

but the provincial government manages freshwater fisheries. Licences for sport fishing are usually distributed by the provincial or territorial governments which retain revenues collected.

Provincial aid is provided for modernizing ocean-going vessels or building modern vessels capable of varied fishing operations and larger production. Fishermen can also receive help in rebuilding and repairing fishing vessels. Low-interest loans are available to build new boats or repair and convert others.

To make fishing more efficient, experiments and demonstrations on new fishing gear are conducted and potential fishing grounds are explored.

In New Brunswick, sport fishing is popular. Salmon and tuna are the primary fish caught and in 1981 a world record tuna was caught.

Research programs are carried out in both coastal and inland provinces. Prince Edward Island is establishing commercial fish culture systems designed to revitalize the oyster industry, establish mussel and trout farming, develop shellfish resources such as bay scallops and round clams and develop seaplant culture systems.

For the Quebec ocean-going fisheries, a program was under way to develop production centres, and landing points with unloading and storage facilities. For inland fishing, many species of fish are reared for restocking lakes and rivers.

Ontario conducts studies on the improvement of stocking strategies in terms of species, size, rate and time of year to increase the survival of fish and returns to the angler. Research programs are directed toward specific fisheries management problems in the Great Lakes and smaller inland waters. Quantities of hatchery reared coho and chinook salmon are released each year into the western basin of Lake Ontario. This provides good fishing during the late summer and fall.

Saskatchewan is conducting a fish culture program which involves an experimental walleye/whitefish rearing pond concept to provide fish for waters dependent on hatchery support.

The inland provinces especially make use of hatcheries to restock the lakes and rivers.

British Columbia conducts research on shellfish, principally oysters, and on marine plants.

8.3 The fur industry

The value of the 1980-81 Canadian production of raw furs amounted to almost \$119.4 million, made up of \$72.0 million (60%) from wildlife pelts and almost \$47.4 million (40%) from farm pelts. The value of pelts was down 10.2% from the 1979-80 level which had been a record \$132.9 million due to increased peltings and higher values for many types of pelts. Production in 1978-79 amounted to \$122.3 million.

Fur trapping. Prices for many kinds of Canadian wild furs had been on the increase and in 1979-80 pelt values were substantially above historic levels. The higher returns encouraged trappers to work their traplines to full advantage, resulting in increased production of many species, especially beaver, squirrel and fox (Tables 8.19 and 8.20).

The seal hunt. Harvesting harp seals has been a traditional component of Canada's Atlantic fishing industry for hundreds of years. The hunt is conducted from large and small vessels and by landsmen operating on foot from coastal areas. It involves residents of small communities scattered along the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Îles de la Madeleine, the Quebec north shore and the Arctic. The seals are harvested for their pelts as well as for meat and oil.

Both Canada and Norway have participated in the Atlantic seal hunt. Annual quotas, based on scientific assessments, are set by international agreement. The quota in 1982 was 186,000 seals of which Norway was allocated 24,000.

The Canadian government's policy on sealing considers seals a renewable natural resource available to be humanely harvested like other marine species. The hunt is conducted under the supervision of the fisheries and oceans department to ensure that killing practices are humane and quotas are observed.

On the basis of an international scientific assessment in 1982, harp seal population was estimated at approximately 2 million animals aged one year and older.

The seal hunt was worth an estimated \$10 million to the economy of Eastern Canada in 1982. Earnings received by sealers in some instances represent up to one-third of their annual income. Most sealers depend solely on fishing and fishing-related activities for their livelihood.

Fur farming. Mink are raised in all provinces. In 1980 the principal producers were Ontario, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Quebec (Table 8.20).

In value of production, mink is by far the most important species raised on fur farms. Mink pelt production grew steadily from about 911,000 in 1976 to almost 1.4 million in 1981, which was an increase of 14.6% from 1980. With minor fluctuations, mink pelt production in Canada has shown an increase since 1976 following a decline after the peak year of 1967 when the output was nearly 2 million pelts. Lower returns in the face of higher production costs were responsible for this decline. Many mink farmers ceased operations and the number of mink farms decreased from 1,359 in 1967 to 395 in 1975, but has since been growing each year, rising to 679 in 1981. Average value of mink pelts reached an all-time high at \$44.08 in 1979, and total production of \$47.0 million was also a record, surpassing each of the next two years.