

CHAPTER XIV.—FISHERIES AND FURS

CONSPECTUS

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*The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book
will be found on p. xvi of this volume.*

PART I.—FISHERIES*

Section 1.—Fisheries Resources of Canada

Canada's fisheries resources are harvested from two of the greatest oceans and the most extensive bodies of fresh water in the world. Sea fishing is carried out by Canadians primarily in the northwest Atlantic and northeast Pacific within close range of home ports, although some craft venture as far afield as the Bering Sea and the Caribbean. Extensive although not inexhaustible, the living resources of the oceans contribute up to 95 p.c. of the nation's fisheries production; the remainder comes from freshwater stocks in the Great Lakes and other inland waterways. More than 150 species of fish and shellfish are commercially utilized, the most important being groundfish, salmon, lobsters and other shellfish, halibut and herring. The country's fishing industry represents an investment of more than \$200,000,000 in vessels and catching gear, and of tens of millions more in shore facilities. It provides employment income for approximately 80,000 fishermen, 30,000 of them full-time operators, and for 20,000 processing plant workers. Two thirds of the industry's yearly output, which in 1967 was valued at a record \$340,000,000, is destined for world markets.

In the northwest Atlantic, where total fish landings increased by approximately 60 p.c. (from 1,847,000 tons to 2,950,000 tons) between 1954 and 1964, Canada's catch also advanced, although not so spectacularly (33 p.c. from 634,000 tons to 844,000 tons). Groundfish, especially cod, haddock and redfish, are harvested in quantity by fleets from Canada and 15 or more other nations in the northwest Atlantic. Other important species include halibut and other flat-fishes, herring, mackerel, turbot, hake, cusk, pollock, salmon, swordfish and tuna. Shellfish of high market value include lobsters, scallops and clams. Experimental fishing is conducted to probe the potential for commercial fishing of such marine species as crabs, prawns and capelin.

* Sections 1 and 2, and part of Subsection 1 of Section 4 were prepared by the Information and Consumer Service, Department of Fisheries, Ottawa.