Government, the federal laws regulating the fisheries.

The Department of Fisheries.—Being responsible to Parliament and the country for the conservation, protection and development of the fishery resources of Canada, the Federal Department of Fisheries has developed over the years a large field staff to carry out this work. The service is maintained through the Department, the Fisheries Research Board of Canada and the Fisheries Prices Support Board.

To administer the fishing regulations and other regulations under the various Acts, the Department maintains a staff of fishery officers and a number of patrol and protection boats on the East and West coasts. Fish culture is being extended to develop more adequate supplies of various species not only by artificial hatching, rearing and planting but by many other procedures such as stream and lake improvement, control of predatory factors, fry salvage and the construction of fishways.

* Revised by the Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.