Commercial fish production in the year ended Mar. 31, 1963 totalled 9,039,000 lb. with a market value of $1,141,700—about the same as in 1961-62.   Lake whitefish again accounted for about 50 p.c. of the market value but comprised only 27 p.c. of the catch. Tullibee, a low-priced animal food fish, made up 45 p.c. of the catch but only 19 p.c. of the market value.   Northern pike production exceeded 1,000,000 lb. for the first time since 1936 and ranked third in quantity and value.   Other species taken, in order of value, were walleye (pickerel), suckers, burbot, yellow perch, goldeye and trout.

Generally low water levels, heavy growths of plankton and rooted aquatic plants, and heavy snow cover during the winter months combined to cause widespread winterkills over most of the province.   An extensive re-stocking program was undertaken in the many trout lakes in the north central portion of the province.   The provincial hatchery located in Calgary operated at capacity; a total of 2,260,085 trout were stocked in 111 locations throughout the province.   As in previous years, most of these were placed in lakes in the settled areas.   Six licensed commercial game fish farms and two private game fish farms were operated during the year.

Research into the survival of hatchery trout in streams was continued at the Alberta Biological Station at Gorge Creek.   This was supplemented by studies at Jumping Pound and Carbondale Rivers designed to ascertain recovery by anglers of catchable-size planted hatchery trout.   Studies of growth and abundance of fish populations and basic lake productivity, as well as the general inventory of Alberta waters were continued in 1963.

British Columbia.—A Fisheries Office, which was organized in 1901-02 and became very active in fish culture work, building and operating fish hatcheries and instituting scientific research into various fishery problems, was superseded in 1947 by the Department of Fisheries which in turn was superseded in 1957 by the Department of Recreation and Conservation.   Commercial fisheries are represented today as the Commercial Fisheries Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation.   Broadly speaking, the administrative and regulative jurisdiction over the fisheries of British Columbia rests with the federal authority.   The ownership of the fisheries in the non-tidal waters is vested in the Crown in the right of the province, as are the shell fisheries such as oyster fishing and clam fishing in tidal waters.   The province administers these fisheries although the regulations covering them are made under federal Order in Council on the advice and recommendation of the province.

The provincial Fisheries Act provides for the taxation of the fisheries and, under civil and property rights, for the regulation and control of the various fish processing plants under a system of licensing.   Provision is also made for arbitration of disputes regarding fish prices that may arise between the fishermen and operators of the various licensed plants.   The administration of the Act involves the collection of revenue and the supervision of plant operations.

Regulation and administration of net fishing in the non-tidal waters of the province, including commercial fishing and authority for regulation of the game fisheries in non-tidal waters, is vested in the Fish and Game Branch which operates a number of trout hatcheries and egg-taking stations for re-stocking purposes.

The Branch co-operates closely with the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.   The biological research into those species of shellfish over which the province has control, principally oysters and clams as well as marine plants, is conducted by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C., under agreement with the federal and provincial authorities.   The object of this research is to encourage the industry to produce better products more economically and to enable the Commercial Fisheries Branch to regulate the various species so that maximum exploitation may be obtained on a sustained-yield basis.