

To regulate the fishery operation and to ensure that seasons and limits are observed, the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources operates a fleet of patrol boats in summer and a number of bombardier snowmobiles in winter.

Four fish hatcheries are engaged in the artificial propagation of pickerel and whitefish on commercial fishing lakes and a trout hatchery provides a supply of lake, rainbow and speckled trout for sport fishing waters at the northern extremity of West Hawk Lake in Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Saskatchewan.—The administration of fisheries in the Province of Saskatchewan comes under the Fisheries Branch of the Provincial Department of Natural Resources with head office at Prince Albert. Most of the fisheries resources are concentrated in the northern half of the Province where the lakes have always been a source of food to the fur traders, trappers, prospectors and the Cree and Chipewyan Indians who inhabit the area, and also provide food and supplementary income to the settlers and homesteaders on the agricultural fringe.

There are approximately 129 commercially fished lakes in the Province and the principal species of fish include lake trout, whitefish, pickerel, northern pike, sturgeon, cisco, Arctic grayling, goldeye, mullet, perch and burbot. The growth of the filleting industry has been of particular significance, 13 filleting and 11 packing plants having been established since 1945. That the fishery resources are important to mink ranchers in the Province is shown by the fact that in the year ended Mar. 31, 1954, 67 fur-farm fishing licences were issued and 26,981 mink were fed under these licences; 662 domestic licences and 1,543 free licences to Indians were also issued.

There has been marked development recently in sport fishing. In the fiscal year 1953-54 there were 61,384 resident and 6,650 non-resident angling licences sold, compared with 6,000 resident and 1,500 non-resident licences sold in 1945.

Emphasis in the fish cultural activities of the Province during the past few years has been on extending the range of the Arctic grayling species from the Far North into the Churchill River area, and to introduce eastern brook trout and certain warm water species into areas where preliminary study seems to indicate suitable environment. To a large extent the indiscriminate planting of fish has been discontinued. A fish hatchery is operated at Fort Qu'Appelle for the hatching of pickerel, rainbow, brown and lake trout, and two experimental ponds have been built to facilitate the study, under controlled conditions, of the introduction of warm water species from the United States. An experimental hatchery has been established at Lac la Ronge where Arctic grayling and lake trout eggs have been hatched, an Arctic grayling spawn camp in the Fond-du-lac River near Black Lake, and a pickerel spawn camp on the Montreal River near Lac la Ronge.

The management of the provincial water areas is conducted on a scientific basis. In 1947 a large-scale biological program was undertaken and more than 100 water areas have since been studied as to their productivity as well as to the interrelationship of the species and their life histories. In so far as known facts will permit, the management of the various lakes has been placed on a sustained yield basis. Experiments are in progress on the introduction of non-native species into suitable water areas. Where sport fishing pressure has increased, such as on Lac la Ronge, Last Mountain Lake and Qu'Appelle Lakes, a creel census has been established and the annual take is recorded. The Fisheries Laboratory, established in 1949 at the University of Saskatchewan, has three permanent biologists on its staff, and usually about 12 students of the University are employed each summer on biological surveys. The Fisheries Branch has conducted a program of education designed to acquaint people of the Province with the importance of scientific research and the necessity of certain regulations governing the administration of fisheries.

Alberta.—Commercial and game fishing are administered by the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests.

Regulations under the Alberta Fishery Act, designed to improve the packing, handling, processing, storage and quality of commercial fish, have been well received and supported