

Conservation. Commercial fisheries are 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 shellfish laboratory at Ladysmith on Vancouver Island, formerly operated by the Department, was closed Dec. 31, 1958. The biological research into those species over which the province has control, principally oysters, clams and other forms of shellfish as well as marine plants, is now conducted by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C., under agreement with the federal and provincial authorities as of Jan. 1, 1959. 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 Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

### **Section 3.—Fishery Statistics**

#### **Subsection 1.—Primary Production**

Although during 1958 poor weather and a scarcity of groundfish on the Atlantic Coast hampered the fishermen, the largest catch of sockeye salmon in fifty years and very heavy quantities of fall herring taken off the Pacific Coast plus rising prices paid to fishermen in all areas brought the gross income of fishermen to a record level of \$116,530,000 compared with a previous high of \$105,835,000 reached in 1956. Total landings of 2,016,326,000 lb. were 9.7 p.c. lower than those reported for 1956 but 1.4 p.c. higher than landings in 1957. The average annual landings for the five years 1953-57 was 2,012,976,000 lb. and the average landed value for the same period was \$95,769,800.

In British Columbia the 1958 catch of all species amounted to 650,589,000 lb. with a record landed value of \$51,352,000, which exceeded the 1957 catch of 490,187,000 lb. by 32.7 p.c. and the landed value of \$30,021,000 by 71.0 p.c. The greater increase in value than in landings was attributable to higher unit prices of halibut and troll-caught coho and spring salmon. These increases in prices, together with the exceptionally large catch of sockeye salmon which amounted to 74,011,000 lb. compared with only 15,719,000 lb. in 1957, and the heavy herring landings which reached 405,123,000 lb. compared with 295,376,000 lb. in 1957, made 1958 a banner year in the British Columbia fishery.

Although the scarcity of cod and poor fishing weather affected the 1958 Atlantic Coast fishery, lowering the quantity landed to 1,228,799,000 lb. or 8.7 p.c. below the previous year's figure, the value of the catch at \$51,153,000 was 0.8 p.c. higher than the 1957 value. Newfoundland, where cod is by far the largest and most valuable catch, was the hardest hit, the landings in that province dropping 17.3 p.c. from \$13,672,000 in 1957 to