with 1.1 billion rainbow, cutthroat, steelhead, brook trout and kokanee.

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

There is a close liaison between the provincial departments responsible for fisheries and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. In Ontario, fisheries are managed by the provincial government. In Quebec, the provincial government administers fisheries for freshwater and diadromous species (fish that migrate between salt and freshwater), while marine fisheries are managed by the federal government. Fisheries management in Alberta is broken down into the following areas: sportfish, commercial fish, domestic fisheries, and fish culture and stocking. In British Columbia, the fisheries for marine species and anadromous salmon (salmon that migrate between the sea and freshwater) are managed by the federal department, but the provincial government manages freshwater fisheries.

Recreational fishing is gradually becoming more significant. Licences for sport fishing are usually distributed by the provincial or territorial governments which retain revenues collected.

8.3 The fur industry

The value of the 1986-87 Canadian production of raw furs amounted to $154.8 million, with $75.3 million (49%) from wildlife pelts and $79.6 million (51%) from farm pelts. The value of pelts was up 54.8% from the 1985-86 level of $100 million with increases in value of wildlife and farm fur harvests of 48.9% and 51.3%, respectively. Production was up from 1985-86 and average values were generally higher, especially for mink, fox, marten and wildcat. Average values for all bear varieties (including white bear) were above the previous year.

The Atlantic seal hunt. Harvesting seals is an important source of income in many areas along the Atlantic Coast. 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. Its significance is greater than the relatively small dollar returns might suggest, since there are few available income-earning activities during the seal hunt period.

In 1982, the European markets for seal products collapsed as a result of seal hunt protest activity, followed in 1983 by a European Community import ban on the products of whitecoat harp seals and blueback hooded seals. The seal harvest dropped to 20,000 seals in 1984 and the government appointed a Royal Commission to inquire and make recommendations into all aspects of seals and sealing in Canada. The Royal Commission's report was made public in December 1986.

After careful consideration of the report's findings and recommendations, the government announced a new seal policy in December 1987. The new policy prohibits the commercial taking of whitecoats and bluebacks, prohibits use of vessels over 19.81 metres in length and phases out the practice of catching seals with nets south of 53° N latitude.

The remaining hunt, which is less than one-third of the historic harvest level, is carried out primarily by land-based sealers in Newfoundland, the north shore of Quebec and the Îles-de-la-Madeleine. The seals harvested are older and are taken for meat, fur, leather and oil.

The harp seal is the main species involved. In excess of 2.5 million of these seals now inhabit the northwest Atlantic. With the reduced harvesting effort, the seal herds are believed to be increasing in size.

Fur farming. Mink are raised in all provinces. In 1987-88, the principal producers were Ontario, Nova Scotia, British Columbia and Quebec (Table 8.17).

In value of production, mink is by far the most important species raised on fur farms. Mink pelt production grew from about 911,000 in 1976 to 1.2 million in 1987. The peak year was 1967 when the output was nearly 2 million pelts. Because of lower returns and higher production costs, the number of mink farms decreased from 1,359 in 1967 to 488 in 1987. Average value of mink pelts in 1987 was $30.71, down from $47.67 in 1986, which was the record high.

Entry into the mink 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.

In fox farming, pelt production increased by 3.5% to 77,217 in 1987, from 74,599 in 1986. The number of fox farms has been steadily increasing from 39 in 1971 to 1,040 in 1987. The increase in production continued a trend begun in the mid-1960s. Returns for ranched fox pelts rose sharply during the 1970s as the market for all long-haired furs improved. Value per pelt reached a high of $364.42 in 1978 but declined to $90.05 in 1987.

Fur marketing. In 1986-87 exports of raw furs amounted to $169.1 million, up from the 1985-86 value of $97.1 million and up from the 1984-85 value of $101.5 million. Imports for 1986-87