

In the high Arctic—well above the tree line where summer temperatures rarely rise above 60 degrees—the growth is much slower, a tenth of the growth rate of the south.

The North's slow rate of growth and the isolation of its lakes and ponds have a curious result—waters seem to be teeming with an inexhaustible supply of huge fish. They are teeming but the supply is, by no means, inexhaustible. Take the example of Kiluktoo Bay:

In July the daytime temperature is around forty degrees and it is always daytime. The lake ice melts and the char head up the Robertson River to Kiluktoo, on the upper corner of Baffin Island, 400 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

The fishermen—Eskimos with three-pronged spears—are waiting. The Bay has five feet of fresh water on top, salt water below. The char cluster where the waters meet and they are big and numerous—a fisherman with a rod and a fly can catch his limit of four in a quarter of an hour while throwing back any weighing less than four pounds. Eight, ten, twelve pounders are common.

It seems like the fisherman's paradise but it is (perhaps like most paradises) at least partly an illusion. The big fish are plentiful because the fishermen are very few—a couple of dozen natives and, every now and then, an affluent outsider who has flown up in a small float plane to land on the water.

In these slow-growth waters a year-old fish is about two inches long. The twelve pounder that delights the fisherman is 30 years old. If there were no limit and there were enough flying fishermen from the south, there would soon be no twelve pounders, or ten pounders or eight pounders and, in time, no sporting-sized fish at all.

The animals of the north Arctic and sub-Arctic are numerous but fragile. In the lakes (beside char) are salmon, Great Lake trout, Arctic grayling, inonnu, northern chub, northern pike, sculpin, trout, perch, Mackenzie whitefish, Coulter's whitefish, flounder, Great Bear Lake herring, pike and smelt.

In the woods and the bush are caribou and moose, Dall sheep, mountain goats, black bears, grizzlies, wolves, beavers, muskrats, minks, martens, fishes and lynx, hares and squirrels. In the Arctic sea are polar bears, walruses, seals, whales and narwhals. None are inexhaustible and some (like the wood buffalo) have almost been exhausted. There are birds in flocks—the murres, which walk erect, somewhat like Antarctic penguins, ravens which never go south, terns which winter in the Antarctic, flying 20,000 miles each year, and the ptarmigans, which have feathers on the soles of their feet.

The flowers are plentiful, and since few men

