

The Fisheries Branch has conducted a program of education designed to acquaint people of the Province with the importance of scientific research and the necessity of certain regulations governing the administration of fisheries. Three colour and sound films have recently been made on sport fishing.

Alberta.—Commercial and game fishing are administered by the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests.

Regulations under the Alberta Fishery Act, designed to improve the packing, handling, processing, storage and quality of commercial fish, have been well received and supported by the Alberta industry. In line with a policy for producing good-quality fish, lakes in which whitefish are infected with the pike tapeworm and do not meet the quality standard have been closed to commercial fishing.

Biological surveys of many lakes and streams taken over the past ten years have provided an opportunity to observe the result of former management policies. It was found that the classical tenets of trout-stream management, including close seasons, legal minimum, feeder stream closure and hatchery plants, were inadequate or incorrect. A new management plan is being conducted featuring the 'fallowing' of smaller tributary streams, abolition of the legal size minimum, except in the case of lake trout, a continuous open season on large streams and rivers and the removal of close seasons for pike, pickerel and perch. Trout-rearing stations and a provincial trout hatchery support trout-stream populations whenever required in cases of natural disaster, severe winter kill, introduction of new species or areas that have no spawning grounds.

A long-term experiment to test the effectiveness of the Canyon Creek whitefish hatchery was begun in 1941 by planting eyed eggs in certain lakes in alternate years. The evidence gathered indicated that natural reproduction was sufficient and the hatchery was closed.

British Columbia.—The Provincial Department of Fisheries was organized in 1901-02 and soon became very active in fish-cultural work, building and operating fish hatcheries and instituting scientific research into various fishery problems.

Broadly speaking, the administrative and regulative jurisdiction over the fisheries in British Columbia rests with the federal authority. When British Columbia entered Confederation in 1871, the Government of Canada undertook to protect, conserve and promote the fisheries of the Province, and one of the important functions of the Provincial Department of Fisheries is to observe these aspects and to keep the Provincial Government informed through the appropriate Minister.

The ownership of the fisheries in the non-tidal waters is vested in the Crown, in the right of the Province, as are the shell-fisheries, such as oyster-fishing and clam-fishing in the tidal waters. The authority to administer and regulate these fisheries is vested in the Province, although the regulations covering 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. Provision is also made for the settlement by 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.