

The Limnology Section of the Service concerns itself with the maintenance and improvement of sport fishing, the control of aquatic and semi-aquatic insects, the control of algæ, and other biological problems that arise in regard to water areas in the National Parks. It also acts in an advisory capacity to the Northern Administration and Lands Branch in connection with aquatic biological matters.

A series of special articles with relation to the wildlife resources of Canada are being carried in the Year Book. The 1951 edition carried an article on "Migratory Bird Protection in Canada" Game and fish abound in the National and Provincial Parks and although hunting is forbidden in these preserves the age-old art of angling can be enjoyed under the most favourable circumstances. The following article deals with this subject from the sportsman's viewpoint.

GAME FISH IN CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS*

The universal appeal of angling, from the boy with the sapling, string and bent pin to the dry-fly "purist" with his imported, hand-made rod, tapered line and delicate flies, creates a kinship which goes far deeper than a mere love of fish or even of catching them. Angling is much more than a battle of wits and equipment against the cunning of a fish, for it offers release from the cares of the work-a-day world and a chance to see and enjoy the unspoiled beauties of nature, together with the possible added thrill of capturing a colourful aquatic creature satisfying to the eye and often to the inner man as well.

Many anglers are experts in the mysteries of taking game fish from their native haunts. Experts also are the men whose work it is to replace the game fish and then to maintain their supply against an ever-increasing number of anglers. A few of the problems encountered in this work and the means by which they are overcome are discussed here, so that the angler may know something of the activity which precedes his angling holiday.

Angling in the National Parks is a major attraction for visitors and the sport has been perpetuated through a wise policy of research and management. The maintenance and improvement of angling in waters within National Parks, whether in the mountain parks of British Columbia and Alberta, on the Prairies, or in the Eastern Provinces, involves the solution of many problems. Some of these are basic to successful fish management in any area, others are peculiar to individual locations.

Problems dealing with the basic requirements for fish propagation involve such items as food, shelter, areas suitable for spawning, water temperatures and related factors. Special local problems may be dependent on such factors as rate of water flow, silt, dissolved gases in the water, presence of large numbers of animals or birds which feed on fish, high angling pressure, and competition of fish of several species for a common food supply.

The solution of such difficulties affecting the National Park waters calls for close teamwork by two Federal Government agencies—the Canadian Wildlife Service which acts in an advisory capacity regarding all fish and wildlife matters in the Parks and conducts scientific investigations as and where required, and the National Parks Service whose officers, guided by the results of the Wildlife Service investigations, operate the hatcheries and egg-collecting stations, distribute the fish, collect data from anglers and perform other related duties.

* Prepared under the direction of Major-General H. A. Young, Deputy Minister, Department of Resources and Development, by Victor E. F. Solman, Ph.D., Chief Biologist, Canadian Wildlife Service.