

## Section 3.—Fishery Statistics

### Subsection 1.—Primary Production

Since 1949, when Newfoundland became a province of Canada, fish landings for the country have hovered around 2,000,000,000 lb. annually and the gross income from fishing has been in the vicinity of \$100,000,000. In 1956 the catch of fish and its value were at record levels: landings increased to 2,234,354,000 lb. from 1,942,073,000 lb. in 1955 and the value landed reached the unprecedented figure of \$105,835,000 compared with \$91,392,000 for the preceding year. The average for the five years 1951-55 was 1,954,620,000 lb. and the average landed value for the same period was \$94,700,000. Both sea and freshwater results were most gratifying and substantial gains were reported for all areas except the Prairie Provinces.

In British Columbia the 1956 catch reached the unprecedented figure of 677,225,000 lb. valued at \$36,058,000 compared with 498,376,000 lb. and \$27,711,000 in 1955; the catch of herring was 491,396,000 lb. with a landed value of \$7,077,000, both figures being an all-time high; and halibut increased to 23,315,000 lb. from 19,679,000 lb. in 1955 with a value of \$5,067,000, almost double the \$2,555,000 of the previous year. On the other hand, it was an off-year in the cycle for pink and sockeye salmon and for a second consecutive year the catch of chum fishery was very disappointing. The total salmon catch in 1956 was the lowest since 1944 but was sold by fishermen at very favourable prices, resulting in a landed value of \$21,356,000 which was 16 p.c. higher than the 1955 value. Salmon, halibut and most of the British Columbia fish brought very high prices in 1956.

The yield on the Atlantic Coast was also very satisfactory in 1956. The catch of sea fish rose to 1,432,533,000 lb. from 1,324,738,000 lb. in 1955 and was the highest since 1949. Gross income from fishing (or landed value) at \$55,889,000 was also the highest since 1949 as a result of satisfactory prices being paid for raw fish. Groundfish and lobster fisheries—both being major operations on the East Coast—were active during the year. Modernization of the fishing fleet along the Atlantic seaboard, accomplished with the assistance of the federal and provincial governments, has been largely responsible for the prosperity of the groundfish fishery during the past decade. In 1956, the groundfish catch of 1,027,972,000 lb. had a value to fishermen of \$27,461,000. Most significant increases over the previous year were shown by the cod, haddock and rosefish fisheries. The lobster catch for the year was 51,960,000 lb. valued at \$18,023,000.

The inland waters yielded a bumper catch of 124,596,000 lb. in 1956 valued to fishermen at \$13,892,000, an all-time high. About two-thirds of the catch comes from Ontario and Manitoba, and Ontario accounted for most of the increase in 1956. During the year the catch of perch, mainly from Lake Erie, was 12,799,000 lb. compared with 6,765,000 lb. in 1955 and the landings of yellow pickerel in Ontario were also heavy, more than offsetting declines in other areas. Alberta fisheries and those of the Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories also showed increased catches as compared with the previous year.

Preliminary figures for 1957 show that fishing operations were not as successful as in 1956; the sea fish catch and its value fell by 14 p.c. to 1,816,315,000 lb. and \$79,127,000. The decline was more pronounced in British Columbia than on the Atlantic Coast. On the West Coast the catch fell by 29 p.c. to 482,286,000 lb. and the value by 20 p.c. to \$28,787,000. Heavy stocks of frozen halibut and salmon at the beginning of the 1957 season had an adverse effect on prices. The herring catch was also drastically reduced mainly because no price agreement was made between fishermen and processors during the winter of 1957-58. The catch of salmon was up compared with 1956, but the increase was accounted for by the pink species which is a low-priced variety. On the Atlantic Coast the catch declined by 7 p.c. to 1,334,029 lb. and the value landed by 10 p.c. to \$50,340,000. Severe ice conditions off the Coast and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence hampered fishing operations in the first part of the year. The groundfish catch—mainly that of cod, haddock,