

*Supply—Fisheries*

the great lakes fisheries commission in using some of their funds for the removing of these undesirable fish from our lakes. The removing of large quantities of these undesirable fish is required if we are to create the proper environment for the propagation of more valuable and desirable fish. Hundreds of fishermen whose boats are now idle would welcome the opportunity to work on such a project.

I should also point out that the majority of the fishermen have reached a time in their lives when they are not acceptable to other industry, but have years of good service ahead of them in their chosen field. These men could be employed on this clean-up program until the desirable fish population was restored to a point that would warrant their return to usual routine of reaping a just reward for their labours.

Seventy two streams on both sides of the border have been treated with lampricide. All these streams flow into lake Superior and lake Michigan with the exception of six flowing into lake Huron and Georgian bay. To make a check on lamprey population during their spawning season of 1960, 4,810 of them were taken by the electrical barrier method on the Canadian side of lake Superior, and more than 39,000 adult lampreys were taken as they entered United States streams. The 1961 program calls for the operation of 39 electrical barriers to measure changes in lamprey population in lake Superior.

While on the matter of destroying lamprey, I should like to put on the record something about an operation that is worthy of mention. On April 20 two former natives of Latvia pitched their tent at a site on the Saugeen river for the purpose of trapping lampreys. They have trapped lamprey at this location for five years and last year they were successful in securing over 10,000, which were roasted and canned for a Toronto market. They anticipate that this year's catch will be a similar quantity. This operation indicates that lamprey are plentiful in lake Huron.

In the great lakes much of the fish population that we wish to reduce does have some commercial value. Mink ranches in the great lakes area are finding it difficult to secure enough codfish racks from the coastal regions to supply their needs; therefore many tons of certain types of lake fish would find a ready market close by.

Now that equipment is available to take alive fish such as suckers, catfish, sunfish, rock bass and perch, another method of marketing has recently developed. These fish can be sold alive to buyers who convey them in tank trucks to private lakes or ponds in the U.S.A. where people pay for the privilege of angling for them. Such establishments are

making their appearance now in Canada and a noted development in this field can be expected.

Lake trout in years past were prominent in rewarding sport fishermen. Now that these beautiful game fish have fallen on evil days, our sportsmen in the days ahead will, of necessity, have to rely to some extent on man-made ponds and their production. This is an example of private enterprise stepping into the breach created by negligent handling of one of our great resources. Like any other form of wealth, this inheritance of ours has been misspent to quite some extent. It has been abused and can be ruined for want of care, or it can be wasted by miserly failure to use it fully.

From a conservation viewpoint, the great lakes fisheries are perhaps the most poorly managed of all our natural resources, first, because we do not know enough about the resource itself, and second, because the departments, in their undertaking of the phases of investigation necessary are often hampered by the problem of insufficient, and often inadequate, personnel.

The restoration of our great lakes fisheries will require several years of earnest effort and intelligent planning. Canada and the United States should pool the knowledge of all studies made on both sides of these lakes through all interested and contributing groups so that a directed program could be developed to eliminate the cost and waste of effort in conducting parallel or like projects. This procedure in time, should lead to the development of good management techniques based on this knowledge. In that way we could best utilize this valuable natural resource and hasten the day of restoration.

It is fallacy to think our fisheries, if restored, will be self-perpetuating. The fishing industry is now equipped with modern fishing gear that can locate fish and take them from the water with greater efficiency. This is as it should be. It is one more indication of progress. This is one of our renewable resources and there should be no hesitation in exploiting every possibility that would lend itself to the over-all program of putting this great natural asset back into production of lake trout and whitefish, or the equivalent thereof in quality and demand.

When the great lakes fisheries have been restored to their rightful place in our economy, the knowledge gained during the process should be sufficient, if used wisely, to assure the perpetuation of the industry at a level of high production. I will venture to say that natural production will fall far short in supplying stock of the desirable species. Therefore, artificial processes will be the means of