

British Columbia's 1955 catch of 498,376,000 lb. valued at \$27,710,600 was considerably lower than that of 1954. The landings of sockeye and chum salmon, at 16,642,000 lb. and 18,178,000 lb., respectively, were disappointing and the low yield of these species was only partially compensated for by the highest yield of pinks since 1930 (831,253 cases of 48 lb.). The total salmon catch was 131,008,000 lb. valued at \$18,481,000 compared with 178,862,000 lb. valued at \$23,578,800 in 1954.

The halibut and herring catches in British Columbia were also low in 1955. Halibut declined to 19,679,000 lb. valued at \$2,555,000 from 25,199,000 lb. and \$3,984,000 in the preceding year and a depressed market for this product was reflected in lower unit returns to fishermen. The landings of herring were 305,692,000 lb. valued at \$4,187,000 in 1955, against 360,962,000 lb. and \$4,565,000 in 1954. The decrease was the result of two principal factors: the 1954-55 winter herring season ended early in February, a month earlier than usual, when schools of herring failed to appear; operators and fishermen failed to reach an agreement on prices for the summer operations and there was no fishing for herring in the summer months. A similar lack of agreement on prices for the 1955-56 winter season delayed the resumption of fishing from the normal early October opening to Nov. 17.

On the Atlantic Coast the yield of the fisheries was satisfactory in 1955. The catch declined by 2.3 p.c. to 1,299,954,000 lb. from 1,330,638,000 lb. in 1954, but the landed value at \$50,057,000 was virtually unchanged from the previous year's level. A small catch of herring in New Brunswick and of cod in Newfoundland accounted for the decline in landings, though increased landings of other species partially offset the loss. Except for a decline in the cod fisheries, the groundfish fisheries were very successful mainly those of haddock, pollock and the small flatfishes—plaice and flounders. There were additions to the dragger fleet in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and offshore fishing out of the Nova Scotia ports was active throughout the year supported by a growing production of frozen fillets. Lobster fishing was also very successful, the 1955 catch being 48,568,000 lb. with a landed value of \$16,470,000 as compared with 46,675,000 lb. valued at \$15,558,000 in the preceding year. Provincial distribution figures indicate a decline in Newfoundland and New Brunswick as compared with 1954 but a rise in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

The harvest of freshwater species in Canada amounted to 118,959,000 lb. in 1955 valued at \$13,125,000, both figures being a record for a great number of years. The Great Lakes fisheries of blue and yellow pickerel were particularly successful, the landings of these two species together being valued at \$4,541,000. However, the most valuable of the freshwater species are whitefish and lake trout. Whitefish is taken commercially in all the inland provinces and the Northwest Territories. Most of the lake trout is from the Great Slave Lake, the Great Lakes or the Saskatchewan waters. However, the whitefish and lake trout catch continued to decline in the Great Lakes in 1955 but they were landed in larger amounts from the Great Slave Lake.

In 1955, 62,511 persons were employed in the primary operations of the sea and freshwater fisheries (Newfoundland excluded), approximately the same as in 1954. No significant change has been recorded in the number of fishermen in the past few years except in Newfoundland. Long-term records for this Province are confined to a count of the cod fishermen, who have gradually come down in number, especially since 1950. The latest figure available of number of fishermen in Newfoundland is for 1954 when 16,469 were reported.

The value of equipment used in the primary operations was \$107,071,000 in 1955 (Newfoundland excluded). This figure refers to investment in vessels of all kinds, boats, fishing gear, shore installations, etc. In recent years, a substantial investment was made in modern long-liners and draggers, especially for the groundfish fisheries. The capital equipment employed in primary operations in Newfoundland was reported at \$17,535,300 for 1954.