

species) increased in quantity to 8 356 t from 6 370 t in 1974, and increased 38.4% in value to \$25.7 million (Table 10.15).

**Pacific Coast** landings dropped from 135 057 t in 1974 to 126 660 t in 1975, most of this in the salmon fishery (26 343 t). This decline of 6.2% represents a reduction in fishermen's incomes of about \$21 million.

In 1975, landings of halibut, the mainstay of the Pacific groundfish fishery, increased by 1 762 t (52.1%) and 86.1% in value. Total landings, however, were 5 146 t, less than 50% of the previous 10-year average landings.

Landings of salmon, the most important species to the Pacific fishery, dropped to 34 551 t in 1975 from 60 893 t in 1974, a decline of 43%. This represented a \$27 million loss to Pacific Coast salmon fishermen. A shift in the 1975 salmon catch breakdown saw pink become the principal species at 29% of the catch in volume terms followed by coho at 20% and spring at 19%. In value terms, however, coho represented 26.4% closely followed by spring (25.9%) and pink (17.4%).

### Products and marketing

10.2.3.2

In 1975 the marketed value of processed product on the Atlantic Coast was \$483 million (an increase of 14.4%) and on the Pacific Coast \$167 million (a decrease of 24.2%). Atlantic Coast production of frozen fillets and blocks rose 16.8% to \$141 million in 1975 with flatfish representing 32% of the total, being followed by redfish and cod with 28% and 20% respectively.

On the Pacific Coast, salmon, as a group, although showing a decline of 911,512 cases (21.8 kilograms each), were again the most valuable species in Canada in 1975 with all types of products having a marketed value of \$100 million. Canned salmon pack was valued at \$43 million in 1975, a decline of \$71 million as compared to 1974.

### The fur industry

10.3

The value of the 1976-77 Canadian production of raw furs amounted to \$72.1 million, made up of \$47.8 million (66%) from wildlife pelts and \$24.3 million (34%) from farm pelts. The \$47.8 million total was a record high, due mainly to higher values for most types of pelts. Production in 1975-76 amounted to \$53.9 million.

**Fur trapping.** Prices for almost all kinds of Canadian wild furs have been on the increase and in 1976-77 pelt values were substantially above historic levels. The higher returns have encouraged trappers to work their traplines to full advantage, resulting in increased production of many species, especially the long-haired types such as fox, raccoon and coyote. Lynx is also high on the list of popular furs; however, in 1976-77 this cyclic species was approaching the lower end of its period of abundance and the numbers taken reflected this decline.

With the encouragement provided by recent strong price levels, production of many of the fur-bearer species approached optimum levels. This has not been the case for many years. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s raw fur prices failed to keep pace with the general price rise and there was little incentive for trappers to work their traplines to maximum potential. As a result a good percentage of fur bearers went unharvested.

**Fur farming.** Mink are raised in all provinces except Newfoundland. In 1976 the principal producers, in order of importance, were Ontario, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Quebec and Alberta (Table 10.20).

With minor fluctuations, mink pelt production in Canada has declined since the peak year of 1967 when the output was 1,967,323 pelts. Lower returns in the face of higher production costs have been responsible for this decline. Many mink farmers ceased operations and the number of mink farms declined from 1,359 in 1967 to 397 in 1976. In earlier years beginners in the mink business got started through the acquisition of a small number of breeding animals and built up from that point. Now entry into the business on a scale that would hold the promise of some return on investment within a reasonable time involves a high outlay of capital. This is a limiting factor in attracting newcomers to the industry.