

RECORD BISON TROPHY

A buffalo (bison) trophy taken in the Slave River area of Canada's Northwest Territories during the hunting season this autumn has broken the world record. The animal was shot by Mr. Samuel Israel, a Seattle sportsman, under a big-game licence issued by the Department of Northern Affairs. The hunting season for buffalo opens on September 1 and closes on November 30; the take is limited to one animal to each hunter.

The trophy will be sent to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Under the North American big-game regulations established by the Boone and Crockett Club, the buffalo head measures 137 4/8 inches. This figure includes tip-to-tip horn spread, length of horns on the outside curve and base circumference. Points are deducted if the horns are not symmetrical. The previous world record was held by the Chief Ranger of Yellowstone National Park on a buffalo taken in the park in 1925; it measured 136 4/8 inches.

HUNTING GROUNDS

The sport-hunting area in the Northwest Territories stretches over several hundred miles of flat, tall-grass prairies and bush land northeast of Wood Buffalo National Park. The wood buffalo that roam this region comprise the only known wild herd in the world. The animals, some weighing up to 2,500 pounds, are much larger than the plains bison that at one time roamed over large areas of North America.

The bison bull is dangerous, fast and tough; professional hunters report that he compares to the African buffalo as a sporting animal.

The bison are part of the herd that has been restored to strength on the extensive ranges of Wood Buffalo National Park, the world's largest game sanctuary. Animals roaming beyond the boundaries of the park are hunted in season.

MEASURING SEA TEMPERATURE

An amazing device capable of securing rapid ocean-surface temperature data from the air has been developed by scientists of the Pacific Oceanographic Group of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at its biological station, Nanaimo, British Columbia. Fast-flying aircraft, equipped with a radiation thermometer designed and built by the Oceanographic Group, can now record ocean-surface temperatures that are accurate within 0.1 degrees Fahrenheit. This makes it possible to take daily temperature readings covering areas of the sea that would require at least six weeks of continuous operation by two oceanographic survey vessels. Furthermore, the accuracy of the aerial data is infinitely superior, as conditions in the sea might be expected to undergo considerable change during the period of survey by surface craft.

The remarkable success of the airborne radiation thermometer opens up new fields of knowledge to oceanographers. Never before has it been possible

to obtain a virtually instantaneous record of water temperatures over hundreds of miles of ocean surface. The contribution of such a record to the science of the sea is of immeasurable importance.

EFFECT ON FISHERIES

Even more fascinating are some of the ways in which this scientific marvel may affect fisheries. In time, for example, it may be that much of the "by guess, by God and by shipboard electronic" will be removed from fisheries, as the movement and location of fish, particularly salmon, are closely related to water-temperature patterns.

Naval and fisheries craft operating in the North Pacific Ocean now provide the Group with oceanographic data that is an important supplement to the information gathered in the routine patrols of survey vessels of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. It now becomes possible for aircraft also to provide valuable assistance through use of the sensitive radiation thermometer.

The data will be fed to the Oceanographic Information Service at Esquimalt, B.C. This new service was initiated and developed by the Pacific Oceanographic Group early in 1961 and is operated by the Naval Weather Service of the Royal Canadian Navy. The service is the first of its type on the Pacific.

FISH DIET FOR ESKIMO DOGS

Fish-processing plants in the Arctic may solve one of the increasing problems of the Eskimo population, that of dogfood. Dwindling supplies of natural foods for the Eskimos have made it necessary for them to hunt greater and greater distances from home, which means carrying food for both dogs and hunters. Canned dogfood, apart from the expense, is not the answer, although it is being used to a large extent.

In an attempt to make things easier for the Eskimo, a pilot plant processing system has been devised by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada for the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. The design was carried out at the Board's technological unit at London, Ontario, and the plant has been set up in the area of Aklavik, Northwest Territories. It will handle whitefish, ciscoes and pike taken locally and turn out a nourishing dried product that can be stored and carried conveniently on hunting trips.

SEAWAY TRAFFIC

The St. Lawrence Seaway entities recently announced preliminary traffic statistics for the navigation season from April to November, 1961. The total cargo tonnage for the period increased by 13.1 per cent on the Montreal-Lake Ontario Section of the Seaway and 6.0 per cent on the Welland Canal, compared with the same months in 1960.

Total Seaway traffic through the month of November 1961 established an all-time high for a navigation