

Although schooner fleets are a thing of the past, except for a few vessels sailing from Nova Scotia, modern trawlers and draggers out of ports along the southern coast of Newfoundland and the Atlantic Coast of Nova Scotia fish the banks in all seasons, weather permitting, to supply mixed groundfish to the processing plants in their home ports. These produce fresh and frozen fish and fillets as well as frozen fish blocks to meet a North American demand that increases steadily with the population. The frozen blocks are the raw material of the now important fish-stick industry.

In 1960 the lobster catch was 50,100,000 lb., with a landed value of \$18,040,000. Although there was a decrease in cod landings—603,400,000 lb. as compared with 642,000,000 lb. in 1959—the value of the catch to fishermen at \$16,823,000 was only slightly lower than that of the previous year. Because of their relatively high unit price, lobsters are the main source of income for fishermen in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and provide about one-third of the value of the Nova Scotia catch. They are taken in baited traps as they crawl about in shallow water looking for food. Most of the catch is marketed alive, fresh boiled or as fresh or frozen lobster meat and the remainder is canned. The United States provides an excellent market with peaks of demand in the summer vacation season and at Christmas. Hitherto unexploited scallop beds, recently discovered on George's Bank off the mouth of the Gulf of Maine, are becoming an increasingly valuable resource.

The annual Atlantic herring catch is around 225,000,000 lb., about one-third of which is comprised of the small-sized herring used by New Brunswick's sardine canneries. Smoke houses and pickling plants produce a variety of herring products and the fish are also in steady demand for lobster bait. The bulk of the catch is taken in purse-seines or weirs. Mackerel and alewives are also utilized by pickling plants but both have provided dwindling catches over the past decade. Mackerel are netted in open water and alewives are trapped as they enter estuaries on their way to freshwater spawning beds.

The Atlantic salmon catch, after a long and fairly steady decline, has been on the increase in recent years. This fish goes exclusively to fresh markets. Before the War, frozen Canadian Atlantic salmon was in demand in the United Kingdom. Since the War it has been barred from that market by import restrictions and there has been scant surplus for export in any case. In 1959, however, the import restrictions were lifted and, with improved catches, hopes have risen for resumption of this trade.

**Pacific Fisheries.**—Salmon is the most valuable of the Pacific fisheries, although the landings of herring are heavier. Halibut is third in importance, followed by other groundfish and shellfish. The proportion of the total landed value provided by salmon gives an indication of the importance of that fishery to British Columbia fishermen. For example, in 1960, a low year in salmon cycles, the total landed value of the Pacific catch was \$28,000,000, of which salmon accounted for \$17,000,000. In the high cycle year of 1958, the value of the salmon catch alone was \$35,000,000 and the total landed value was slightly over \$50,000,000.

The salmon catch is made up of five species—sockeye, pink, chum, coho and spring. These fish are caught as they return from the sea to their native streams to spawn and die. Sockeye, for instance, return after four years at sea so that, four years after a favourable hatching year on sockeye streams, a heavy catch of this species may be expected. When the peak runs of several different species occur in the same year, fishing is very good. The fish congregate off the mouths of their rivers and move into them in heavy concentrations. Commercial salmon fishing is limited to tide-water and is divided into two efforts—net fishery by seine and gillnet for the canneries and troll fishery for the fresh fish market. Net fishing is pursued in all the protected waters of British Columbia's deeply indented shoreline, and troll fishing off coasts facing the open sea, especially off the western coast of Vancouver Island. Hundreds of seiners and thousands of gillnet and troll boats engage in the fishery every year.