

The best fishing was found northward—on the northeast coast of the Island and on the Labrador coast. The fleet operating in the latter area increased in size from 31 vessels in 1962 to 43 in 1963 and produced in the later year 71,000 quintals of heavy-salted cod. There were also more men pursuing a shore-based fishery in the same area.

Demands of the freezing industry had the effect of stepping up fishing for other types of groundfish and, since the lobster catch actually increased while the decline of supplies from the Maritime Provinces was driving prices to record levels, Newfoundland's over-all landings were 7 p.c. heavier than in 1962 and increased 11 p.c. in value to the record-breaking total of \$19,200,000. Output of the freezing plants, at 75,800,000 lb., was also at a record high. The sharpest increase was in the seasonal operations of the numerous small plants on the east and northeast coasts, which depend mainly on inshore cod. Haddock was very scarce and halibut was increasingly supplemented with turbot but since 1959 the Island's output of other frozen groundfish, including cod, has increased steadily; flounder products have doubled and redfish products tripled. The United States continued to be by far the most important market but there were marked increases in shipments to Britain and continental Europe.

Output of the salting plants, which in recent years has been declining fairly steadily for lack of market demand, remained below the average of the past ten years but showed an upswing compared with 1962. There were only 55 plants in operation, six fewer than in the previous year, and shipments of saltbulk to Nova Scotia drying plants declined. But, because of the scarcity in Europe, this slack was taken up by larger orders from Norway and Portugal and, for the first time in many years, buying by Greek importers. Also the Canadian Government made purchases on behalf of the World Food Bank of extra-hard heavy-salted fish. Over and above this, mainly in response to orders from Italy and Spain, output of light-salted fish expanded and actually accounted for the over-all production increase over 1962.

Pacific Fisheries.—In British Columbia the relative importance of salmon ensures that the over-all annual result in the fishing industry will depart little from the salmon record; in 1963 this was poor. In mid-July a strike in both fleets and plants brought the industry to a standstill and fishing was not resumed until Aug. 3. Meanwhile, the year's major run of sockeye, the most valuable salmon species, had come and gone, as had the early pink runs. The value of the July catch of all commercial fish dropped to less than \$7,000,000 compared with \$17,000,000 in July 1962. Pink salmon remained plentiful until late in the year. Fall chums were abundant through September and October but fell off so abruptly in November that several areas were closed to fishing as a protective measure. Although prices for canned pinks remained low because of over-supply, the year's export of canned salmon, much of which was, of course, from the previous year's pack, increased in value by \$3,000,000 over the 1962 figure.

The autumn troll catch of spring and coho salmon for the freezing plants was good and output of frozen salmon increased. With prices and market demand both high, the 1963 value of frozen salmon exports was high enough to counterbalance losses on frozen halibut, the market for which was over-stocked and slow. Heartened by a \$10,000,000 fishery in 1962, the halibut men left in unusually large numbers for distant-water operations in Bering Sea in the spring, and when fishing opened in British Columbia waters in May a larger number of small boats also joined in the effort. As a result, halibut stocks in Canada and the United States at the end of April were five times as large as at the same time in 1962 and slow buying pushed per-pound prices down by as much as eight and nine cents.

A very successful 1962-63 herring season closed in March and intensive fishing in the fall built up the year's receipts at reduction plants to over 286,000 tons, an all-time record. Output of meal went up to about 50,000 tons and oil production soared to above 5,000,000 gal. The unit price for herring oil rose during the year from 5.50 cents to 9.25 cents but the price for meal declined about 5 p.c.

Fishermen's earnings for the year from all commercial fisheries were about \$9,000,000 below those for 1962.