

Broadly speaking the administrative and regulative jurisdiction over the fisheries of British Columbia rests with the federal authority. When British Columbia entered Confederation in 1871 the Government of Canada undertook to protect, conserve and promote the fisheries of the Province, and one of the important functions of the provincial Department of Fisheries is to observe these activities and to keep the Provincial Government informed through the appropriate Minister.

The ownership of the fisheries in the non-tidal waters is vested in the Crown in the right of the Province, as are the shell fisheries such as oyster fishing and clam fishing in the tidal waters. The Province administers these fisheries although the regulations covering them are made under federal Order in Council on the advice and recommendation of the Province.

The Provincial Fisheries Act provides for the taxation of the fisheries and, under civil and property rights, for the regulation and control of the various fish processing plants under a system of licensing. Provision is also made for arbitration of disputes regarding fish prices that may arise between the fishermen and operators of the various licensed plants. The administration of the Act involves the collection of revenue and the supervision of plant operations.

Net fishing in the non-tidal waters of the Province, including commercial fishing, is regulated and administered by the provincial Department of Fisheries, and authority for regulation of the game fisheries in the non-tidal waters is vested in the Game Commission, a branch of the Provincial Government administration. The Game Commission operates a number of trout hatcheries and egg-taking stations for restocking purposes.

The harvesting of marine plants of commercial importance in British Columbia, including the kelps, has recently been placed under the provincial Department of Fisheries for regulation and control. Some research has been done on a few of the important species and more will be undertaken as required.

The provincial Department of Fisheries established a marine laboratory at Ladysmith on Vancouver Island for the purpose of conducting biological research into those species over which the Province has control, principally oysters, clams and other forms of shellfish as well as marine plants. This research is conducted with the object of encouraging the industry to produce better products more economically and of enabling the Department to regulate the various species so that maximum exploitation may be obtained on a sustained yield basis. The Department co-operates closely with the research work done by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, particularly on the Pacific Coast.

Section 3.—Fishery Statistics

Subsection 1.—Primary Production

Since Newfoundland became a province of Canada in 1949, the landings of fish in Canada have fluctuated around 2,000,000,000 lb.; a maximum catch of 2,122,000,000 lb. was recorded in 1950. The landed value is generally over \$90,000,000, having reached \$102,000,000 in 1951. Since 1949, the Province of Newfoundland has contributed a yearly average of 588,000,000 lb. and of \$13,500,000. The total Canadian catch of fish in 1955 was 1,917,000,000 lb. valued at \$90,900,000, a decline of 6.5 p.c. in quantity and of 7.6 p.c. in value compared with the preceding year. The decline was most significant in British Columbia, Newfoundland and New Brunswick, freshwater fisheries having recorded a slightly higher level both for quantity and value.