

The lakes and streams of the province produce 15 varieties of commercial fish, the most important species being whitefish, pickerel, sauger and northern pike. Some 2,500 commercial fishing boats are in operation, varying in size from lake freighters to small skiffs powered by outboard motors. The value of these boats together with nets and other equipment is estimated at \$2,878,000 and investment in processing plants and cold storage facilities at approximately \$3,000,000, which makes a total capital investment of at least \$6,000,000 in plant and equipment. On the whole, the fisheries are a tremendous economic asset to the province.

The Department of Mines and Natural Resources of Manitoba, in supervising operations and enforcing fishery regulations, operates a fleet of modern diesel patrol boats during the open-water seasons and uses bombardiers, snowmobiles and light trucks in winter. All patrol units are equipped with two-way radio communication instruments. Two spawn-gathering camps and four fish hatcheries are in operation in the province; two of the latter are pickerel hatcheries, one is engaged in the culture of whitefish eggs, and one operates on a year-round basis producing several varieties of trout. The fish culture program employs the latest scientific processes in the rearing and culture of the species mentioned and large plantings of sport and commercial varieties have been made. Data gathered through the years indicates that such culture operations are essential to the maintenance of well-stocked lakes and streams. Five species of sport fish are cultured at the Whiteshell Trout Hatchery—speckled, brown, rainbow and lake trout—and a new hybrid variety called "splake" is in production. This splendid species of sport fish, developed by crossing speckled and lake trout, has created great interest among anglers.

A long-range scientific and biological program recently begun is designed to provide valuable factual information on such topics as lake limits and most favourable fishing seasons. Constant progress is also being made in the handling and processing of fish. Both the government and the industry are aware of the current market demands for high quality packaged products processed in modern plants under sanitary conditions and two new plants equipped to meet this demand have been constructed at Lynn Lake and Island Lake. The Department of Mines and Natural Resources, in co-operation with the Department of Health and Public Welfare, has inaugurated a plan to control health and sanitation as it relates to fishing stations and packing plants.

Saskatchewan.—Saskatchewan's fishery resource is based on approximately 32,000 sq. miles of water area and contributes much to the economic and recreational development of the province. The Fisheries Branch of the Department of Natural Resources, with head office at Prince Albert, is responsible for the administration of the fisheries, for the planning of policies and for the development of programs to ensure the proper management and utilization of the resource. The Branch has three main divisions—Fish Management (Commercial and Sport Fisheries Sections), Fish Research, and Fish Culture.

The commercial fishing harvest during the year ended Mar. 31, 1959 was the highest on record. Approximately 13,000,000 lb. of fish were taken from 148 lakes, the principal species being whitefish, lake trout, pickerel, northern pike and sturgeon. About 75 p.c. of this catch was taken in summer and the remainder during the winter season. The 11 processing plants operating in the province produced 2,250,000 lb. of filets; five of these plants have qualified for federal inspection in accordance with the federal Department of Fisheries voluntary inspection program for plants producing fresh and frozen fish products. The program for improving the quality of fish and raising the sanitation standards, actively carried out during the past few years, will enable Saskatchewan's fishing industry to benefit immediately from the federal inspection program.

During the year, 1,072 domestic fishing licences and 1,674 free Indian permits were issued. In addition, 84 fur farm fishing licences were issued to provide food for 45,300 mink; mink ranchers used approximately 5,250,000 lb. of coarse fish (cisco, burbot and mullet).