

Atlantic Fisheries.—For the Atlantic fisheries, 1963 was a year of strong capital expansion, especially in the freezing industry, with emphasis on a swing from the export of raw materials to more fully processed products. Construction was started on four large new filleting plants in the Maritimes, one of which—at Lunenburg—will be among the largest on the Continent. All four will specialize in the latest oven-ready consumer products. Expansion taking place in other plants throughout the Atlantic area is also noteworthy and, with so much new equipment available in 1964, a considerable increase in output is anticipated to meet the growing market demand for processed fish products.

The fishermen added between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000 to their collective gross income in 1963 and the value of plant output increased by more than double that amount. High prices for lobsters and a continued increase in scallop landings gave the shellfish industry the largest percentage advance, although the groundfishery, which is a much larger operation, also made striking gains in value of products.

The Maritime Provinces.—In the Maritime Provinces, the total value of the fish catch increased from just under \$40,000,000 in 1961 to nearly \$46,000,000 in 1962 and almost \$50,000,000 in 1963. The fishermen received more than half their income in 1963 from shellfish. The lobster catch alone brought them \$18,000,000, despite the fact that it was smaller than in the previous year. Fishing results in southern Nova Scotia, the most important lobster-producing area, were generally good throughout the year but the catch in Northumberland Strait, the area of second importance, was consistently disappointing. Lobsters in the traps were few in number and small in size, a development that suggests over-fishing. By voluntary agreement, some fishermen in the area have for years limited the number of traps they fish per boat but others have been less foresighted. Local alarm was reflected in discussions at the Federal-Provincial Fisheries Development Conference held in Ottawa in January 1964 (see p. 625), at which it was agreed that strong measures must be continued to prevent poaching.

Much of the tremendous increase in shellfish landings in the Maritime Provinces in recent years has resulted from the discovery of abundant scallop supplies on Georges Bank. A fleet of large draggers was built to handle the resource and, after at first increasing rapidly, the catch has now levelled off at what is believed to be the maximum desirable yield in relation to conservation. In 1963, however, new supplies were found on St. Pierre Bank and Brown's Bank and even inshore in the Gulf of St. Lawrence near Richibucto, N.B. Several large draggers were added to the offshore fleet and new plants went into production. The total catch increased by 14 p.c. in 1963, reaching a value of \$6,000,000. Meanwhile, the oyster industry of the area has been recovering, with the aid of government scientists, from a disease that decimated the beds six years ago. A sudden strong increase in production in 1963 indicated an early return to previous yields.

Good spring and fall weather gave the groundfish industry a long season. Landings of cod and haddock were a little heavier and landings of redfish much heavier than in the previous year. Flounders were abundant in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Only halibut were scarce. All prices were strong and markets excellent. The swordfish catch quadrupled as a result of the use of the longline technique which in 1962 began to replace the traditional method of harpooning. Another successful innovation was a brief seine fishery for tuna by two vessels out of Campobello, N.B., which produced more than 700,000 lb., mostly bluefin.

Newfoundland.—Newfoundland fishermen had a year of unprecedented prosperity in 1963. The freezing industry has never absorbed more than about a third of the cod catch and in recent years, as consumer demand has turned toward frozen products, the saltfish output often has been in excess of demand. However, in 1963, the cod fishery of northern Europe had a poor yield and demand for Canadian salt cod rose sharply just as five new freezing plants were opening in Newfoundland. With the salters and freezers buying competitively, cod prices rose to record levels. Even in volume the cod catch, at 400,000,000 lb., was above average and at the high prices it reached a landed value of over \$12,000,000.