

TROPICAL FISH OFF N.S.: Twenty-two specimens of the blue hake, the first ever recorded caught in the Newfoundland area, were taken in one haul last summer by the "Investigator II", one of the research vessels operated by the Newfoundland Fisheries Research Station, working out of St. John's.

This unexpected haul of blue hake--a bottom-feeding fish similar to the cod--was just one of several unusual catches made by the "Investigator II" and other fishing boats, according to a report to the annual meeting of the Research Board in Ottawa, by Dr. W. Templeman, director of the Station.

Unusual fish for Canadian waters also have been turning up off the coast of Nova Scotia. These include tropical fish which have seldom been seen so far north before. During the past year the Research Board's Atlantic Biological Station at St. Andrews, N.B., has recorded specimens of both white shark and tarpon. The appearance of this type of fish in Canadian waters coincides with reports of higher temperatures in the North Atlantic and the fact that large catches of cod are now being made regularly far to the north in Davis Strait off Greenland.

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PETROLEUM OUTPUT UP: Canadian output of refined petroleum products increased in September to 12,754,524 barrels from the preceding year's September total of 12,016,869 barrels. There were production gains in motor gasoline, stove oil, diesel fuel, and furnace oil, but a decline in heavy fuel oil.

The month's output of motor gasoline amounted to 5,841,307 barrels as compared with 5,538,588 a year earlier; stove oil, 754,879 barrels as compared with 510,988; diesel fuel, 940,340 barrels compared with 749,890; furnace oil, 1,428,048 barrels as compared with 1,237,001; and heavy fuel oil, 2,310,053 barrels compared with 2,412,596.

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ST. LAWRENCE HERRING: Bright prospects for a new commercial herring fishery in the southwestern portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence were indicated in a report presented at the annual meeting of the Fisheries Research Board in Ottawa. With drift-nets--a type of gear commonly used in European waters--the Board was able to bring in catches of herring more than double the yield which a similar effort would produce in the North Sea. Catches with trawls--bag-like nets towed over the bottom--were also successful.

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Iron foundries used 11% less pig iron and 13% more scrap iron and steel in the first three quarters of 1953, turned out a 6% greater tonnage of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings than in 1952.

HYDRO ELECTRIC PROGRESS: New hydro-electric developments in 1953 added 638,012 horse power to Canada's total installed capacity, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Mr. Lesage, announced at the year-end. This brings the total installations in water-power plants up to 14,921,459 horse power, about 23 per cent of known resources.

With power consumption in 1953 running about seven per cent ahead of the previous year, the output of new plants barely kept pace with added demand, leaving but little reserve capacity available. However, in 1954 the reserve picture will brighten, as plants and extensions under construction for operation in that year total a record-breaking 1,500,000 horse power.

The new developments of 1953 are well distributed across Canada, Mr. Lesage said, although Quebec continues to maintain its lead in water-power installation.

In the field of power distribution, new main transmission lines and substations were built and secondary lines were extended in various parts of the country. Good progress was made in rural electrification and the construction of thermal-electric stations also proceeded vigorously.

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TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY: The building of the Trans-Canada Highway was carried forward at an increased pace during 1953, the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Winters, reported in a year-end statement.

"Nearly every one of the nine participating provinces have added substantially to the mileage of completed, paved highway during the past year. Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba, in that order, have the longest stretches of completed Trans-Canada Highway, but Prince Edward Island, with better than 44 per cent of its total proposed mileage completed, leads the field in this respect."

"The total value of the contractual commitments made by the Provincial Governments and authorized for Trans-Canada Highway construction as at the end of December 1953, amounted to \$137,825,383.97."

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GAS PIPE LINE MERGER: Western Pipe Lines and Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited have merged their interests to bring Alberta's natural gas to Eastern Canada at the earliest possible date, it was announced on January 8 by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe.

At the request of Mr. Howe, the two groups held a series of meetings with him in Ottawa last week and have agreed to get together on a fifty-fifty basis to build a pipe line. The name of the company is to be Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited.