

The freshwater fisheries were beset by various kinds of bad luck through the spring and summer but pulled out of their decline during the fall. For the year as a whole, volume of catch, plant output and export shipments all declined, the latter by about 6,000,000 lb., but this was considerably offset by rising unit prices and an active late-year market so that the dollar volume was only slightly lower than that for the previous year.

**Atlantic Fisheries.**—During 1964, the Atlantic fishing industry established a new production record despite the difficulties of finding experienced crews for the expanded fleets and enough fish for the new production lines. The new electronically equipped vessels require crews with technical training and, at the output level, the fishermen's training schools did not quite keep up with demand, mainly because industrial activity in the area was generally good and the fisheries had to compete on a tight labour market. Partly because crew shortages sometimes delayed sailings, partly because of unusually bad weather, but mainly because some of the more-wanted fish species were rather scarce, the supply problem seemed less amenable to man-made solution than the crew problem. Redfish were hard to find and the halibut catch also declined. In 1963, 43 vessels cod-trap fishing off Labrador came back with 72,000 quintals of saltbulk; in 1964, 47 vessels brought in only 44,000 quintals. The resultant shortage, together with expanded buying of fresh cod by the freezing industry, prevented salters and dryers from taking full advantage of a good market. Norway and Spain were buying saltbulk; the West Indies and Portugal were placing large orders for heavy-salted cod; and Italy, Spain, Jamaica and Portugal were bidding competitively for the light-salted cure. Meantime, the major market for Canadian fish—the United States with its demand for frozen products—continued rapid expansion.

**Maritime Provinces.**—The year 1964 was the best on record for fishermen of the Maritime Provinces. They brought in 811,000,000 lb. of fish compared with the previous record of 696,000,000 lb. in 1960. They sold their 1964 fish for \$57,000,000, topping the all-time record of \$49,000,000 established in 1963.

These successes were not easily won. The year began with bad weather and a late spring. Harbours were still frozen over in April and arctic ice was still running steadily through the Gulf of St. Lawrence and out Cabot Strait in mid-May. Groundfish were plentiful offshore and the large new trawlers recently added to the fleets were able to cope with the weather but landings were practically limited to Petit de Grat, Halifax, Lunenburg and Beaver Harbour. On the boats the demand for experienced men exceeded the supply. On the docks the demand for fish exceeded the supply. In the warehouses orders for fresh, frozen and salted groundfish exceeded the supply. Orders for blocks and slabs of frozen cod fillets for the United States fish-stick industry continued upward. Salt-fish plants worked overtime to keep up with orders for hard-dried fish. Cuba was back in the market and other Caribbean countries were buying strongly. New York importers were asking for large shipments of boneless cod. By April most of the previous season's groundfish supplies had been processed, packed and shipped. Green salt cod was just beginning to come down from Newfoundland to Nova Scotia dryers as the weather loosened its grip on transportation. Few lobstermen could get their traps into the water when the lobster season opened and, as nearly all shore boats were immobilized by ice, those who did were short of fresh herring bait.

In these circumstances, fish prices rose to very tempting levels and as fast as clear ways opened through the ice floes operations jumped into high gear. The large new processing plant in Lunenburg opened in June and from then on, the major problem was to get enough fish.

Flounders were plentiful and very heavily fished throughout the season. Haddock were abundant through the summer but ran heavily to scrod during the autumn. A large proportion of the trap catch was pollock; freezing plants received more of this fish than they could use and sent the surplus to salters. Cod, redfish and halibut were scarce throughout the season but, as a result of intensive fishing, the groundfish catch increased by about 10 p.c. in quantity and between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 in value. The over-all catch of