

**Newfoundland.**—The wild fur industry in Newfoundland, as elsewhere, has been characterized by short-term instability and long-term decline. In general, the price of furs has declined in the past decade and, since the supply of trappers is partially determined by the profit motive, the number of trappers has also declined. As a result, the fur bearers of the province are now considered to be under-harvested.

Because trapping is no longer profitable for the casual trapper and only large harvests and excellent pelt preparation can repay a trapper for his effort, the maintenance of trapping in Newfoundland requires that the resource be divided among a select group of professional trappers. The beaver-trapline system in operation is a step in this direction. Other fur bearers of sufficient value to be included under the trapline system are mink, lynx, muskrat and otter. A fur bearer biologist was employed by the Wildlife Division of the provincial Department of Mines, Agriculture and Resources in 1966 and intensive research and management in this area is planned for the future.

**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 available fur bearer taken. A \$2 licence is required by residents to trap a limited number of beavers (five to 20) during the approximately 10-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 Jan. 15.

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 Tobatic 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 has been 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 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 way southward. During the late winter of 1966, a number of fisher were live-trapped in northern New Brunswick and released in the Fundy Mountains in an attempt to re-establish them there. Mink and otter are not abundant but in the fall trapping season the catches average from 1,500 to 2,000 and from 200 to 250, respectively. In 1965-66, 3,228 trapping licences were issued.

Provincial legislation enables quick changes to be made in trapping seasons; thus, the autumn benefit of available fur may be utilized by a trapper or a closed season