

Landed values in 1972 reached a record high of 24% over the previous record high set in 1966 with the increase resulting from greatly improved salmon landings and increased herring quotas.

Salmon landings reached 164.4 million lb., an increase of roughly 24% compared with the 1971 landings and with the five-year average of 1967-71. Salmon landings were valued at \$50.3 million in 1972, an increase of 13% over 1971. Chum comprised 40% of the catch, pinks 24%, coho 13% and sockeye 13%. The scarcity of halibut observed in 1971 worsened in 1972 with landings dropping to 22.1 million lb. a decrease of 13% from 1971. However, prices were exceptionally good, to the point that value to fishermen increased by 68% to \$13.7 million. The ban on herring fishing for reduction purposes remained in effect during the year but higher quotas were allowed for fishing for food purposes and the production of roe reached 86.0 million lb. for an estimated value of \$2.7 million.

10.2.3.2 Products and marketing

The market value of Canada's fishery products reached a new record high of \$546 million, an increase of almost 18% from 1971 (Table 10.17). On the Atlantic Coast, as a group, molluscs and crustaceans showed the largest increase rising 17.5%, exceeding groundfish by 3.3%. Within these groups, scallops, and flounder and sole showed the most dramatic increases of 42% and 23%, respectively.

On the Pacific Coast, the value of marketed products rose 32.4% in 1972 in sharp contrast to a modest decline in 1971. Salmon and herring both recorded sizable increases in 1972 accounting for most of the over-all Pacific Coast rise and in the case of salmon reversing the previous year's \$2.7 million decline and the largest Pacific Coast drop for a species. Canada's Pacific salmon pack in 1972 at 1.2 million cases (48 lb.) was 16.5% lower than in 1971 and 12% lower than the five-year 1967-71 average. Only the production of chum was higher than in 1971, increasing from 98,508 to 278,451 cases; every other species declined (Table 10.18).

The total value of all Atlantic Coast freezings in 1972 increased a modest 8% over 1971 as the poundage frozen declined by the same percentage. All species showed price increases averaging 17.5% (Table 10.19).

10.3 The fur industry

The value of the 1972-73 Canadian production of raw furs amounted to \$46.6 million, made up of \$29.9 million (64%) wildlife pelts, and \$16.7 million (36%) pelts produced on farms (Tables 10.20 - 10.21). This is 42.5% above the 1971-72 level of \$32.7 million, an increase resulting from sharply higher values for most types of pelts.

Fur trapping. In 1972-73 the principal producers of wild furs were: Ontario (24%), Alberta (22.3%), Manitoba (12.4%), Saskatchewan (12.4%) and Quebec (10.6%). The strengthening trend observed in the previous marketing season was maintained in 1972-73 and throughout the season there was an active movement of furs in all trade channels. Prior to the 1972-73 season, the annual value of production of wild furs in recent years had ranged between \$13 million and \$18 million. However, although the relative value of fur trapping in the Canadian economy has declined through the years, returns from this enterprise continue to make an important contribution in the northern areas where wage employment is limited or non-existent.

Management of the fur resource on a renewable basis is of prime importance if the flow of furs is to be maintained. In this respect, conservation policies by federal, provincial and territorial governments have been highly effective and statistics, maintained since 1919, indicate that production of all the important species is being well maintained. In this connection it should be noted that pelt production figures cannot be regarded as an infallible basis for an assessment of the fur bearer population. The number of pelts taken in any one season depend on many factors including the abundance or otherwise of fur bearers, including cyclic species, plus economic factors such as fur prices and the availability of alternative sources of revenue in the northern areas. Nevertheless, in the absence of any inventory of the fur bearers, pelt production data, maintained over a number of years, provide an indication of the status of the wildlife population. Any long-term decline in numbers would certainly be reflected in progressively smaller catches of any given species. Certainly in no case does the seed stock appear to be endangered.

Since at least 1950, trapline coverage, on a cross-country basis, has tended to be incomplete and pelt production figures for many species do not represent optimum harvests.