

1966 FISHERIES RECORD

Landings of fish and shellfish by Canadian fishermen increased during 1966 for the sixth year in succession, setting a record of close to 2.6 billion pounds. This catch, the first by Canada to exceed 2.5 billion pounds, represented gross earnings to fishermen of an estimated \$165 million, also a record. In 1965, Canada's next best year for fisheries, total landings of fish and shellfish amounted to 2.4 billion pounds, worth \$158 million.

FISH EXPORTS

As in other years, more of Canada's fishery products were shipped to export markets than were consumed at home, and indications are that the markets generally will continue to be good. In 1965, Canada's fishery exports had a record value of \$212.9 million. The value of exports shipped by September 1966 is slightly higher than that of January to September 1965. The United States remained the biggest customer for Canadian fishery products, purchasing some 70 per cent of the total. Markets in Europe and the Caribbean accounted for the bulk of the remaining sales.

NEW PROCESSING PLANTS

Substantial investment went into the expansion of processing plants and construction of new plants during the year, and a number of these will be going into production in 1967. Industry in the Maritimes provinces invested an estimated \$18 million during 1966 in the construction of trawlers and other large fishing craft. There are indications that the size of this investment in 1967 will increase to \$25 million.

Heavier landings of Pacific salmon in 1966 in British Columbia restored for that species its normal distinction as the most valuable of all Canadian fishery products. Atlantic lobster held this position in 1965, when salmon landings were at a low ebb. In the past year, lobster landings declined, and with prices holding at satisfactory levels, the Pacific salmon was worth approximately \$37 million to fishermen.

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SPRING CROP CONDITIONS

Throughout the Atlantic Provinces, the weather has been cool and wet this spring. In Prince Edward Island, snow is still to be found in many fields and seeding has only just begun. In the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia farmers are planting potatoes and grain and a few strawberry plants have been set out. Pruning and the first spray of plums has been completed. Considerable winter kill has been reported in

winter cereals. In general, because of the late snow and low temperatures, spring work is considerably behind normal. Though there are some reports of seeding in central Nova Scotia, other areas report very little activity in seeding, fertilization or liming as snow still lies in many regions. New Brunswick farmers reported very limited activity owing to unseasonable temperatures.

QUEBEC

During April, and the early part of May, temperatures throughout Quebec were generally below normal and, on May 8, snow was reported in several areas. Soil moisture conditions are about normal but plant growth is very slow in meadows and pastures; development is about one week later than normal. However, legumes have not been seriously affected by winter kill. Cattle are in good condition but still in the barns. The maple syrup run is over, with smaller than normal yields reported.

ONTARIO

Most Ontario areas reported a light winter kill of winter wheat but growth of both wheat and pasture is slow because of cool weather. Similarly, seeding of spring grains has been held up by wet, cool weather with the amount already seeded ranging from 75 per cent in Essex and Kent to nil in other areas. Record sales of corn seed indicate larger acreages of corn this year. Over 25 thousand acres of sugar beets have been contracted.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Cold, wet weather delayed seeding throughout the Prairie Provinces and seeding did not become general before May 20. Soil moisture conditions are generally good to excellent. There has been little or no growth on pastures and hay lands. Cattle wintered well throughout the prairies but calf losses have been abnormally high in Southern Alberta due to heavy late-season snow-falls.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

All areas of British Columbia experienced one of the mildest winters on record with virtually no winter injury reported from anywhere in the province. Soil moisture conditions are good to excellent in all districts. However, coastal areas reported some damage to small fruit plantings by flooding. The below-normal temperatures that prevailed during March and up to the present slowed down early plantings and crop growth. Pasture development has been retarded as a result. In the Okanagan, heavy crops of cherries, peaches and pears are expected based on blossom indications, although apples and apricots appear not as promising at present. Vegetable planting has also been held up and some early potato acreage has been shifted to other crops because of unfavourable conditions.

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