

# CHAPTER XIII.—THE FISHERIES

## CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

### Section 1.—Canadian Commercial Fisheries Resources

Canada has the enviable position of being the country closest to some of the world's most prolific fishing grounds and as a consequence is one of the world's principal fish producers and fish exporters. Rich harvests are drawn from the Atlantic and Pacific as well as from the country's many freshwater lakes and rivers.

Canada's commercial fisheries resources, including a detailed account of the Atlantic, the Pacific, the freshwater and the northern fisheries, are covered in the 1955 Year Book, pp. 578-590. The following special article deals in detail with groundfish, the most important species of Canadian fisheries.

#### GROUND FISH SPECIES IN THE CANADIAN FISHERIES\*

Demersal or groundfish species are the most important group in the Canadian fisheries, accounting for almost one-half by volume and one-third by value of the catch of all species of fish and shellfish. This species is particularly important to the Atlantic fisheries where it makes up two-thirds or more by weight and one-half by value of the total catch. The proportion in British Columbia is around 5 p.c. of the volume and 12 to 18 p.c. of the value.

\* Prepared by T. H. Turner, Director of Information, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.

VOLUME AND VALUE OF GROUND FISH LANDINGS, AND PROPORTION OF TOTAL CATCH, 1956

Area	Volume			Value		
	Groundfish <sup>1</sup>	All Fish and Shellfish <sup>2</sup>	Groundfish as Percentage of Total	Groundfish <sup>1</sup>	All Fish and Shellfish <sup>2</sup>	Groundfish as Percentage of Total
	'000 lb.	'000 lb.	p. c.	\$'000	\$'000	p. c.
Atlantic Provinces.....	989,373	1,348,691	73	26,774	53,046	50
Newfoundland.....	487,314	668,537	88	11,419	15,896	82
Maritimes and Quebec.....	502,059	780,354	64	15,355	59,150	59
British Columbia.....	41,439	674,354	6	6,154	35,846	17
Inland (freshwater).....	—	111,000	—	—	13,600	—
<b>CANADA.....</b>	<b>1,030,812</b>	<b>2,134,045</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>32,928</b>	<b>102,492</b>	<b>32</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes halibut and other flatfish species together with cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk, redfish, wolf-fish, dogfish, and Pacific "cod" species and rockfishes.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes fish livers, seaweeds, bait worms and scals.