

ing 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 57,000 persons on a full-time or seasonal basis and contributes approximately \$540 million annually to the nation's economy (Tables 10.13 - 10.14). 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.

Total earnings by Canadian fishermen on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts were at record high levels in 1972 despite a decline in total fish landings to the lowest level in 10 years. The domestic and world demand for fishery products was high and, because of strong prices, the market value of Canada's fishery products in 1972 reached a record of \$546 million.

10.2.3.1 Fish landings

Canadian commercial landings of fish and shellfish during 1972 were 2,303 million lb., a decrease of about 9% from 1971. Atlantic Coast landings were below the 1971 levels by 15% while Pacific Coast landings were up by 47%. The total value of Canadian landings was \$233.3 million, an increase of 16% over the previous year (Table 10.15).

Atlantic Coast. Landings on the Atlantic Coast continued declining to 1,871 million lb., a decrease of 16% from 1971. The decline was mainly caused by diminishing stocks of fish but also by adverse weather conditions at the beginning of the season. Atlantic Coast fishermen received a record \$142 million for their catch compared to \$129 million in 1971 (Table 10.16).

Groundfish landings accounted for 1,046 million lb. of the total, 8% less than in 1971. Cod and haddock, two major species in this group, have been declining since 1968 and dropped an additional 14% in 1972 from 1971 levels to a combined total of 434.2 million lb. Similarly, herring landings have been declining since their peak year of 1968 reaching 670.3 million lb. in 1972 valued at \$12.7 million or 4% less than the amount fishermen received in 1971. Lobster landings at 33.2 million lb. in 1972 were 13% lower than in 1971. Prices to fishermen were, however, much higher than 1971 and, as a result, even with lower landings, gross earnings to fishermen reached an over-all high of \$37.0 million, 11% higher than in 1971. The downward trend in scallop landings levelled off in 1972 at 12 million lb., a 7.8% increase over 1971. Again, higher prices enabled fishermen to gross \$19.5 million, 50% above the previous year, for an all-time high.

Pacific Coast. The 1972 landings of fish and shellfish on the Pacific Coast of 337.5 million lb. valued at \$75.1 million, were above the previous year by 47.5% in quantity and 28% in value.