

far-reaching effects than would rubies and silks from the Orient.

From Flemish Cap, the Grand Bank extends westward and southward more than 600 miles. Other grounds continue the chain, cutting through Green and St. Pierre Banks to the Western Banks, comprising several banks such as Misaine, Banquereau or Banquero, the Gully and Sable Island Bank. The chain continues southwest through Emerald Bank, Sambro, Roseway, LeHave, Seal Island Ground and Georges Bank with its southwestern extension to Nantucket Shoals.

The species of fish caught vary with the different banks. The Grand Banks area for instance, has been noted for its cod. Generally, however, various species of groundfish—cod, haddock, hake, halibut, redfish, pollock, cusk, etc.—are found in varying quantities on most banks. The lobster, clam and oyster fisheries are inshore operations. The most extensive lobster fishing grounds are located in waters adjacent to the Maritime Provinces.

Next to the Grand Banks, Georges is the most important fishing ground along the eastern seaboard. There is evidence that Norsemen sailed over the area long before white men established permanent settle-

ments in North America. Originally known as St. George's Bank, earliest records show that it was charted by a surveyor sent out to Virginia by King James I of England in 1610. Samuel de Champlain is also believed to have had a hand in charting that part of the coast in the early 1600's.

Like the Grand Banks, Georges has an interesting history. It was only within comparatively recent years that a deepsea scallop industry was developed there. This species was fished most heavily by Canadian fishermen. Although production of Georges Bank scallops has fallen off, there is still a substantial fishery there.

Scientists say that in the pre-glacial period, Georges was above the sea level and probably formed a part of the mainland. Pieces of fossilized wood occasionally hauled to the surface by fishing trawls indicate that pre-historic Georges was a wooded area.

Like the land, the bottom of the sea is composed of sandy plains; hills and valleys and mountains; rocky areas strewn with boulders, sometimes with abrupt faces, other times with sloping edges; there are weedy places and areas of slimy mud, and forests of coral trees. And also like the land where there are vast areas

which have no food to support animal life, the sea has its areas where food is absent, and fish avoid them entirely. There are thousands of square miles of ocean where there are few, if any stocks of fish.

In this age of technology, fish can be spotted by electronic instruments. However, the fishing banks were well identified long before the age of electricity and its accompanying miracles. For more than 300 years, fishing captains of many nations charted the areas in the northwest Atlantic where the fish are. It was a hit-and-miss method, but it worked well. Today there are few, if any, places on the continental shelf—the ledge extending seaward from the mainland—where fish populations live undisturbed.

While the great banks off Newfoundland have been fished for centuries by vessels of several nations, the fishing grounds lying off New England and the Maritimes were exploited chiefly by Canadian and American fishermen right up to the beginning of World War Two. However, all that is changed now.

The war had not been over very long before the fishing fleets of Canada and the United States were joined by those of other nations in harvesting the northwest Atlantic sea



Foreign fishing fleets dot the horizon on the Grand Banks