



CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

May 1, 1957

Vol. 12 No. 18

FISH SALES HIT RECORD

Writing in the April 13 issue of "Foreign Trade", T.R. Kinsella of the Department of Trade and Commerce, pointed out that sales of Canadian fish abroad reached a record \$133.7 million. Fresh and frozen fish sales reached a value of \$78 million. Lobster shipments totalled more than \$20.5 million.

Excerpts from the article follow:

Fishermen and exporters of fisheries products experienced an excellent year in 1956. The total catch reached 2,023,237,000 pounds worth \$89,679,000, compared with 1,780,034,000 pounds valued at \$77,688,000 in 1955, according to preliminary sea-fish landing returns.

During the year the total Atlantic coast catch was valued at \$54,502,000, 9 per cent higher than in 1955. The lobster fishery reported a total of \$17,764,000--an increase of 7 per cent over the previous year--and the cod catch rose in value to \$15,622,000 from \$14,206,000, or 10 per cent. All of the eastern provinces shared in this increase, although it was more noticeable in Quebec, where cod landings and landed values totalled 70.3 million pounds worth \$1,731,000, compared with 41.3 million worth \$938 thousand in 1955.

The Pacific coast catch, at \$35.2 million, achieved a 27 per cent increase. Salmon landings were valued at \$20.8 million, or about 12 per cent over the 1955 figure. In the herring fishery the total landed value, \$7.1 million, was almost 70 per cent above the returns for the previous year.

EXPORTS TO EIGHTY COUNTRIES

Canadian exports of fisheries products during 1956 went to some 80 countries and set a new record of \$133.7 million, or about 4 per cent more than the value of shipments in 1955 (\$128.8 million). The pattern of distribution followed the usual trend, with the United States taking about half the output. Quantities shipped to Europe were down, chiefly because of the smaller pack of Pacific coast salmon. Exports of salted fish to the Caribbean area decreased, although sales of salt cod to Cuba rose. Sales abroad of fresh and frozen fish, fishmeal, canned lobster, and canned sardines also showed gains.

SPECIALTY PRODUCTS IMPORTED

Other fish-producing nations are finding an increasing market here for specialty products. Total imports of fisheries products into Canada from some 27 countries in the first ten months of 1956 reached \$12.9 million, compared with \$9.8 million in the corresponding period in 1955. Canned shellfish from the United States and Japan, canned sardines from Norway, and canned salmon and tuna from Japan were the most important items. The salmon was used to supplement domestic stocks which were short, principally because of the disappointing results of the chum fishery. Limited quantities of South African rock lobster or crayfish were also sold in the Canadian domestic market.

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