

There were 159,484 angling licences sold in Alberta in 1970-71 of which 156,575 were to residents and non-resident Canadians and 2,909 to non-resident non-Canadians. There were 404 Trophy Lake licences and 417 spear fishing licences sold during the same time period.

In 1972, a total of 185 lakes were stocked with nearly 5.2 million fish and fish eggs: 63% rainbow trout, 19% eyed walleye eggs, 7% eastern brook trout, 5% walleye fry, 3% kokanee, 2% coho salmon and the remainder in brown and cutthroat trout.

There were 354 private and 28 commercial game fish farm licences issued in 1972 and these operations handled 450,000 rainbow trout.

Fisheries in Alberta are administered on a regional basis, with six fisheries biologists located in various centres of the province and responsible for a specific geographical area. In addition to the regional staff there is a Research Group located in Edmonton consisting of two biologists and a technician, and an Aquatic Habitat Protection Group also located in Edmonton and consisting of one biologist and one technician.

British Columbia. A Fisheries Office, which was organized in 1901-02 and became very active in fish culture work, building and operating fish hatcheries and instituting scientific research into various fishery problems, was superseded in 1947 by the Department of Fisheries. This was replaced in 1957 by the Department of Recreation and Conservation, with the Commercial Fisheries Branch now being the provincial organization concerned with commercial fisheries. The administrative and regulative jurisdiction over the fisheries of British Columbia rests with the federal authority; the ownership of the fisheries in the non-tidal waters is vested in the Crown in the right of the province, as are the shell fisheries such as oyster fishing and clam fishing in tidal waters. The province administers these fisheries although the regulations covering them are made under federal Order in Council on the advice and recommendation of the province.

The provincial Fisheries Act provides for the taxation of the fisheries and, under civil and property rights, for the regulation and control of the various fish processing plants under a system of licensing. The commercial harvesting of oysters and marine aquatic plants is regulated by provincial permits and licences. Provision is also made for arbitration of disputes regarding fish prices that may arise between the fishermen and operators of the various licensed plants. The administration of the Act involves the collection of revenue and the supervision of plant operations.

Regulation and administration of net fishing in the non-tidal waters of the province, including commercial fishing and authority for regulation of the game fisheries in non-tidal waters, is vested in the Fish and Wildlife Branch which operates a number of trout hatcheries and egg-taking stations for restocking purposes.

The Branch co-operates closely with the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. The biological research into those species of shellfish over which the province has control, principally oysters and clams as well as marine plants, is conducted by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, BC, under agreement with the federal and provincial authorities. The object of this research is to encourage the industry to produce better products more economically and to enable the Commercial Fisheries Branch to regulate the various species so that maximum exploitation may be obtained on a sustained-yield basis.

10.2.3 Statistics of the fishing industry

Commercial fishing in Canada provides employment for some 59,000 persons on a full-time or seasonal basis and contributes approximately \$462 million annually to the nation's economy (Tables 10.13, 10.14). Of main concern to the industry at the present time is the trend toward over-exploitation of certain species, resulting from the rapid expansion and intensification of fishing effort by domestic and foreign fleets over the past few years. The federal government is taking initiatives at the national and international levels to achieve rational management and conservation policies to safeguard fish stocks for future generations.

On the Atlantic Coast, Canada's commercial fisheries concentrate on stocks of cod, redfish, haddock, small flatfishes and herring, as well as valuable shellfish resources, notably lobsters, oysters and scallops. Pacific Coast fisheries are based principally on salmon and halibut; herring stocks, once plentiful, are recovering from a sharp decline in the late 1960s which necessitated closure of the fishery except for catches used for human consumption. The large freshwater lakes of Canada's interior produce important supplies of whitefish, perch, pickerel, trout and pike.