

Atlantic Fisheries.—The major elements of prosperity in the Atlantic industry during 1962 were the very steady high level of market demand and the return of normal quantities of cod to the fishing banks after a two-year scarcity. Figures indicating world per capita consumption of fish showed an upward trend in 1962 and, of more immediate import, per capita consumption of frozen groundfish rose in the United States. Saltfish prospects also improved. The biggest buyers of salt cod are the British West Indies and the general level of trade with this area has risen in the past two or three years.

The Maritime Provinces.—Nowhere was there more optimism than in the Maritimes. At the end of 1962 four large steel draggers for the offshore fleet were being built to the most modern specifications and at least five more were on order. In the inshore fleet there was notable expansion in two new methods of groundfishing, Danish seining by the larger boats and gillnetting by the smaller ones. These two types of gear were tried out a few years ago, almost as a last resort, in an effort to revive the then languishing fishery on the Gulf side of Cape Breton Island. They both proved extremely successful. Plants in the area were adding extensions in 1962 and the gear was being proved on other fishing grounds.

Output of frozen fresh seafood in the Maritimes exceeded 87,000,000 lb., an increase of 12,000,000 lb. over the 1961 production. Even so, at the end of December stocks were only 1,000,000 lb. higher than at the end of 1961; the market had absorbed the remainder. Production gains were mainly in fillets, blocks of cod and blocks of flounders although output of raw breaded fish portions also expanded sharply.

Lobsters provide about one third of the fishermen's gross income in the Maritimes. In 1962 lobster landings were a little smaller than in the previous year but, with much higher prices, landed value increased by \$1,000,000 to a total of \$19,000,000. Even during the latter part of the year when the traps are usually brought ashore, fishing was so profitable that the gear was left in the water, the lobstermen feeling that their gains would be more than sufficient to cover normal storm losses. At the same time, the largest holding pool in the Maritimes began an expansion to double its capacity of 125,000 lb. of live lobsters.

Third largest money-maker for the fishermen in 1962 was the scallop catch. Landings increased again in that year and production of shucked meats reached a record 14,000,000 lb., having an estimated value of \$4,500,000. Over 90 p.c. was taken by the mobile offshore fleet, fishing almost exclusively on Georges Bank.

Herring were scarce everywhere until after midsummer and off Nova Scotia throughout the year. Heavy runs came briefly into the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the late summer and, later and for longer, into the Bay of Fundy in the fall. Fishing was pushed and, especially in New Brunswick, landings were heavy. The sardine canneries, pickling plants and smoke houses were all anxious for supplies and further large quantities were frozen for bait, which was in acute demand in Newfoundland because of failure of the squid fishery there. Mackerel were more plentiful than in 1961. Prince Edward Island had a surplus after filling its orders for the fresh market and, as it has no large pickling industry, salted the excess for bait.

The expansion of Irish moss facilities at three points in Nova Scotia, planned in 1962, is expected to add several million pounds to the province's output and a million dollars in job opportunities. The moss is gathered from the sea, dried and shipped to United States manufacturers of colloids.

Newfoundland.—Newfoundland fishermen increased their gross earnings by \$2,000,000 in 1962 when the industry established several new records: the annual output of frozen fish reached its highest point at 74,000,000 lb.; the landed value of the catch reached a record \$17,000,000; unit landed prices for cod, haddock and redfish were higher than they had ever been; and fishermen received more per quintal for their light salted cod than ever before. The year was characterized by a very strong market for the blocks of frozen cod which account for most of the output of the freezing plants and are sold mainly to United States manufacturers of fish sticks. Ten years ago in Newfoundland, the freezing industry took only 15 p.c. of the cod landings but the proportion has grown steadily and in 1962