

**British Columbia.** The Department of Fisheries, formed in 1947, was replaced in 1957 by the Department of Recreation and Conservation, with the Marine Resources Branch the provincial organization concerned with all marine commercial and recreational fisheries. Jurisdiction over the fisheries of British Columbia rests with the federal authority; the ownership of the fisheries in non-tidal waters is vested in the Crown in the right of the province, as are shell fisheries and marine plant management in tidal waters. The province administers non-tidal fisheries although the regulations covering them are made under federal Order in Council on the advice of the province.

The provincial Fisheries Act provides for taxation of 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 made for arbitration of disputes regarding fish prices that may arise between fishermen and operators of licensed plants. Administration of the act involves collection of revenue and supervision of plant operations.

Regulation of net fishing in non-tidal waters, 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 cooperates closely with the Fisheries and Marine Service 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 and Marine Service of Canada at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, BC, under agreement with the federal and provincial authorities.

## Statistics of the fishing industry

### 10.2.3

The waters off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of Canada rank among the most productive fishing grounds in the world and provide a livelihood to some 50,000 sea fishermen (Table 10.13). Inland waters support another 5,100 fishermen, while an additional 16,000 persons are employed in fish processing plants.

### Fish landings

#### 10.2.3.1

The declining trend in fish landings continued in 1974 as landings fell 15% to slightly less than 2 billion lb. (slightly less than 1 billion kg). In contrast to previous years, the demand for fishery products was not large enough to generate sufficiently higher prices to offset the declining catch. The result was a 10% reduction in the gross earnings of fishermen which fell to \$285 million in 1974 and a 13% decline in the marketed value of this catch at \$685 million (Tables 10.14 and 10.15).

**Atlantic Coast** landings were down 14% to 1,538 million lb. (698 million kg) in 1974 while the landed value declined less sharply to \$164 million, a drop of about 2%. The year 1974 was the sixth consecutive year of a declining catch and many of the factors which were at play in 1973 were equally valid for 1974. Overtaxing of the offshore resources, particularly by foreign fleets, is thought to be the primary factor for the decline in the catch, but others contributing to it were weather and ice conditions, water temperature and labour problems which idled a considerable portion of the Newfoundland and Nova Scotia fishing fleets.

Groundfish account for the most important portion, contributing about 45% of the total value of the landings. Although the quantity of groundfish landed declined 24%, the two other major groups, pelagic and estuarial and molluscs and crustaceans, remained about the same. Landings of scallops (the second most valuable shellfish species) increased in quantity to 14 million lb. (6 million kg) from 11 million lb. (5 million kg) in 1973, and increased 14% in value to \$18.6 million. (Table 10.16)