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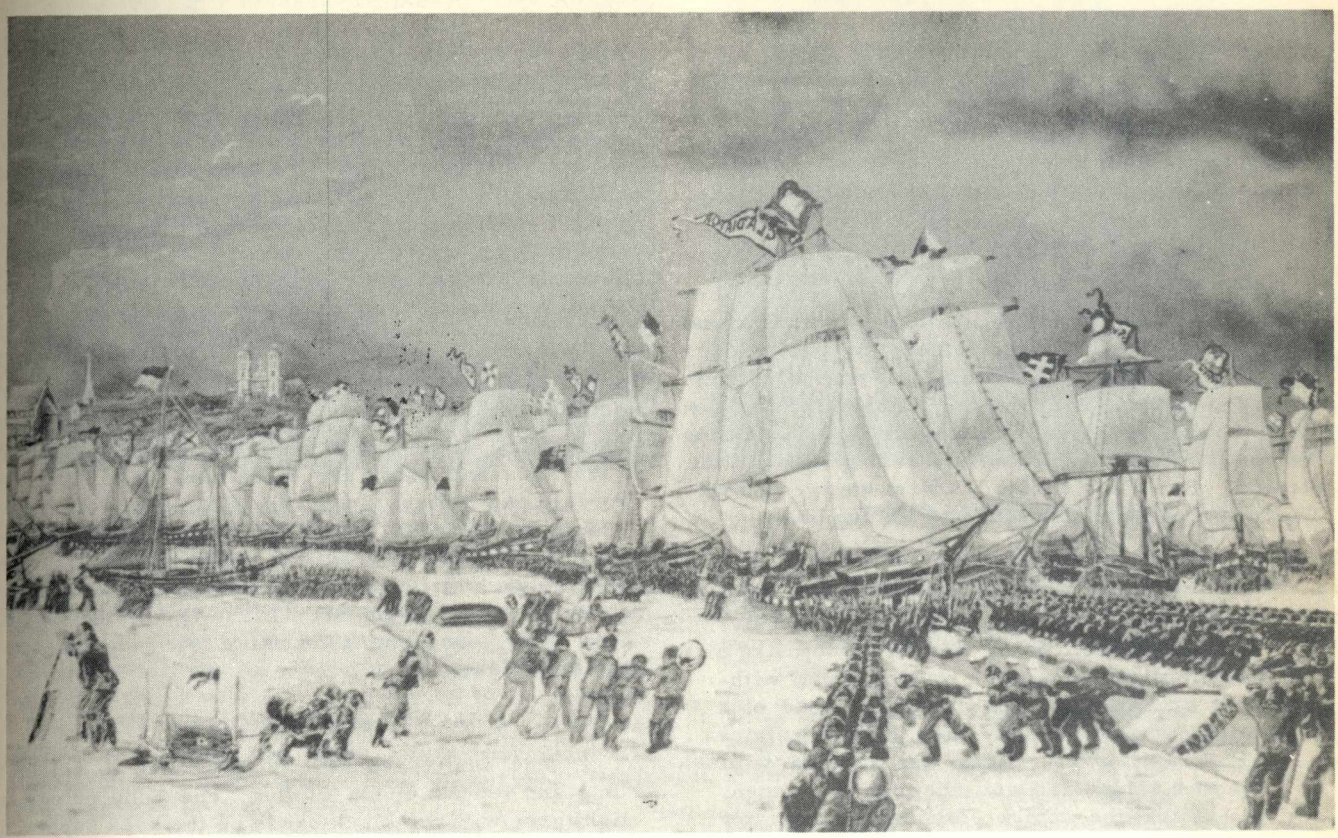
October 1951

North Atlantic Seal Hunt



Photograph of an old painting showing sealing vessels leaving St. John's about 1850. Men are cutting a channel in the ice while others haul the vessels through. Each ship flies its distinctive house flag.

By G. M. DROVER

REPORTS which have recently been compiled show that the 1951 sealing operations off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador have been the most successful in many years. A larger number of ships from Newfoundland and other areas took part in the hunt and exceptionally favourable weather conditions contributed to the success of the venture.

This year, 12 motor ships, ranging from 170 to 750 gross tons, cleared from Newfoundland ports. All but two of this sturdy fleet were built in Newfoundland for the seal fishery. All of them were manned by hardy Newfoundland sealers totalling 748 men, coming all the way from Bay Bulls in the south to Nippers Harbour in the north.

Altogether 180,164 seals were discharged by these ships at St. John's, the turnout being 132,626 young harps, 17,315 old harps, 26,400 bedlamers (two year old harps), 2,856 young hoods and 967 old hoods. In addition approximately 40,000 seals, mostly young harps, were taken by landsmen chiefly on the Newfoundland side of the Strait of Belle Isle. These seals were also transported to St. John's, making a total of approximately 220,000 processed there.

Five other ships, sailing from Nova Scotia ports, prosecuted the sealfishery. These were partly manned by Newfoundland sealers and operated mainly in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. While accurate figures are not available, it is believed that approximately 100,000 seals were taken by these ships.

For several years, some ships of the Norwegian sealing fleet have been engaging in the hunt off Newfoundland. They arrive early in March and continue operations until April or early May, depending on ice and weather conditions. During the past season 10 of these vessels, which are smaller on the average than Newfoundland ships, participated, and it is estimated that from 100,000 to 120,000 seals were taken. It is interesting to note that one ship, the M.V. "Norsel," took part in the hunt while returning to Norway from a scientific expedition to

Queen Maud Land during the previous autumn and winter. The others sailed directly from Norway and cargoes were discharged there.

In all then, 27 ships manoeuvered through the ice floes this year and some 440,000 seals, harps and hoods, young and old, were taken and brought to factories on both sides of the Atlantic. The thick layer of blubber is manufactured into oil for industrial and other purposes and the skin or pelt is used for fur coats and various kinds of leather products.

LONG-STANDING IMPORTANCE

The sealfishery has for centuries been of considerable economic importance to Newfoundland and Labrador. Indeed, the aborigines, long before Canada was settled, searched for seals during the winter and spring. There is a very interesting notation by the French voyageur, Jacques Cartier, describing how he found Labrador Indians taking seals in the Strait of Belle Isle during his first voyage in 1534. The following is an extract from his log book:

> "There are men of indifferent good stature and bigness, but wilde and unruly, they weare their haire tied on the top like a wreath of hay, and put a wooden pinne within it or any other such thing in stead of a naile, and with them they binde certaine birdes feathers. They are clothed with beastes skinnes as well the men as women, -- but that the women go somewhat straiter and closer in their garments than the men do, with their waistes girded; they painte themselves with certaine Roan colours; their boats are made of barke of birch trees; with which they fish and take great store of Seales, and as far as we could understand, since our coming thither, that is not their habitation, but they come from the Mainland out of hotter countreys to catch the saide Seales and other necessaries for their living".

The history of the sealfishery in Newfoundland records how seals were first taken in nets 250 years ago. At that time, open boats were used, to be followed by sailing vessels. In 1857 some 400 vessels, all locally built, engaged in the sealfishery with crews totalling 13,000 men. During this period the annual catch reached as high as 680,000 seals and brought great prosperity to shoremen and sealers alike. The pursuit of seals in these small ships produced a breed of men of exceptional endurance and ingenuity. The sailing fleet was gradually replaced by large steam-powered steel ships in the last quarter of the 19th century, and they in turn have since given place to the smaller motor ships which now form the modern sealing fleet.

The two main species of seals taken off the east coast of Newfoundland and Labrador and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are known as harp and hood seals. The harps are much more prolific although a few thousand hoods are taken each year. During the fall and winter, hundreds of thousands of these seals move south as far as the Grand Banks in search of food. In early February they migrate northwards meeting the ice fields usually in the vicinity of the Strait of Belle Isle. The mother seals bear their young on the ice from late February until early March.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HARPS

The adult harp seal is from five to six feet long and weighs up to 400 lbs. The body colour is light grey with two black bands on the back supposed to represent a harp from which it gets its name. The face is dark grey, almost black, and the eyes are a soft, gentle brown. The baby harp or pup weighs about 12 pounds at birth, increasing in weight about five-fold in two weeks on the milk of the mother seal. It is covered with a white stiff wool which moults two or three weeks after birth. The cry of a baby seal is much like that of a human infant, while the old seals bark like dogs. The mother seals show great affection for their young and stay close by them regardless of danger.

Men leaving vessel to start hunt

Research worker tagging "whitecoat"

Seal carcasses on dock at St. John's

Cooking vats for extraction of oil

The adult hood seal is over eightfeet in length and weighs up to 900 pounds. It is dark in colour with black, brownish or dark grey mottling on light grey background. The adult male has an air sac or bladder over the fore part of its head which puffs out or inflates with air during anger or excitement. The young hood weighs from 10 to 12 pounds at birth, and unlike the harp, has a hair skin with bluish tinge. It can swim and take care of itself much earlier than the harp.

SELECTIVE KILLING

The hunt begins about March 13. The young seals, which are taken first, are more valuable because of the soft skin and the superior quality of oil processed from the fat. Bedlamers and old seals are taken later on when the young leave the ice and learn to swim.

The sealers work in groups in charge of the quartermaster, going away from the ship in various directions, depending upon the lay of the seals. Young seals are killed by striking them a swift blow on the head with a stout pole or gaff. Rifles are used for old seals. They are skinned immediately and the pelts are piled on the ice in "pans." The ship pushes through the ice picking up the "pans," but when the ice is tight and the ship jammed, the sealers haul the pelts to the ship. This may be extremely hard work depending on distance and the nature of the ice surface.

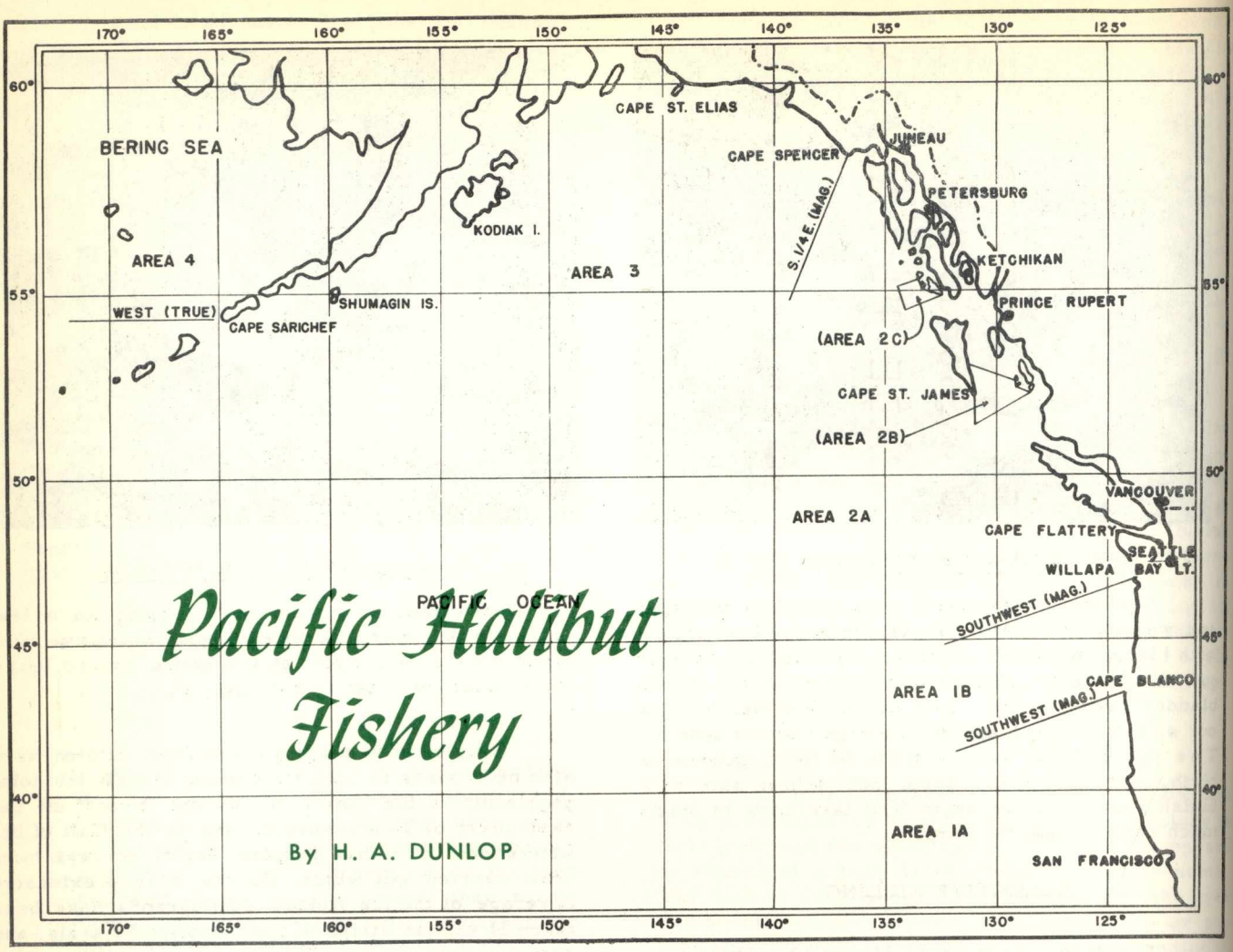
During the last two years arrangements were made through the Atlantic Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at St. Andrews, N.B., for tagging seals and collecting specimens for biological examination. Two teams of two men each proceeded to the sealfishery from St. John's and several hundred seals have been tagged. The Norwegians have also been tagging for a few years. In this way it is hoped to obtain positive evidence on the migration of the herds and to learn more about their habits and life history.

Coupled with tagging operations, efforts have also been made to ascertain more closely the total population of the herds both on the "Front" off the east coast of Newfoundland, and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. For this purpose aerial surveys have been carried out which allowed a very extensive coverage of the ice fields. Photographs have been taken of sample strips of ice inhabited by seals, and actual counts made. This aerial survey has also rendered valuable assistance in spotting or locating seals and directing ships to large "patches" or concentrations of seals.

HAZARDOUS CALLING

The sealfishery has not been maintained without loss and tragedy. This year one ship with 7,000 seals on board became caught in "rafting" ice and sank shortly after being crushed. Fortunately, the crew members were able to escape and were later picked up by another ship. But there has been severe loss of life in the past, and of the many disasters none surpasses those of 1914 when 77 men became caught in a storm and were frozen to death when found two days later. The same year 173 members of the crew of a sealer were lost when their ship foundered while returning to port with a full load.

Nowadays the chance of accident at the ice fields is lessened by improvements in navigation instruments and communications, but the romance of the sealfishery abides and each spring the sealers are full of good spirits and impatient to join the great North Atlantic hunt.



Pacific Halibut Fishery

By H. A. DUNLOP

THE NOTEWORTHY feature of the 1951 Pacific halibut fishery was the experimental late opening of two small sections of the grounds, Area 2B, in Lower Hecate Strait off the British Columbia coast and Area 2C off the west coast of Prince of Wales Island in southeastern Alaska.

This was an extension of the method of control by area and catch limits used by the International Fisheries Commission since the outset of regulation in 1932, and follows now generally accepted principles of fisheries management. Where a species appears to consist of relatively independent stocks each such unit should be regarded as a possible separate regulatory problem. This is particularly evident in the case of the Pacific salmons where the regulations are adapted to meet the requirements of each "run" or "race." The different "runs" of the same species of salmon vary widely as to their regulatory needs from one area to another and from one season to another in the same watershed.

At the outset of the Commission control of the halibut fishery two main regulatory areas were established, Area 2 extending from Willapa Harbour, Washington to Cape Spencer, Alaska and Area 3 from Cape Spencer to the Bering Sea. Investigations had demonstrated that the halibut populations of these two large areas were relatively independent of one another. The two areas account for about 98 per cent of the coast's halibut production.

Later in the 1930's the Commission gave intensive consideration to a further division of the coast as additional investigations had revealed the existence of smaller units of stocks that showed some independence one from another, particularly in Area 2. However, since these smaller stocks were then in the same general condition and as it was administratively desirable to have as few regulatory areas as possible, Area 2 continued to be treated as a unit.

To broaden and strengthen the factual basis for the separation of the stock into regulatory units smaller than the original Areas 2 and 3 the Commission has been conducting extensive tagging experiments along with its other studies. Nearly 300,000 pounds of halibut comprising 15,000 individuals have been tagged in 1949, 1950 and 1951 by the scientific staff on chartered halibut vessels. The experiments were conducted on various grounds

along 1,800 miles of coast between Cape Flattery and Unimak Pass. Tagging operations have been on a level far exceeding any in the past and are being further intensified because several years must elapse before recoveries are sufficient to permit firm conclusions to be drawn.

When the Area 2 fishing season was long the fleets were free to fish each of these smaller stocks in approximate proportion to their productive capacity and at the season of the year when each such stock was most available. With the regular Area 2 season now limited to a May fishery the fleets naturally concentrate on the stocks available at that time, resulting in the partial neglect of others.

PROCEDURE FOLLOWED

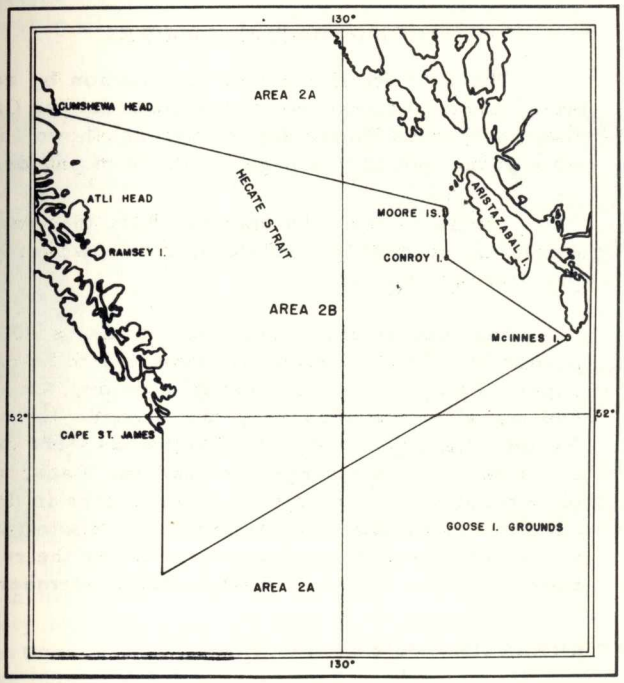
Under the treaty which allows only one fishing period in each area each year there were but two possible types of regulatory measures that might spread fishing over more sections of the stocks, namely, the rotation of opening dates over a period of years to tap both the late and early appearing stocks on all grounds, and/or the opening of different seasons of the year from time to time. At public hearings in 1949, this latter procedure was favoured by a large group of Canadian halibut buyers and supported by many elements of the fishing fleet.

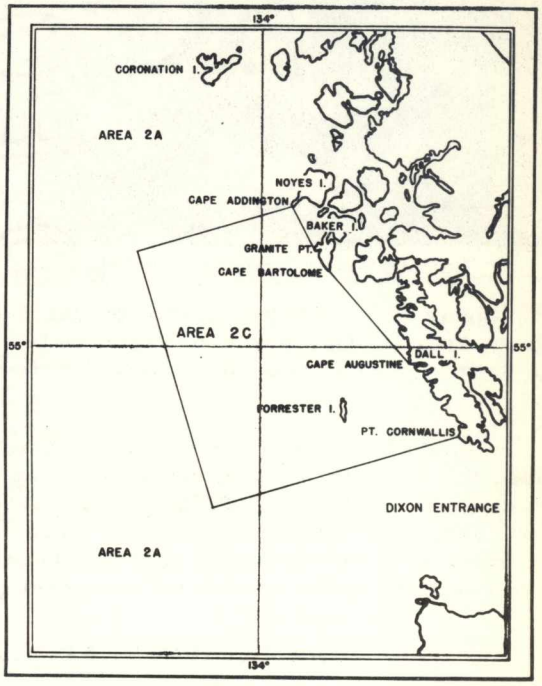
Fishing commenced in the two small areas on July 26 about two months after the closure of the general area and terminated 10 days later on August 4 as provided by the regulations. The general time of year chosen coincided with what had been the area's period of best fishing in earlier years. Tidal conditions dictated the choice of the specific dates. The ten day length of season was considered the minimum that would assure profitable fares.

The magnitude of the Areas 2B and 2C fishery may be seen in the table at the foot of this page showing figures of production in 1000's of pounds and size of fleets.

In spite of pre-season doubts on the part of many vessels at being able to fish effectively on such small areas and within a 10 day period, the fleets were well satisfied with results. The size of the fares and the total yield were up to their expectations.

All ports, Ketchikan and southward, participated in the fishery as shown in the following table





FIGURES OF PRODUCTION IN 1000's OF POUNDS

	Area 2B (Lower Hec. Strait)			Area 2C (Forrester Island)			Areas 2B and 2C (Combined)		
	Can.	U.S.	Total	Can.	U.S.	Total	Can.	U.S.	Total
Landings	1,664	881	2,545	203	842	1,045	1,867	1,723	3,590
No. of vessels	57	44	101	5	35	40	62	79	141
No. of crew	332	271	603	28	210	238	360	481	841

of landings in pounds by the combined Canadian and United States fleets:

Petersburg	3,000
Ketchikan	104,000
Prince Rupert	1,088,000
Misc. B.C. ports	283,000
Vancouver	612,000
Seattle	1,451,000
Misc. Wash. ports	37,000
Astoria	12,000

In general the market had no difficulty in absorbing the 3,600,000 pounds. Some of the landings, all of which were in excellent condition, were shipped fresh in carlots or less than carlots. The main bulk was added to the frozen stocks, the high proportion of large being particulary attractive to some freezers. The average prices paid were

Halibut Trawl Comes Over Side

slightly higher in most ports than for the last landings from Area 3. This was to be expected in view of the buyers' previous investments in frozen stocks.

The 2,500,000 pounds removed from Area 2B exceeded the catch from the same area during the May season in 1950 by 1,500,000 pounds. From Area 2C about 1,000,000 pounds were taken this year compared to about 250,000 in 1950. Thus, in these two sections of the coast there was a net gain of about 2,250,000 pounds. These amounts were in accord with what had been expected of these stocks in the light of their historical productivity.

There was a very high percentage of large fish in the catches indicating an accumulation of older fish. The relative absence of recoveries of fish tagged on other grounds tends to indicate that the stocks fished were not migrants from other grounds.

There seem to be practical limitations to the extent to which such piece-meal regulation of the fishery can be extended to other stocks and even to these same stocks year after year. A critical analysis is being made of statistical and biological data collected to permit the Commission to evaluate this year's experiment.

The regular fishing season opened on May 1. Areas 2A and 1B were closed at midnight May 28 upon the attainment of the 25,500,000 pound catch limit for Area 2A. Areas 3, 4 and 1A were closed midnight June 25, at the estimated time of attainment of the Area 3 limit of 28,000,000 pounds. Due to abnormally bad weather conditions after announcement of the latter closing date, the Area 3 catch failed to reach the limit.

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The 1951 Pacific halibut production by regulatory areas and sections of the coast for the Canadian and United States fleets was as shown in the table at the foot of this page in 1000's of pounds.

Landings for 1950 and for 1931, the year immediately preceding regulation, are shown for comparative purposes.

Included in the above 1951 totals is 900,000 pounds of halibut, the amount expected to be caught under permit by set-line vessels fishing for other species after the closure of the grounds to halibut fishing. Last year only 300,000 pounds were caught under permit. A stronger demand for blackcod and poor prospects coupled with lower prices in the albacore fishery have caused more vessels to remain in the set-line fishery this year. Under the regulations permits became invalid after November 15.

PRODUCTION BY REGULATORY AREAS (IN '000's OF POUNDS)

	Canadian				U. S.				
AREA:	2A	3	2B & 2C	Total	1A & 1B	2A	3	2B & 2C	Total
Landed in-									
Cal. & Oregon	--	--	--	--	400	274	--	12	686
Washington	--	--	--	--	--	3,425	6,321	1,488	11,234
Brit. Col.	14,276	4,575	1,867	20,718	--	515	3,800	116	4,431
Alaska	--	568	--	568	--	8,134	11,029	107	19,270
All ports 1951	14,276	5,143	1,867	21,286	400	12,348	21,150	1,723	35,621
All ports 1950	14,140	4,771	--	18,911	359	12,603	25,415	--	38,377
All ports 1931	7,018	765	--	7,783	923	14,629	20,887	--	36,439

Canadian vessels fishing in Area 3 again landed quantities of halibut in Alaskan customs ports under the provisions of the reciprocal port privileges treaty with the United States. Hitherto such landings were effected under an agreement renewable each year. It was not renewed in 1950 in anticipation of the treaty which however was not ratified in time to permit landings of regular fares that year.

The opportunity to land halibut in western Alaska places Canadian vessels on equal terms with the United States Area 3 fleet. They can dispose of "broken fares" and land such small fares as may be necessary to adjust their trip schedule to fit the closing date.

Prices paid the fleets for halibut during the regular season this year were low in comparison to 1950 in which year prices had jumped sharply. Weighted average prices in cents per pound in some of the major ports during the past three seasons were as follows:

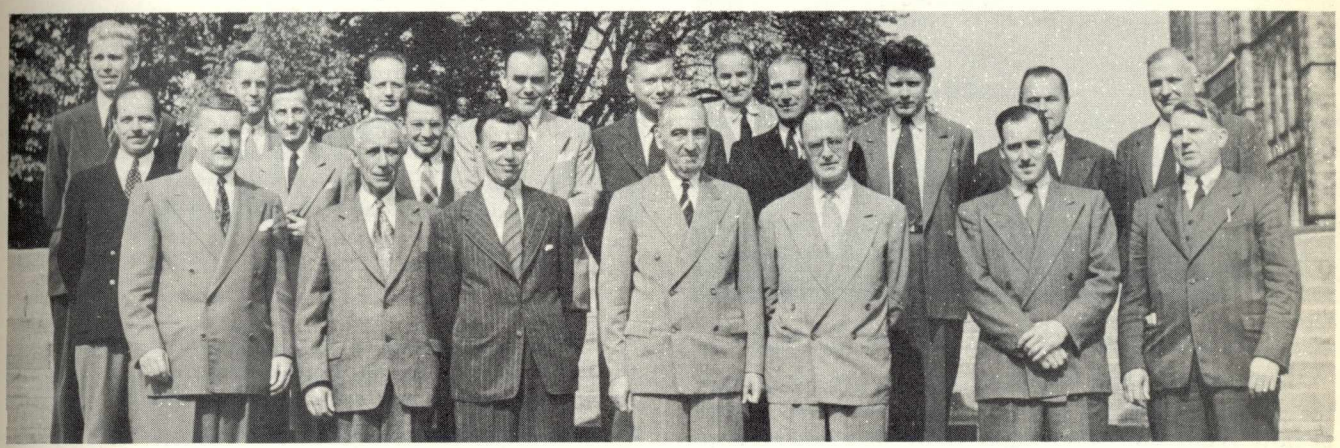
	1949	1950	1951
Ketchikan (U.S.)	17.2	22.2	16.9
Prince Rupert (Can.)	17.1	24.1	17.4
Seattle (U.S.)	21.0	26.5	21.5

The lower 1951 prices are reflected in the average wholesale prices in New York for 20-80 pounds dressed frozen Pacific halibut which were 32¢ in July, 1951, compared to 37¢ in July, 1950.

Many factors appear to have influenced price levels for halibut this year in addition to some slowing down of the general inflationary trend. These included the carry-over on May 1, 1951, of 6,200,000 more pounds of frozen halibut than in 1950, preseason prediction of further increases in domestic production and import of Atlantic halibut, and excessive estimates of the catch expected from Areas 2B and 2C. These indicated that about 85,000,000 pounds would have to be marketed in North America in contrast to about 69,500,000 in 1950.

Subsequent events have seen the preseason frozen surplus disappear. Domestic Atlantic halibut landings may total well under last year by the end of their season. The production from Areas 2B and 2C was in accord with reasonable expectations. Even if the 1950 import totals from Europe should double, the North American supply for 1951 will not exceed 70 million pounds as the surplus carry-over appears to have been absorbed by the market.

Chief Supervisors Meet in Ottawa



The four Chief Supervisors of the field areas of the federal Department of Fisheries early this month held their third annual conference in Ottawa with the Hon. R.W. Mayhew, Minister of Fisheries; Deputy Minister Stewart Bates; Assistant Deputy Minister George R. Clark and directors of the various departmental services. A report of this conference will be carried in the next issue of Trade News. In the above photograph the Chief Supervisors are pictured with the Minister of Fisheries, his deputies, and other senior departmental officials. Front row, left to right, Raymond Gushue, Chief Supervisor, Newfoundland Area, St. John's, Nfld.; E.D. Fraser, Chief Supervisor, Maritimes Area, Halifax, N.S.; Mr. Bates; Mr. Mayhew; Mr. Clark; H.V. Dempsey, Chief Supervisor Central Area, Winnipeg, Man. and A.J. Whitmore, Chief Supervisor, Pacific Area, Vancouver B.C. Second row, P.W. Walters, Director, Administrative Service; S.V. Ozere, Director, Legal Service; I.S. McArthur, Director, Markets and Economics Service; L.S. Bradbury, Director, Newfoundland Fisheries, Dr. C.J. Kerswill and O.C. Young, Scientific Assistants to the chairman of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada; E.B. Young, Conservation and Development Service; L.E. Baker, Director, Inspection and Consumer Service, and Dr. A.W.H. Needler, Director, St. Andrews (N.B.) Biological Station, Fisheries Research Board of Canada. Back row, E.K. Turner, Chief Treasury Officer; J.J. Lamb, Assistant Director, Administrative Service; D.C. Bacon, Assistant to Director, Inspection and Consumer Service; F.H. Wooding, Director, Information and Educational Service. Dr. A.L. Pritchard, Director, Conservation and Development Service, was not present when the photograph was taken.

B.C. Indian Fishery

HUNDREDS of years before English and Spanish naval frigates nosed into the waters of British Columbia, fishing was an important industry along the Pacific Coast. Then it was the Indians who caught and processed the salmon which, every year, swarmed into the rivers. In the past century white men's methods have superseded those of the Indians and today the commercial fisheries of British Columbia are among the world's most highly organized industries. Nevertheless some of the aboriginal customs in catching and curing salmon persist, although even here there are signs of an impending change.

Net is supported by boom fastened to rocks

Under special federal fishery regulations for the province of B.C. any Indian may receive a free permit from the Chief Supervisor of Fisheries to catch salmon "to be used for himself and his family, but for no other purpose." This privilege has been exercised steadily throughout the years. Last year upwards of 1,800 Indian families engaged in taking and curing salmon from B.C. rivers; more than 344,000 fish were thus processed.

These figures represent a fair average of the numbers of Indians engaged and the quantity of fish taken each year, but there is considerable variation from one year to another. Abundance of fish, condition of crops, the availability and the rates of pay offered by other forms of employment -- all of these are factors which the Indian weighs carefully before planning his summer's activities. But whatever may be the variations in his programme of work and living, place and time are carefully preserved by the Indian for acquiring his annual supply of salmon for family needs.

Even the weather may affect, in a marked manner, the quantity of fish taken by Indians. During the current year, for example, a long continued dry spell created fire hazards in forest regions which brought about government closures of these areas. This resulted in a shut-down of logging camps and lumber mills. Many Indians who would normally have been employed in these industries were engaged in fishing and curing salmon.

METHODS USED

As a general rule the actual fishing is done by the head of the Indian family. This consists of spearing, dip-netting or set-netting, and is carried out on rivers above the ordinary commercial fishing boundaries. The two former methods are gradually being discarded and, indeed, are not legal on some rivers. By far the great majority of Indians use some form of net. A set-net is a portion of an ordinary gill-net. Indians, knowing their river and all its moods, display great skill in the choice of a location to fish. Wherever possible the net is set so that back eddies will keep it swinging across channels which salmon will likely traverse. Using a dug-out canoe, or sometimes a more modern gasoline boat, the fisherman moors one end of the net to the shore and takes and other out into the stream as far as it will go, where it is buoyed at top and anchored at bottom. Sometimes, where waters are too fast and treacherous for the use of boats the set net is put out by means of large poles which are secured to the shore.

Up until quite recently the basic Indian methods of preserving salmon in summer fishing days for use in winter and spring was by smoking or sun drying. Smoking is more prevalent in the Naas, Skeena and other northern areas, where hours of sunshine are limited. Every fishing village has its one or more smoke houses, built of modified open logs and cedar shake roofs. Women and children do the butchering and other work after fish are caught. The salmon is first split open and spread with small sticks and cut across laterally to allow maximum smoke penetration. It is then placed on racks in the smoke house and a slow burning fire is lit down the length of the building. Smoking takes some weeks. Salmon thus cured will normally afford food supply all winter.

In southern areas such as the Upper Fraser river, where more sunshine is experienced, salmon is sun-dried after the usual splitting and slicing. Drying racks, where possible, are built above flood water level. These are flimsy looking structures

(Continued on page 20)

Chefs Get Fish Tips

CO-ORDINATING its efforts with the fishing industry and groups which sell fish directly to consumers, the federal Department of Fisheries has embarked on a new campaign to push sales in Canada. This particular effort is a series of sessions to emphasize to chefs and cooks the importance of the correct purchasing, preparation and cooking of fish and fish products.

Miss Bedford and Chef Kirchenberger

In its overall "eat more fish" drive, the Department is endeavouring to reach every link in the chain of fish distribution. The greatest accent at the moment is on the consumer level, with a practical approach being taken to the problems of the merchandising of fish. Departmental home economists are emphasizing to the housewife several important factors. Among them are the nutritive values of fish, convenience of serving fish meals, variety in fish dishes, the non-waste factor which makes fish a quality budget item, the economy of the initial cost of fish, and the "know how" of fish cookery.

This new effort is only a part of the Department's campaign to bring about a greater use of fish among Canadians. As well as putting forth special efforts to have locker plants and other outlets handle more fish, the Department is also stepping up its work in the lecture and demonstration of fish handling and cookery in the home. The main purpose of the campaign is to prevail upon Canadian restaurants and hotels to increase their use of fish and shellfish. The first three sessions were inaugurated in Toronto on September 17 at the Ryerson Institute of Technology. These are expected to be the forerunners of similar meetings in various centres across Canada.

The co-operation which groups outside the government service are giving to the Department in its efforts to boost fish sales was markedly evident in the planning of these sessions for Canadian chefs. Considerable support is being given by the restaurant trade. Stewart's Green Valley Restaurant, Ottawa, assigned its chief chef, Gus Kirchenberger, to the third Toronto session on September 26, to give a practical demonstration of the principles of fish cookery as they apply to the restaurant and hotel trade.

W.W. Roberts, head of the Consumer Branch of the Department of Fisheries, told the inaugural session that the idea for such a campaign came early this summer when representatives of the Toronto Wholesale Fish Merchants' Association, the Fisheries Council of Canada, and the federal Department of Fisheries, met with officials of the Ryerson Institute of Technology in Toronto to discuss ways the services of the Institute could be utilized to further the programme of the fishing industry and the Department to increase the consumption of fish and shellfish on the domestic market.

The Canadian Restaurant Association and Ontario Hotel Association were brought into the picture following preliminary discussions, and gave their full support to the initial sessions by informing the members of their respective organizations through special bulletins.

R. E. Matthews, secretary of the Toronto Wholesale Fish Merchants' Association, emphasized that the restaurant and hotel trade should feature at least four varieties every day on their menus. These, he said, should be fresh or frozen sea fish; fresh and frozen freshwater fish; smoked fish, and crustacea or shellfish. Mr. Matthews believed that the time was ripe for chefs to feature fish on the breakfast menus. He urged the hotel and restaurant food buyers to stress quality when ordering from fish dealers and then make sure that the fresh product they receive is given the best possible care.

Mr. Matthews told the restaurant and hotel group that they were the last connecting link between the fishing industry and the consuming public. He concluded his talk by reiterating: 1) buy quality; and 2) widen the variety of fish on the menus.

A demonstration of the proper methods of fish handling and cookery was given at the second session at Ryerson Institute on September 24 by Miss Edith Bedford, home economist of the Consumer Branch of the federal Department of Fisheries, during which a talk was given by Miss Edith Elliot, chief of the Department's Home Economics Section.

Census of Fishermen

The first test census of Canadian fishermen, one of the preliminaries to a complete census for which arrangements have been made, was carried out jointly by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Fisheries in September in the Digby-Yarmouth areas of Nova Scotia. The results

Enumerator and fisherman at Cape St. Mary, N.S.

of the field work, which was carried out by the Department's Markets and Economics Service, were considered satisfactory and a similar test is now under way in Newfoundland. Others will be taken during the next few months in several selected areas of limited extent.

Information on fishermen obtained in the general occupational census carried out on June 1, 1951, is being used as a basis for detailed enumeration of fishing operators.

Since 1871 the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has provided the agricultural industry with complete records every 10 years, covering production, costs, sales, assets, etc., for all farmers. The Census Branch has agreed to provide similar data on fishermen for 1951 in co-operation with the Department of Fisheries. The census will be confined to "own account" operators -- that is, fishermen who are in charge of a fishing enterprise, and will not include sharemen or employees.

★ COVER PHOTOGRAPH: A salmon fisherman sets his gill-net off the coast of British Columbia. Gill-netters of this type are the most common of the vessels used in the B.C. salmon fishery.

It is estimated that, for the country as a whole, some 50,000 fishermen, or 60 per cent of all fishermen, will fall into the "own account" class.

On the basis of the test census enumerations, a sampling procedure will be worked out by the Bureau of Statistics which will provide for the collection of complete data from only some 25 to 30 per cent of all "own account" fishermen. Information provided by such a sample will be adequate to permit sufficiently accurate estimates covering all fishermen. The co-operation of the Chief Supervisors and other field officers of the Department has been enlisted for the project. In so far as possible, the work will be arranged in such a way that it will be fitted into those seasons when fishing operations are at a minimum. All enumerators will be under an oath of secrecy and no information about any individual can be revealed to any other person or agency of government.

Prices Support--Newfoundland

The following statement was issued on October 2, 1951, by Honourable R. W. Mayhew, Minister of Fisheries:

"In fulfilment of commitments made over a year ago, the Government of Canada has authorized the Fisheries Prices Support Board to make deficiency payments on the 1950 production of Newfoundland shore-caught and Labrador semi-dry salted codfish. The payments will be made to approximadely 20,000 Newfoundland and Labrador fishermen.

"For generations, salted codfish has been the mainstay of Newfoundland's shore fishermen, and the abnormal decline in the price of Labrador and Newfoundland salted fish which occurred between 1949 and 1950 made it necessary for the Federal Government to take action under the Fisheries Prices Support Act.

"In contrast to the improved market situation today, conditions were particularly difficult in 1950 when post-war adjustment in the markets was taking place. The extension of wartime and relief demands and the disruption of European production had been sufficient to maintain prices at relatively high levels. The cessation of these extraordinary demands, coinciding with the tight dollar position in the principal markets for the Newfoundland product, depressed the prices to fishermen.

"It is the Federal Government's belief that prices support action cannot solve the problem of Newfoundland fishermen. Fundamental improve-

ments in production methods are necessary and the Federal Government places great significance on the work now being carried out by the Newfoundland Fisheries Development Committee, under Sir Albert Walsh. Improvements of this kind will take time and, since fishermen presently depend on the sale of salted codfish for as much as 85 per cent of their income, the alternative of deficiency payments was considered necessary in this instance.

"As was stated earlier this year, market conditions for the 1951 production have improved to the point where action under the Fisheries Prices Support Act appears unnecessary.

"The deficiency payment of $1.30 per quintal on an estimated production of 645,000 quintals of 1950 fish will apply uniformly to all grades and sizes of shore-caught fish and will go directly to all Newfoundland shore fishermen who sold such fish, regardless of what price they received from their merchants. Thus, the payment will not disturb the existent differentials due to distance from export points, quality or other causes. The Fisheries Prices Support Board has been authorized to proceed with arrangements to distribute the payments as soon as possible, but it will take considerable time to check all statements received and still to be received from fishermen, and to prepare for the final issuance of cheques to individuals. To date, forms covering the sale of shore fish have been received at Ottawa from some 8,500 sellers of fish. Sharemen who sold their fish through the skipper of a crew should receive their share from the skipper of the crew.

"Any fishermen who sold shore-caught fish, either on his own behalf or on behalf of others sharing with him, and who has not yet received from his merchant the special Government forms covering his sales of 1950 fish, should immediately get in touch with his merchant. Merchants who have not yet distributed the forms supplied to them for completion and distribution to fishermen are urged to do so at once. Payments to fishermen cannot be made until these forms, signed by both merchant and fisherman, have been received in Ottawa. For these reasons, fishermen should not anticipate receiving cheques covering their share of the deficiency payment for at least another two months.

"A deficiency payment of 85 cents per quintal will be paid to the producers of semi-dry Labrador codfish also of the 1950 production. This latter payment, on approximately 51,000 quintals, will raise the price of semi-dry Labrador to $7.85 per quintal and will restore the traditional percentage differential between the prices of semi-dry and the ordinary cure. The price of Labrador fish of the 1950 production had previously been guaranteed by the Federal Government at a uniform price of $7.00 per quintal for either semi-dry or ordinary cure. This fish has all been disposed of and the industry is carrying on without federal assistance in 1951.

"The Fisheries Prices Support Board obtained records of sales of Labrador fish in the fall of 1950. These records are now being checked and payments will be made directly to the sellers of the semi-dry fish when all arrangements are completed

"Any correspondence arising out of this statement should be addressed to the Federal Department of Fisheries, St. John's, Newfoundland."

Lemon Sole Area Opened

Lemon sole fishing in the upper portion of Baynes Sound, British Columbia, was opened October 6 for two days a week until a total of 100,000 pounds, round weight, is caught.

The area was opened to fishing because a large stock of the flatfish has accumulated in Baynes Sound since 1947, and it was considered desirable that this stock should be cropped.

The total quota of 100,000 pounds of lemon sole (Parophrys vetulus) may be increased by the Chief Supervisor of Fisheries for British Columbia on recommendation of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada in the event that population estimates currently being carried out by the Board show that an increase is indicated.

Fishing is permitted by means of trawl net on Saturday and Sunday of each week in that part of Baynes Sound which is bounded and described as follows: Commencing at Denman Point on Denman Island and thence to a fishing boundary sign on the shore of Vancouver Island opposite Denman Point; thence northward along the east shore of Vancouver Island to the fishing boundary near Trent River; thence northwestward to the fishing boundary on Goose Spit; thence eastward to the Red Can Buoy on the west side of Comox Bar; thence southeastward to Longbeak Point, and thence southward along the shore of Denman Island to Denman Point.

Lobster Length Limits

Over the past year the Department of Fisheries has been following very closely the developments resulting from the passage by the State of Massachussetts of legislation increasing from 3 1/8 inches to 3 3/16 inches the minimum size at which lobsters might be caught or found in anyone's possession in that state.

Close studies by scientists of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada indicated that a certain amount of extra protection would be provided by the increased length and that after the first year the total poundage caught should be about the same or slightly larger than at present.

It was evident, however, that because a large part of the Maritime lobster production is sold in

Massachussetts a serious marketing problem would result. Markets, other than Massachussetts, would have to be found for lobster 3 1/8 inches and 3 3/16 inches carapace measurement.

The federal Department of Fisheries is recommending regulations to be effective as soon as possible to raise the present minimum length, to 3 3/16 inches in those areas where the present minimum length is 3 1/8 inches.

Developments will be closely watched throughout the ensuing year to determine whether conditions will warrant a further increase to bring the minimum length to 3 1/4 inches as proposed by the State of Massachussetts, effective December 1, 1952.

Research Executive Meets

On October 5 and 6 the Executive Committee of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada held meetings in Ottawa. Besides the scientific programmes and the estimates for the next fiscal year, which are usually considered each fall, the committee gave some study to the Board's headquarters organization.

Major D.H. Sutherland, executive director of the Board, has retired (see story elsewhere on this page), and the committee had to re-assign his duties and responsibilities. These have been assigned for the time being to the Headquarters Unit at Ottawa, the chairman of which is O.C. Young, from the Vancouver station of the Board. Assisting at headquarters, particularly in scientific matters relating to biology, is Dr. C.J. Kerswill from the St. Andrew's station; H. A. Wilson, who joined the headquarters staff in 1948, assists with accounting and matters relating to personnel.

The programmes of the Board's biological, technological and exploratory works were reviewed, in relation to estimates for the next fiscal year. Last year, the Board's appropriations were reduced to conform with the Government's policy to reduce estimates of departments not directly engaged in defence work. This year the Board is attempting to keep the output of results at the same level as last year, and the plans for next year are also designed for this purpose.

Dr. G. B. Reed, O. B. E., Kingston, Ont., chairman of the Board, presided over the sessions.

The members of the executive committee of the meeting, in addition to Dr. Reed, were Dr. J.R. Dymond, O. B. E., Toronto, Ont. vice chairman; Dr. W.A. Clemens, Vancouver, B. C.; O.F. MacKenzie, Halifax, N. S.; R. E. Walker, Vancouver, B. C. and E. K. Turner, Ottawa, Ontario, honoury treasurer. Station directors and heads of other fisheries research groups present were Dr. A.W.H. Needler, O. B. E., Director, Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrews, N. B.; Dr. W. Templeman, Newfoundland Fisheries Research Station, St. John's, Newfoundland; Dr. S. A. Beatty, Director, Atlantic Fisheries Experimental Station, Halifax, N. S.; Dr. A. Nadeau, Director, Gaspe Fisheries Experimental Station, Grand River, Que.; Dr. K. H. Doan, Director, Central Fisheries Research Station, Winnipeg, Man.; Dr. J. L. Hart, Director, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C. Dr. N.M. Carter, Director, Pacific Fisheries Experimental Station, Vancouver, B. C.; Dr. A.G. Huntsman, consulting director, Toronto; Dr. H.B. Hachey, St. Andrews, N. B., Principal Oceanographer in charge of Oceanography, and Dr. M.J. Dunbar, biologist in charge of Eastern Arctic Investigation, Montreal, Que.

Major Sutherland Retires

Major D. H. Sutherland, M. C., E. D., who has retired as Executive Director of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, has served Canadian fisheries for 30 years, 13 of these with the Fisheries Research Board.

Entering the Department of Fisheries at Pictou, N.S., in 1921 as an inspector, Major Sutherland became district supervisor in 1929. Two years later he was appointed chief supervisor of fisheries at Halifax, N.S., and in 1936 was appointed a member of the Nova Scotia Fishermen's Loan Board. It was on July 1, 1940, that he moved to Ottawa as Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries, and Director of Eastern Fisheries. He was later appointed as one of the departmental representatives and Honourary Secretary of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, and with an amendment to the Fisheries Research Board Act, in 1948, became the Board's executive director. In the same year he was appointed a member of the Advisory Board on Wildlife Protection.

Born in Pictou, N.S., he was educated at Pictou Academy and Mount Allison University. In 1915, during World War 1, he enlisted in the Dalhousie Unit R. C. A. M. C., Halifax, N.S. In England he joined the Black Watch of the 51st Division, serving in Palestine and France. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action, and later was given the Efficiency Decoration for long and meritorious service. He joined the Pictou County Highlanders with the rank of major.

Major Sutherland has been honoured by members of the staff of the headquarters unit of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, as well as by headquarters staff members of the federal Department of Fisheries. In making the presentation on behalf of the Department, Deputy Minister Stewart Bates praised Major Sutherland's work during the many years with the Department and during his term as executive director of the Board. Major Suther-

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DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Atlantic Coast Fisheries

(END OF AUGUST, 1951)

IN AUGUST last the yield of the fisheries in the Maritimes and Quebec was significantly below that of 1950. Less cod, halibut, pollock, herring and sardines were landed in 1951. However, due mainly to a satisfactory price level, the income to fishermen for August, at $3.5 million, was lower by only $150,000 to that of last year, for the same month. An increase in the catch of swordfish - which is also better priced than in 1950 - and in the catch of plaice and rosefish somewhat offset the decline for other fisheries. The lobster and haddock fisheries were about equivalent to those of August 1950.

The cumulative catch of cod at the end of August was lower than that of 1950 by 15.5 million pounds but its value to fishermen equalled that of the preceding year. The price for cod so far was about 10 per cent better than in 1950; that of cod livers also increased by about 20 per cent. The output of salted cod was below that of 1950 and this is being reflected in reduced inventories. The production of frozen cod fillets and of the smoked product was also reported at significantly lower level than in 1950. Consequently, at September first, the stocks of cod fillets were below those of a year ago, by 2.6 million pounds.

HADDOCK FISHERY

The haddock fishery in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick yielded very satisfactorily this year and the amount landed was 7.4 million pounds more in 1951 than last year. However, the price was down in the current year and the income to fishermen did not increase as significantly as the catch. It is noteworthy that, on the contrary, this fishery was almost a failure for the current year in the Newfoundland waters. The freezings of haddock fillets in this province were 5.2 million pounds below those of the preceding year.

The catch of pollock fell short of last year's figure by almost 10 million pounds and this is being reflected in reduced inventories of salted product. Compared with 1950, the stocks of salted cod and allied species were on the whole down by about five million pounds -- dried weight basis -- and this is fully explained by reduced output.

The herring catch, at 20 million pounds in August, was lower by 11 million pounds to that of the same month of 1950. Most significant in the output of herring products, in the early months of the year, was the increase in the amount of bloaters processed. This product is fetching a better price this year than last. Inventories at the beginning of September were 35,000 boxes (18-pound boxes) more than last year.

Sardines - or immature herring - were very scarce all through the summer and the August catch was still six million pounds less than for the same month of 1950. As a result the catch in the first eight months was only 20.4 million pounds, a drastic drop from 49.3 million pounds in 1950. The pack of canned sardines is not quite a half of what it was in the preceding season.

REVIEW BY PROVINCES

During the month of August the catch of fish in Nova Scotia was six million pounds below that of 1950 and the value to fishermen down by $150,000. The decline is mainly attributable to lower cod landings. However, for the first eight months the total catch and value to fishermen were about equivalent in both years. The yield of the cod, halibut, pollock and mackerel fisheries was low in 1951, but on the other hand the haddock, lobster, plaice and rosefish fisheries were better than in the previous year.

The absence of sardines in the waters of the Bay of Fundy largely explain the decline of the total catch for the province of New Brunswick from 180.8 million pounds at the end of August 1950 to 148.5 million pounds this year. On the other hand the income to fishermen for the first eight months of 1951 is slightly better than last year due to better prices for cod and herring. The mackerel fishery was also successful this year. It is otherwise worthwhile mentioning that due to scarcity, sardines were sold at a price which more than doubled that of 1950.

At the end of August, the total landed value of the Prince Edward Island fisheries fell short by $220,000 of the 1950 figure. This is due to the less successful lobster fishery this year than last, lobstering being the main fishery of the Island.

For a second consecutive month the catch of cod was low in the province of Quebec during August. Consequently, the cumulative catch at the end of the month, at 36.3 million pounds was below that of last year by 9.6 million pounds. However, due to a firmer price to fishermen in the current year than last, the value to fishermen decreased by $28,000 only so far in the year. The lobster fishery was also not too successful in the 1951 season, when the catch and value fell short of the previous year's

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Fishery Figures For August

1. Sea Fish: Landings January 1 - August 31, 1950 and 1951
(Newfoundland not included)

	Landings ('000 lb)		Landed Value ($'000)	
	1950	1951	1950	1951
Pacific Coast				
Salmon	101,268	119,504	13,302	19,165
Herring	169,249	146,686	2,106	2,018
Halibut	18,452	22,204	3,854	3,653
Other (incl. livers)	25,256	30,177	1,766	2,435
Total	314,225	318,571	21,028	27,271
Atlantic Coast				
Cod	175,181	159,660	4,768	4,784
Haddock	31,265	38,650	1,573	1,823
Halibut	7,651	6,768	1,689	1,427
Herring	130,689	121,465	1,120	1,222
Sardines	49,291	20,396	540	465
Mackerel	18,929	18,488	573	653
Salmon	2,155	1,698	750	663
Smelts	3,616	4,588	481	586
Lobsters	35,057	34,995	9,384	8,810
Other (incl. livers)	101,329	106,690	2,530	3,250
Total	555,163	513,398	23,408	23,683
Total, Both Coasts	869,388	831,969	44,436	50,954
By Provinces				
British Columbia	314,225	318,571	21,028	27,271
Nova Scotia	262,995	264,103	14,688	14,967
New Brunswick	181,766	149,402	4,366	4,675
Prince Edward Island	21,188	21,626	2,032	1,818
Quebec	89,214	78,267	2,322	2,223

II. Newfoundland Production of Frozen Fish
January 1 - August 31

	1950 ('000 lb)	1951 ('000 lb)
Cod	11,702	12,190
Haddock	7,124	1,780
Rosefish	3,152	6,545
Herring	5,851	4,159
Other	2,298	4,014
Total	30,127	28,688

III. Prices Paid to Fishermen, Aug. 15, 1950 & 1951
Cents Per Pound

	1950	1951
Halifax		
Cod Steak	3 3/4 - 3	4 1/4 - 3 3/4
Market Cod	3 3/4 - 2 3/4	3 1/2 - 3
Haddock	6 - 5	5 1/2 - 5
Halibut	25	23
Prince Rupert		
Ling Cod	5	5
Black Cod (6 lb up)	9	16
Gray Cod	4 - 3	3 1/2 - 2 1/2
Soles	4 1/2 - 3	5 - 3
Halibut (medium)	26 1/2	15
Salmon		
Redspring (14 lb up)	30	28
Whitespring	15	21
Steelhead	17	18
Sockeye	24	25
Coho (for freezing)	24	24
Pink	7	9 1/2
Chum	5 1/2	7 1/2
Vancouver		
Ling Cod	8	11 - 8 3/4
Gray Cod	4	6 - 4 1/2
Soles	7	9
Salmon		
Redspring	35 - 33	35
Whitespring	22	28
Sockeye	22	28 - 27
Coho (for freezing)	36 1/2-32	31
Pink	-	12

IV. Stocks As At End of August

	1950 ('000 lb)	1951 ('000 lb)
Frozen Fish (incl. Nfld.)		
Cod Fillets (Atlantic)	6,282	3,678
Halibut	10,428	11,793
Salmon	7,153	6,866
Herring	13,022	6,450
Other	10,915	11,709
Total Sea Fish	47,800	40,496
Whitefish, dressed or filleted	2,129	2,567
Pickerel, dressed or filleted	89	88
Tullibee, round or dressed	303	360
Other	1,638	1,572
Total Inland Fish	4,159	4,587
Total Frozen Fish	51,959	45,083
Smoked Fish (incl. Nfld.)		
Cod Fillets (Atlantic)	2,263	2,084
Other	1,585	1,639
Total Smoked Fish	3,848	3,723
Salt Fish (excl. Nfld.)		
Wet-Salted ('000 lb)	22,385	15,306
Dried "	7,067	6,319
Boneless "	210	425
Pickled (barrels)	33,206	33,494
Bloaters (18 lb boxes)	247,667	282,430
Salt Fish (Nfld. only)		
Shore	16,041	17,980
Bank	1,347	224
Labrador	5,604	1,798
Total	22,992	20,002

FISHERIES NEWS FROM ABROAD

United Kingdom Salt Fish Industry

AN HISTORICAL look at the United Kingdom salt fish industry shows that it has always been geared to the export market, that prior to 1930 the chief source of raw material was imported wet salted split fish, supplemented by the over-supply of fresh fish on the domestic market together with sporadic supplies of U.K. vessel produced wet salted fish; that during the 1930's its source of supply came into relative balance as between fish surplus to fresh requirements on the domestic market and foreign imports of wet salted split fish, but at a level permitting only of considerably reduced exports.

The outbreak of war limited supplies to insignificant amounts and it was not until 1949 that improvement in this position permitted the U.K. again to become influential in the world markets for salted fish.

Wet salted split imports have been relatively constant in recent years and at a level somewhat below the quantities imported in the immediate pre-war period.

Imports of dry salted cod and related species, which in 1937 reached the high of 19 million pounds, are now insignificant. In conjunction with this it is observed that exports of imported merchandise, which were of substantial volume before the war, are now only of minor importance.

Post-war exports of fish processed in the U.K. remained low until 1950, but in that year increased rapidly to a level approaching those of the lower pre-war years. There has been, however, a decided change in destination; the volume of exports to foreign countries remains considerably below the pre-war level whereas exports to British countries are approximately double those of before the war.

It is strikingly obvious that although in the year 1950 the U.K. practically regained the pre-war level of exports arising out of processing, the total volume of export trade remains much reduced by reason of the almost complete absence of imports in the dry salted form

TRADE ORGANIZATION

The U.K. firms engaged in salt fish processing and trade are not as a general rule restricted to this line of activity, nor does this occupy the major proportion of most of the businesses. In many ways it can be classified as a sideline activity, to be developed when market conditions are favourable, and left to itself at other times.

The two sources of raw materials are fish surplus to domestic requirements and wet salted split fish. Individual firms vary in the usage of these materials as follows: (1) only surplus fresh fish; (2) only wet salted split; (3) both surplus fresh fish and wet salted split.

The practice of combining production from the two sources is much the more important for the reason that it offers lower production costs. The cheap but irregular supply from fresh fish, augmented with the relatively high priced wet salted product, allows the processing plant to turn out a constant flow of dry salted fish. Although the product from both sources of raw material is heavy salted, hard dried, and as such can cater to a wide range of warm climates, the consumer demand for each is largely separate. Thus, although combining the two materials reduces production costs, the final amount of each produced must bear a close relationship to the state of existing markets.

The processing plants are located at the principal ports for fresh fish. Since all firms are not represented at each port, and since transportation costs prohibit shipping fresh fish from one port to another, some apparent inequalities in the supply-price position for surplus fresh fish may exist. It can easily happen that at one port there is a heavy demand for surplus fresh fish whereas at another the amounts offered are not taken, dependent upon the condition of the markets which each firm has developed.

SUPPLY - PRICE POSITION

The supplies surplus to the fresh fish trade are sporadic from day to day, with the greatest amount usually becoming available during the months of April, May and June. Without supplementary supplies of wet salted fish, to allow relatively uniform production throughout the year, the costs of production would tend to rise rapidly. On the other hand, the U.K. is constantly faced with relatively high costs for wet salted fish, which can only be met if it balances out its production with surplus low priced fresh fish. The industry must rely on imports from the main salt fish producers such as Iceland, Faroes and Norway, who themselves are competitors of the U.K. in the world markets. Although the U.K. has a certain trading advantage within Commonwealth countries, the salt fish consuming capacity of these markets limits the development of the industry based upon the processing of imports.

Total supplies from the wet salted sources were very similar in the years 1949 and 1950,

amounting to 9.7 and 10.0 million pounds respectively. The amount for 1950 includes 2.3 million pounds produced by U. K. trawlers at the time the fresh market was depressed. Imports during the early part of 1951 were at a level suggesting that the total for the year may be somewhat in excess of previous years.

The principal varieties of fresh fish entering salting are cod, ling, saithe, torsk, (tusk) and a very little haddock. Salting of cod and haddock is, of course, very incidental to total production. For the others the following gives a comparison of landings for the year 1949:-

	British Taking	Foreign Taking	Total
	Cwts.		
Ling	143,347	11,571	154,918
Saithe	511,811	122,596	634,407
Torsk	6,022	144	6,166

The principal demand for saithe is for sale as fresh fish, followed by a restricted demand for smoking, after which unsold quantities go to the salters at reduced prices.

Ling has demand from both the fresh fish trade and smokers, but since this is at a low price level, it is not too difficult to attract this product into the salting trade.

The normal pricing practice is that, at each of the fishing port auctions, a schedule is established setting the minimum price for which fish will be sold to the fresh fish trade, a lower minimum price at which it will be sold to salters, and a price at which all unsold and condemned fish is disposed of to the oil and meal plants. The fresh fish buyers and salt buyers are not guaranteed any minimum prices, but have the option on any quantity that becomes available at the current minimum price. As mentioned earlier salters are interested in cod, haddock, ling, saithe, and torsk, but as a rule not in small cod because it is considered that the costs of processing are too high in relation to the low market price for the dried product.

The trade indicates that 1949 was the first post-war year that supplies to salters became relatively available. Prior to this fish for fresh consumption was scarce and high priced. In 1949 heavy fresh production flooded the market; in April 1950 the Government removed price controls, and industry experienced a price decline, but finally in September 1950 the price situation improved and the market has remained firm since then.

Thus, in 1949 the U.K. salters had available to them at salters' prices, more supplies than they could or wanted to handle, with the result that saltable fish (excluding small cod) was disposed of to the low-priced oil and meal processing plants.

In 1950, up to August, the salters continued to enjoy supplies at special prices close to their combined requirements. From then on, owing to the combination of short supplies of fish generally for domestic consumption and a stepped-up demand for fish for salting, the industry was not able to get all the supplies desired at the minimum prices for salters. The situation has been one in which, at some auctions, minimum prices to salters have been raised even though minimum prices to fresh buyers have remained the same; the total supply offered at special prices appears to have been considerably reduced from that of a year ago; there has been buying by a sector of the trade directly in competition with buyers of fish for fresh domestic consumption, and the total quantity going into the salting industry up to June continued to be at least equal to that obtained under the favourable buying conditions of the first half of 1950.

Substantial purchases of fresh fish for salting in direct price competition with the buying of fish for domestic consumption in the fresh state which has recently been in existence is clearly exceptional. It has resulted from internal competition for raw material supplies together with long term marketing commitments by a sector of the salting industry. The important advantage that the U.K. industry possesses is access to a comparatively cheap source of raw material by reason of sporadic oversupply of the fresh trade. Any large scale buying at the regular fresh fish prices will undoubtedly impair the ability of the industry to compete on the world markets.

GOVERNMENT - INDUSTRY RELATIONS

Prior to decontrol of fish prices in 1949, the government exercised control over the special prices at which the salting industry could buy surplus fresh fish, and additionally had in effect regulations which tended to increase domestic consumption of salted fish.

There are presently no government regulations in operation designed either to control or to lend assistance to the industry. The White Fish Authority constituted in 1950 has wide powers of legislation affecting the fishing industry. No action as yet has been implemented by this body which bears directly upon the salting trade.

The salting industry is generally regarded both by government officials and other sectors of the fisheries as an essential factor towards clearing the fresh fish market of surplus supplies. The salters have no assurance of supply constancy but do have the opportunity to buy at favourable prices up to the limit of availability. Although the question of price is often a point for discussion between the salters and the trawler associations, the lack of alternate surplus disposal channels tends to maintain the price at a level allowing profitable production of salt fish.

Scottish Fisheries - - 1950

AS REPORTED in the September issue of "Trade News," Scottish fishermen did not have a very successful year in 1950, although there was some improvement in conditions towards its close. The following details are from the official "Report on the Fisheries of Scotland, 1950," published by the Scottish Home Department in July, 1950 (Cmd. 8302).

White fish landings totalled just under 300 million pounds by weight, valued at 7.5 million pounds sterling. This accounted for 59 per cent of the quantity and 80 per cent of the value of all Scottish landings. A number of vessels were laid up because of the poor market and production was low, especially from the Iceland and other more distant areas. More than half the white fish come from the North Sea. Trawlers brought in 60 per cent of the catch and seine netters 27 per cent.

END OF SUBSIDY

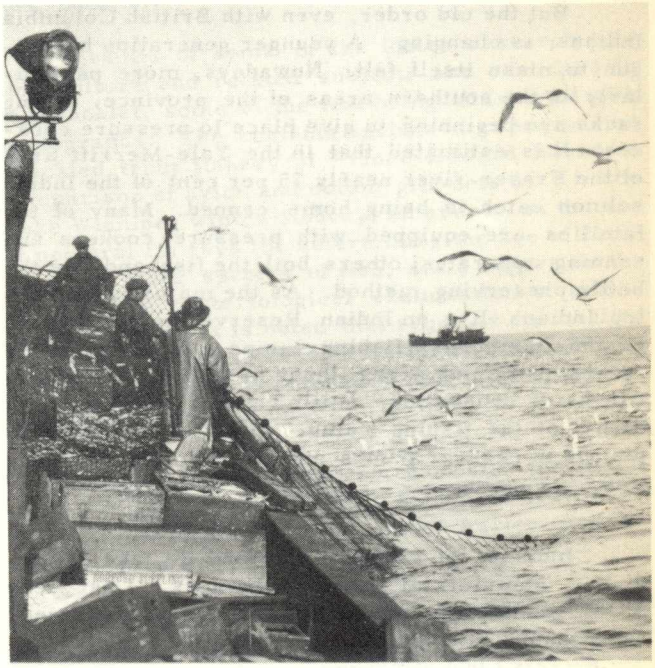
Landings of foreign caught white fish at Scottish ports dropped from 36 million pounds in 1949 to 12 million in 1950. Price decontrol in April brought the end of the subsidy and the flat rate transport scheme and was followed by a substantial but short-lived rise in prices, which soon dropped to below the controlled level.

It was then that the government set up the White Fish Authority (Trade News, July, 1950) which reintroduced the subsidy on a temporary basis and in a different form. It applied to white fish caught in the near and middle waters. Discussions were initiated in the Organization for European Economic Co-operation on the possibility of a common policy to regulate landings of coarse fish from distant waters and prevent over-fishing of nearer waters.

Herring landings were the smallest in half a century apart from the war years. They brought less than two million pounds sterling and weighed less than 200 million pounds. Demand was low both at home and abroad and the average price per hundred-weight was only 18s. 3d., compared with 20s. in 1949. Summer sales in the east coast ports were particularly disappointing. A substantial proportion of the catch was converted into oil and meal, which somewhat offset the drop in domestic demand for fresh and kippered products.

Like white fish, herring were released from price control in April and fell in price. The drop was from the ceiling of 85s. 10d. per cran to an average 70s. Sales promotions by the Herring Industry Board perhaps had something to do with an improvement in the East Anglian market during the summer season. The government offered fifty per cent support to wider campaigns planned by the Board for this year and next.

Expansion of the canned herring industry received a slight check in 1950, largely because fishermen could not find adequate quantities of herring suitable for canning, but partly also because tinplate was temporarily scarce. Production of quick frozen herring was much lower than in the previous year. Only 103 thousand barrels of cured herring were produced during the Scottish summer season. This was even below the government quotas fixed in relation to reduced export opportunities.



Scottish drifter hauls aboard catch of herring

Partly because of currency difficulties, Scottish exports of pickled herring dropped from 148 thousand barrels in 1949 to 78 thousand in 1950. Under an agreement to purchase the herring surplus, the government bought 46 million pounds in 1950, compared with 33 million the previous year. The Herring Board's scheme for co-operative marketing of high-grade quick frozen kippers in Canada and the United States was initiated during 1950.

Scotland's 1950 shellfish catch was valued at 256 thousand pounds sterling, compared with 371 thousand the previous year. Lower prices contributed to this drop, both directly and by causing a small catch of lobsters and crabs. The catch of salmon and grilse was smaller than in 1949 but slightly above the average for the previous five years.

The Scottish fishing fleet was smaller in 1950 than in 1949 by four steam trawlers and liners, 56 steam drifters, 10 motor boats and a large number of sail vessels. Diesel engines were less scarce than in the previous year. The cost of nets, ropes, coal and oil rose considerably.

B. C. INDIAN FISHERY . . .

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but often are surprisingly durable against severe winds and heavy winter snows, requiring very little in the way of repair work to be made serviceable the following spring, when fishing re-commences. In some cases it is necessary to build racks below flood tide level. These are lost each winter and a new rack must be built for each year's operations.

But the old order, even with British Columbia Indians, is changing. A younger generation has begun to make itself felt. Nowadays, more particularly in the southern areas of the province, drying racks are beginning to give place to pressure cookers. It is estimated that in the Yale-Merritt area of the Fraser river nearly 75 per cent of the Indian salmon catch is being home canned. Many of the families are equipped with pressure cookers and canning apparatus; others boil the fish and use the bottle preserving method. As the majority of fishing Indians live on Indian Reserves in permanent homes, temporary fishing camps are set up in the riverside fishing areas; these are crude shelters of canvas or brushwood. Little canning, therefore, is done at the fishing camp. Most of the catch is placed in cars or trucks and taken to the reservation for canning.

Indians, of course, may and do take out ordinary commercial fishing licences. Last year 3,347 licenses, representing all types of fishing, were issued to B.C. Indian residents.

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION . . .

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figures by 650,000 pounds and $163,000 respectively. On the other hand the mackerel fishery was significantly better than last year at the Magdalen Islands. The landed value of mackerel at $233,000 was $93,000 in excess of the 1950 figure. As overall figures for the Province of Quebec the catch was 78 million pounds, valued at $2.2 million, against 90 million pounds and $2.3 million at the end of August 1950.

Per cent change in prices to fishermen
Maritimes and Quebec
as at the end of August.
- 1951 compared with 1950 -

Cod	+ 10.3	Mackerel	+ 16.5
Cod livers	+ 20.5	Alewives	No change
Haddock	- 6.2	Salmon	+ 12.2
Pollock	- 2.8	Swordfish	+ 14.4
Hake	- 7.5	Lobster	- 5.9
Halibut	- 4.4	Soft Shell Clams	+ 35.7
Plaice	+ 25.5	Scallops	- 15.2
Herring	+ 17.4		
Sardines	+107.2	Overall average	+ 3.2

CANADIAN FISHERIES NEWS . . .

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land will be honoured by the Fisheries Research Board at its annual meeting when all the Board's members and directors of its stations across Canada will be present in Ottawa next January.

North Pacific Conference

It is hoped that a tripartite fisheries treaty for the North Pacific Fisheries agreeable to Canada, the United States, and Japan will be worked out at a conference of representatives of the three nations, to be held in Tokyo, commencing November 5, 1951.

The governments of Canada and the United States accepted the invitation of the Japanese government to attend the conference following informal discussions held during the past few months.

In convening the conference the Japanese government is carrying out the provisions of article 9 of the Treaty of Peace by which Japan agreed to enter promptly into negotiations with the Allied Powers so desiring for the conclusion of agreements providing for the regulation or limitation of fishing and the conservation and development of fisheries on the high seas.

The Canadian delegation will be headed by the Honourable R. W. Mayhew, Minister of Fisheries. Other members of the Canadian delegation will be Stewart Bates, Deputy Minister of Fisheries; S.V. Ozere, Director, Legal Services, Department of Fisheries, both of Ottawa; Dr. J.L. Hart, Director, Pacific Biological Station, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Nanaimo, B. C.; John M. Buchanan, chairman of the Salmon Canners Operating Committee, Vancouver, and A.R. Menzies, Department of External Affairs, who is Canadian Liaison Officer in Japan.

Members of the Canadian delegation will confer with representatives of the Canadian fishing industry in Vancouver on October 27 and will leave Seattle by air the following day.

Magazine Features Salmon

The fact that the name "British Columbia" is synonymous with canned salmon was pointed up in vivid fashion by Weekend Picture Magazine in its issue of September 29. A five-page photo story, titled "The Salmon Are Running in B.C.," with story by David Willock and photographs by Jack Long, is devoted to the fishing fleet and provides an excellent picture of the fishermen at work.

Current Reading

"A Study of the Spawning Populations of Sockeye Salmon in the Harrison River System, with Special Reference to the Problem of Enumeration by Means of Marked Members," by Milner B. Schaefer (Bulletin IV, International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, New Westminster, B.C.)

This booklet contains an analysis of some of the data obtained through experiments carried out in 1939, 1940 and 1941 in the Harrison River System. They were undertaken in order to gain information on the structure and behaviour of populations of migrating adult salmon, to examine into the validity of marking methods for making population estimates, and to lay a foundation for employing those methods in larger stream systems than Cultus Lake (where previous experiments were carried out). The objects are described as: 1) to trace the migration of the important spawning populations within the Harrison River System; 2) to examine the nature of the spawning migration of representative runs; 3) to study the design of sampling procedure and statistical analysis in the determination of population numbers by means of marked members; 4) to detect, and if possible to measure, harmful effects of the marking procedure which would cause the marked fish to behave differently from the unmarked, and so give erroneous results in the population computations, and 5) to determine whether estimation of spawning sockeye salmon populations by means of marked members is practicable in river systems similar to that of the Harrison River, and to discover limitations of the applicability of the method.

"Fly Fishing for Salmon," by Richard Waddington (British Book Service, Canada, Ltd., $3.50).

The object of the author in writing this book is not only to help his brother anglers to perfect their technique, but also to persuade them to renounce bait and confine themselves to fly fishing. Mr. Waddington thinks that salmon fishing as a sport is facing a crisis, and that the issues are simple. If the fisherman's object is solely to kill as many fish as possible, then a net, a bomb, or poison is his proper "tackle." If, on the other hand, his pleasure is derived from the artistry required to tempt the salmon into joining issue with him on favourable terms, then the prize is the reward of merit and the satisfaction is that of the craftsman. Having stated his beliefs, the author goes on to describe modern techniques in sunk-line fishing, sunk-line strategy and tactics, and greased-line fishing. He goes into considerable detail on all phases of the sport and advances a new theory, evolved by himself, of dressing salmon flies for spring fishing. The success of these flies has been so striking that Scottish ghillies who have been on the water for more than 40 years agreed that the standard fly was virtually eclipsed. Line drawings are used to illustrate equipment and methods of casting, and there are also numerous photographs, mostly of Scottish salmon pools. This is a valuable addition to the library of modern fish books.

"The Canadian Fish Culturist," Issue No. 10, October, 1951 (The Department of Fisheries of Canada, Ottawa).

Results of some of the latest research into fish culture and related subjects are contained in this booklet, some of the text being illustrated with photographs. The contents include a paper on the speckled trout fishery of Prince Edward Island; a comparison of nylon and cotton gill-nets used in the Lake Winnipeg winter fishery; an article on the use of pectoral fin rays for determining the age of sturgeon and other species of fish, and a report on the results of a bacteriological examination of a diseased sucker. It is noted that requests for earlier issues of The Canadian Fish Culturist continue to be received, but that unfortunately no copies of earlier issues are now available.

"Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Nutrition in Canada, 1951," (Fifth Annual Progress and Programme Report to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

Prepared by the Canadian Interdepartmental FAO Committee, Ottawa, this report, while reviewing economic conditions generally and covering major developments in all fields, places emphasis on certain aspects of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and nutrition. In the fisheries section, it opens with the statement that the year 1950 was another year of prosperity for most branches of the Canadian fishing industry. "Both the quantity of fish landed and its value to fishermen were high, and so was the marketed value of the end products." Details are given of the production and marketing picture as well as the development programme of the federal Department of Fisheries, which got under way during the year reviewed.

"A Report on the 1950 Albacore Fishery of British Columbia," (Circular No. 23, Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C.).

The preparation of this, the fourth circular on the B. C. albacore fishery, was prompted by the marked degree of interest shown in the first three. It contains sections on results from length measurements at three ports of landing, the examination of log book records made by fishermen, and a report on the 1950 tagging operations.