

There has been marked development recently in sport fishing. In the fiscal year 1955-56 there were 78,988 resident and 6,658 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 on the introduction of 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 new fish culture station is being built at Fort Qu'Appelle for the hatching of pickerel, rainbow, brown and lake trout. Rearing facilities will also be built for the rearing of various types of game trout. 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 since then more than 100 water areas have 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 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 five 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 Fish and Game Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests under the authority of the Fisheries Act (Canada) and the Fishery Act (Alberta).

Regulations under the Fishery Act (Alberta), designed to improve the packing, handling, processing, storage and quality of commercial fish, have been well received and supported by the Alberta industry. In line with a policy for producing good quality fish, lakes in which whitefish are infected with pike-tapeworm and do not meet the quality standard have been closed to commercial fishing.

About 80 p.c. of the whitefish production is exported to the United States. Mink farmers of the Province utilize almost the entire catch of tullibee.

Biological surveys of many lakes and watersheds have provided an opportunity to observe the result of former management policies. These surveys have shown that traditional practices of trout-stream management were inadequate or incorrect. As a consequence, the minimum size limit has been removed on all trout except lake trout and close seasons for trout, pike, walleye and perch have been abolished. A new management plan on the east slope streams of the Rocky Mountains has been extended to include all the forested area. The main streams are continuously open; the smaller streams are opened and closed in alternate years. The trout-rearing facilities are used largely to produce fish for planting in small lakes and reservoirs previously barren of fish. It has been found that such waters produce very fast-growing trout with a satisfactory survival.

British Columbia.—A Fisheries Office was organized in 1901-2 and became very active in fish cultural work, building and operating fish hatcheries and instituting scientific research into various fishery problems. In 1947 the Fisheries Office was superseded by the Department of Fisheries which in turn was superseded in 1957 by the Department of Recreation and Conservation.