

Angling is becoming an increasingly popular sport in Manitoba and recently several virgin lakes have become accessible as a result of road extensions into wilderness areas. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1961 almost 104,000 angling licences were sold, an all-time record; 13 p.c. of the sales were to non-residents.

Saskatchewan.—The major water systems of Saskatchewan include the headwaters of the Missouri to the southwest; the tributaries of the Assiniboia to the southeast; the North and South Saskatchewan of the central portion of the province; the Churchill River system northward; and far beyond, on the rugged Precambrian Shield, tributaries of the great Mackenzie River system. These gigantic watersheds comprise more than 31,500 sq. miles of water and in them at least 57 fish species may be found.

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 their proper management and utilization. The legislative authority under which the fisheries resource is administered is the Department of Natural Resources Act, the Fisheries Act (provincial), and the Fisheries Act (Canada).

The commercial fishing industry during 1961 produced 14,529,537 lb. taken from 205 lakes and having a value of \$1,367,116 to the producer. The principal species were whitefish, lake trout, pickerel, northern pike and sturgeon. The 14 processing plants operating in the province produced 2,833,825 lb. of fillets; seven of these plants have qualified for federal inspection in accordance with the federal Department of Fisheries voluntary fish inspection program. Mention might be made of a unique industry which has developed at Little Manitou Lake. Brine shrimp and eggs are being harvested from this saline lake and processed and packed at Watrous, Sask. These products are sold to pet fish fanciers as well as to commercial fish hatcheries.

During 1961 there were issued 1,394 domestic fishing licences, 782 free Indian permits, and 75 fur farm fishing licences. Mink ranchers used approximately 6,000,000 lb. of coarse fish (cisco, burbot and mullet).

Sport fishing continues to be the main outdoor recreational attraction in the province. During the year, 97,260 angling licences were sold, 89,674 of which were sold to residents.

In the development of the fisheries management program, fisheries research, which commenced in 1948, has been undertaken to provide information on Saskatchewan waters, the life contained therein, and factors influencing that life. Study projects are carried out to determine the productivity of lakes and streams, to secure information on the ecology and life histories of the important species of fish, to investigate pollution and to assess other factors that may affect the environment for fish.

The most important approach is the basic biological survey, in which an inventory of an unsurveyed water body is made. During 1961, 14 major projects were carried out. Fisheries examinations were commenced on a number of smaller Precambrian lakes along the "Roads to Resources" north of La Ronge, as well as on other lakes located throughout the province. Carp research studies were continued, creel census studies instituted on five lakes, and reports covering the survey of six lakes were completed. For the second consecutive year, about 531,000 rainbow trout fingerlings were released in Thomson Lake, a 2,380-acre PFRA reservoir located between Gravelbourg and LaFleche. In addition, about 215,000 rainbow trout fingerlings were released in 16 water areas, 24,100,000 pickerel fry in 59 lakes, 2,850,000 northern pike fry in six lakes and 30,000 lake trout fingerlings in Whiteswan Lake.