

Commercial Fisheries.—The commercial fishing industry in Ontario provides employment for about 3,200 persons directly and for many more indirectly, and produces an annual yield of from 35,000,000 lb. to 45,000,000 lb. of fish. The landings of fish in 1962 amounted to over 62,000,000 lb. This figure exceeds by more than 2,000,000 lb. the previous record catch of 1956. Very heavy catches of smelt and of yellow perch accounted largely for the greater than average catch. The industry, although widely scattered throughout the province, is centred chiefly on the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Erie which is the most productive of these lakes. The principal species of fish taken commercially are perch, smelt, whitefish, pickerel, lake trout, white bass, pike, herring, chub, sheepshead, carp, catfish and bullheads, sturgeon, eels, goldeyes, rock bass, sunfish and suckers. Over one hundred smaller inland lakes are commercially fished, principally those in the northwestern portion of the province, and careful management of these lakes is essential to ensure continued production.

The types of fishing boats in use vary from small craft to 60-foot tugs, and types of gear vary from the most common gillnets, pound-nets and trap-nets, seines and baited hooks to small hand-operated seines and dip-nets. Fishing methods and equipment have been modernized extensively during the past few years. Diesel-driven steel-hull tugs have replaced steam-driven wooden tugs, such aids as depth-sounding devices, radar, ship-to-shore and ship-to-ship communications have been developed and a better knowledge of the fish and their movements has been established from biological research findings. Modern icing facilities and transportation methods are in use as well as new types of fishing gear. Trawling for smelt is being carried out experimentally in Lake Erie. This fishing technique is new in the Ontario fishery but has been proven very efficient in harvesting smelt on a year-round basis in this lake.

Most Ontario fishermen are organized into various local associations. Many of these associations are, in turn, represented by the Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries which performs important services to the industry. The Ontario Fishermen's Co-operative and its member groups are of interest also in the organization of the fishery in the province.

Sport Fisheries.—Angling in Ontario is rapidly becoming one of the major industries of the province. With an estimated freshwater area of some 68,490 sq. miles, the province is one of the most attractive fishing areas on the Continent. Excellent angling opportunities are available for such prized fish as brook, rainbow, lake and brown trout, walleye, smallmouth and largemouth bass, pike and maskinonge. It is difficult to measure the total value of the sports fishing industry to the province but the annual revenue from the sale of angling licences alone (mainly to non-residents, as residents require a licence for provincial parks only) is in the neighbourhood of \$2,500,000. The management of this valuable resource is administered by a well-trained field staff of conservation officers and biologists located in the 22 forestry districts of the province.

Provincial Hatcheries.—Ontario operates 17 hatcheries and rearing stations and excellent results have been produced in the culture and distribution of various species of game fish. The primary species reared in these operations include brook trout, rainbow trout, lake trout, smallmouth and largemouth bass, and maskinonge. Four of the finest trout-rearing stations on the Continent are located in this province—at Dorion near Port Arthur, Sault Ste. Marie, Hills Lake near Englehart, and Chatsworth.

Fisheries Research.—Research in Ontario is carried on in the Great Lakes and in inland waters. At the South Bay Mouth Station on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron, Wheatley on Lake Erie, and Glenora on the Bay of Quinte on Lake Ontario, fishery biological stations are operated for the investigation and study of the commercial and sport fisheries on the respective lakes. In Algonquin Park, detailed studies concerning lake trout, smallmouth bass and brook trout are in progress and management techniques are being tested against the background of a creel census which has been continuous since 1936. Studies of fish parasites have been initiated.