

lobster was 2,000,000 lb. lower than in 1963 but buyer demands were heavy and prices rose steeply so that lobstermen's earnings were up by \$2,000,000. Packers found a particularly strong market for lobsters frozen live and put in nylon bags. The scallop industry continued its phenomenal expansion with shipments climbing another \$1,000,000 in value but toward autumn the volume showed signs of levelling off. Sword-fishermen increased their earnings by nearly \$1,000,000, although they brought in a somewhat smaller catch than in 1963; the halibut scarcity probably contributed to the demand for swordfish. Large herring were very plentiful but sardines were consistently scarce. The salmon catch increased slightly in both volume and value.

Newfoundland.—Newfoundland fishermen took a somewhat smaller catch than in 1963 but it earned them an unprecedented \$21,000,000. The inshore cod catch was smaller than average and redfish and haddock were scarce. Salmon and herring both yielded smaller and less valuable landings than in 1963. Offshore fishing was intensive but, although flounders and soles were abundant, over-all groundfish landings shrank in volume and did not improve upon the previous season in value. It was an increase in the lobster catch and the very high prices prevailing for this product that more than redressed the balance.

The freezing industry continued expanding its fleets and production lines, bought 43 p.c. of the cod catch and almost all of the flounders and other groundfish and attained a record output of 83,000,000 lb. of frozen groundfish products, 6 p.c. more than in 1963. Toward the end of the season, freezers were paying fishermen the highest cod prices ever recorded in the province. This limited the amount of cod remaining for the salters; their output at 440,000 quintals declined 17 p.c. from 1963. Prices offered for both light- and heavy-salted cod were at record levels.

Quebec.—The Gulf of St. Lawrence was blocked by ice until June and for this and other reasons Quebec suffered more than the other Atlantic Provinces and reached the end of the year with smaller groundfish, lobster and herring catches than in the previous season. However, the very high per-pound prices for lobsters and a good summer salmon fishery held the fishermen's collective income almost up to the record level of 1963. Their outlook was further brightened as plans matured for a large new plant at Paspébiac, to be built by the provincial government and operated by a Newfoundland fish company.

Pacific Fisheries.—Only twice before have British Columbia fishermen earned such a high collective income or the products of the plants reached such a high value as in 1964—once in 1958, the year of the famous sockeye bonanza, and again in 1962. The latter record only slightly surpassed the 1964 result.

The determining factor in 1964 was the size of the salmon runs. Salmon fishermen earned more than \$30,000,000, almost the same as in 1962 when the phenomenal run of pinks came to Bella Coola. Most surprising was the Skeena, where sockeye landings doubled the predicted figure and nearly equalled the all-time record. Sockeye also arrived in good quantities in Smith Inlet and the Fraser River, upon both of which the industry depends for a large proportion of its sockeye supplies. Two million pounds of pinks were taken in the Bella Coola area, where a scarcity had been predicted after two years of extreme abundance. Canneries packed all the chum salmon they could get through the summer because fall runs of this species were also expected to be small, but the fall runs were excellent and the chum pack was the largest in six years. The troll fleet, which catches chiefly cohoes and springs for the fresh fish market, accounted for two thirds of the coho catch of 29,000,000 lb. valued at \$9,250,000 (for the second successive year the most valuable of the salmon catches) and two thirds of the catch of springs, which brought \$5,500,000, making it the most valuable spring catch on record.

Halibuting opened in Bering Sea in March with 30 Canadian vessels getting only a poor catch. When fishing started off the British Columbia coast on May 1, warehouse supplies had dwindled and prices were above the low level at which they opened in the