

## Section 2.—Provincial and Territorial Fur Resource Management

Most of the fur resources of the provinces of Canada are under the administration of the respective provincial governments. Exceptions include those resources within the boundaries of the National Parks and the Indian reserves, and the fur resources of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, all of which are under the administration of the Federal Government. The Canadian Wildlife Service of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is responsible for all Federal Government interests in wildlife resources except for those related to Indian affairs, which are administered by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. The Canadian Wildlife Service co-operates with provincial governments and other agencies concerned and handles federal interests in relevant national and international problems (see pp. 37-39). Provincial fur resource management practices are discussed in the following paragraphs.

**Newfoundland.**—One of the most important steps taken recently by the Wildlife Division of the Newfoundland Department of Mines, Agriculture and Resources in fur resource management was the setting up of experimental beaver traplines on the Avalon and Burin Peninsulas. It is intended that, using the beaver as a basis, the trapline system be expanded to cover the entire province and eventually all fur bearers. In the 1930's and 1940's beaver were transplanted from areas of high density to areas where there were few or no beaver and these transplants have resulted in fairly good beaver populations throughout most of the Island. The trapper is required to locate a minimum of five active beaver lodges before applying for permission to trap. His finds must be confirmed by a Wildlife Officer and he must trap according to regulations and agree to provide required information and certain organs for research purposes. This system, which has been quite successful in the two seasons it has been in operation, should eventually produce a relatively small number of trappers who will, in effect, be beaver managers, since the maintenance of a trapline will depend on the individual's care and attention to good management practices. Management of marten is also in prospect. Generally, Newfoundland trapping regulations provide limited open seasons for most species. On the Island these include beaver, mink, muskrat and otter, and in Labrador they include beaver, mink, marten, muskrat, otter, fisher and Arctic fox. Trapping of other foxes, lynx and weasel is permitted throughout the year in the whole province and wolves and wolverines may be trapped throughout the year in Labrador.

It is interesting to note that the mink population on the Island has developed from fur farm escapes and is therefore concentrated in the fur farm areas of Avalon Peninsula, Springdale and Corner Brook. The first mink trapping season was declared in 1958.

**Nova Scotia.**—Nova Scotia's wild fur bearers include beaver, muskrat, mink, otter, fox, raccoon and weasel and the trapping of these animals provides supplementary income for several thousand persons who harvest from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 worth of wild furs each year. The value, of course, depends on the numbers of each fur species available and on fur prices, both being subject to marked variations from year to year.

The beaver, once almost extinct in the province, is now the most valuable fur bearer taken. A \$2 licence is required by residents to trap a limited number of beavers (five to seven) during the approximately six-week season beginning Nov. 1. No licence is required to trap other fur bearers, although a royalty must be paid to the province for each pelt exported. These animals may be taken between Nov. 1 and Dec. 14.

Beaver research is at present being carried on in Nova Scotia to increase knowledge of this valuable animal as a preparation for better management of its populations. Behaviour, feeding, movement and reproduction studies are being conducted near the Tobieatic Sanctuary in western Nova Scotia, in Cumberland County in the eastern part of the province and in an enclosed area in Queens County. In addition, data as to size, age, etc., are collected from beaver carcasses taken by trappers in all parts of the province.

Several trappers' associations have been started throughout the province so that the men closest to the fur resources may have some say in their wise use and management.