

are administered by the Indian Affairs Branch of the same Department. 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. 49-51). Provincial fur resource management practices are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Newfoundland.—For the past several years, the Wildlife Division of the provincial Department of Mines, Agriculture and Resources has been operating experimental beaver traplines on the Avalon and Burin Peninsulas. Legislation has now been prepared to permit the extension of this trapline system to cover all fur bearers throughout the Island of Newfoundland for the 1966-67 and subsequent trapping seasons. In general, trapping regulations provide for fall and winter trapping seasons for muskrat, otter, beaver and mink within the Island of Newfoundland and for beaver, mink, marten, muskrat, otter, fisher and Arctic fox in Labrador. Trapping is permitted throughout the year for fox, lynx, weasel, wolf and wolverine.

Although not directly connected with fur bearer management, interesting findings regarding one fur bearer—the lynx—have been made in Newfoundland. In 1964, during an investigation of caribou calf mortality, it was determined that when a caribou calf was bitten by a lynx, saliva bacteria were transmitted to the wound and the ensuing infection caused death in most cases. To eliminate this cause of death among young caribou, Wildlife Division officers have since carried out extensive lynx trapping in the vicinity of the caribou calving areas, resulting in a higher percentage of calf survival.

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 \$200,000 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 ten) 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 population. Behaviour, feeding, movement and reproduction studies are being conducted near the Tobecoatic 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 on size, age, parasites and diseases 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 resource may have some say in its wise use and management. These groups can also assist in ensuring proper handling and marketing of the raw furs and in up-grading quality, thus commanding good market prices.

New Brunswick.—The initial investigation under the fur management program under way in New Brunswick concerned the muskrat and was conducted in the estuary of the St. John River, one of the better muskrat areas in the province. Such investigation will soon be extended to other fur bearers, especially beaver. Beaver were protected against trapping for about 20 years until the first open season was declared in 1946. As a result, the beaver has made a remarkable recovery and there has been an open season each year since 1951, the annual take averaging about 7,500 pelts. At present, beaver damage done to farms and woodlots, highways and railways is causing some concern.

The trapping of fisher and marten was permitted during the 1964-65 trapping season for the first time since 1946. These animals are found mainly in the northern part of the province but their numbers appear to be increasing and they are gradually working their