

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 mainly 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 history of survival.

British Columbia.—A Fisheries Office, which was organized in 1901-02 and became very active in fish cultural work, building and operating fish hatcheries and instituting scientific research into various fishery problems, was superseded in 1947 by the Department of Fisheries which in turn was superseded in 1957 by the Department of Recreation and Conservation. Commercial fisheries is represented today as the Commercial Fisheries Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation. Broadly speaking the administrative and regulative jurisdiction over the fisheries of British Columbia rests with the federal authority. 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 Commercial Fisheries Branch, Department of Recreation and Conservation, and authority for regulation of the game fisheries in non-tidal waters is vested in the Fish and Game Branch which 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 Recreation and Conservation for regulation and control. Some research has been done on a few of the important species. A marine laboratory at Ladysmith on Vancouver Island is operated by the Department 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. The object of this research is to encourage the industry to produce better products more economically and to enable the Commercial Fisheries Branch to regulate the various species so that maximum exploitation may be obtained on a sustained-yield basis. The Branch co-operates closely with the research work done by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, particularly on the Pacific Coast.