

fact that they provide the spawning-grounds for commercially-profitable anadromous ocean species. The salmon is Canada's most valuable sea fish, spawning in rivers, lakes and ponds, but spending most of its adult life in the sea.

Besides the commercial freshwater fishermen, there are millions of sports fishermen who each year cast their lures into lakes and rivers in all parts of Canada. In the 1973-74 season, the estimated number of persons (16 years of age and over) participating in this sport in Canada totalled more than four million. The income generated by sports fishing in 1970 is estimated to have exceeded \$300 million, one-third from Canadians and the remainder from non-Canadians.

In view of such large economic returns, it is not surprising that, to an increasing extent, commercial and sport fishing are receiving important consideration in the preliminary design of water-use projects affecting fisheries. In some cases, such consideration has not only dictated the nature of the project but has also influenced the choice of location.

Fish require a pollution-free environment, and the increasingly polluted condition of many lakes and streams has had a serious effect on both the quantity and type of fish available for sport or commerce. In this regard, the current policy of comprehensive examination of water-resource activities in river basins is presenting new opportunities in freshwater-fish management.

Recreation

In 1941, little more than 50 per cent of Canada's population lived in towns and cities. In the 1970s, by contrast, town and city populations make up about 76 per cent of the total. Almost half Canada's people, in fact, live in the 19 cities with populations over 100,000.

The trend towards settling in large urban centres has been accompanied by a desire to return occasionally to non-urban surroundings as an escape from the pressures of modern city life. The annual exodus from the cities during the summer months is a direct result of the increase in leisure time enjoyed by most Canadians and the fact that many more people now own automobiles (car-ownership increased from one to every eight persons in 1949 to one for every three and a half in 1972).