

High tide today at Charlottetown 2:30 a.m. and 1:35 p.m. At Rustico at 8:44 a.m. Summerside tides 18 minutes later than Charlottetown.

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dow"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1965

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Minister forecasts rising prosperity for fisheries



FISHERIES MINISTER ROSSITER

exists as to the extent of the vast resource of the pelagic fishery.

"Referring again to the lobster fishery, one must take note of the fact that while this tremendously valuable resource is a blessing for which to be grateful, it nevertheless does carry with it a certain danger.

AREAS IGNORED "For those capable of capturing high earnings from the fishery there is the tendency to ignore other areas of fisheries activity. Since it is an activity peculiar to small boats, and since it involves vast numbers of cumbersome traps to be transported to and from fishing grounds, it tends to spread itself over a great number of landing and processing points.

"In the work of exploiting other fisheries resources such as the groundfish or pelagic fish, this dispersion of effort works against the necessary accumulation of large volumes of product upon which to found modern processing.

"Another danger which could be mentioned is that the consumption of this expensive product could very seriously diminish in any period of economic recession, seriously jeopardizing 70 per cent of the value of our fishery.

"In order to protect our fisheries economy from some of the detrimental effects of such factors, it is a principal aim of the province to develop and expand the off-shore fishery."

In general, Mr. Rossiter said the outlook for fisheries in the province is "very good." He said his department will "continue its efforts to improve facilities of the various landings through the installation of water supply facilities and ice-making machinery.

The main fisheries problem, according to Mr. Rossiter, is in getting sufficient volume of high quality fish. He said there is a deficiency in European markets for filleted fish. "This is one phase of fisheries that will be thoroughly reviewed in the near future," he said.

The expansion of productive capacity in fisheries has been stimulated by various measures in the fisheries department. In the educational field with the co-operation of the provincial education department and the federal department of labor, courses were established in the technology of gear and in navigation which have proven of great value to fishermen.

In the experimental field, work is continually being conducted in various types of equipment and in new fishing techniques.

Another important factor in fisheries expansion has been the role of the provincial fishermen's loan board. This board makes loans to companies and fishermen for the purchase of boats and engines. Terms are granted up to five years in the case of small boats and for longer terms in the case of boats built to Canadian Steamship Regulations.

where a commercial scale hatchery is being erected. Other countries where interest is growing are France and the U.S.

Due to the climate, Canada has the advantage of growing unique species of oyster in that it can be kept in cold storage for at least three or four months. This is something no other species of oyster can do.

Asked about the connection between harbour pollution in Summerside and the fragile oyster beds in Bedeque Bay and what might occur if the problem was cleared up, Mr. Drinnan stated there was a real possibility that the oyster industry would suffer a substantial setback.

He added that Bedeque Bay is unique in the growing of oysters and felt this stemmed from the Summerside harbour pollution.

Wood And Sail Give Way to Steel and Oil



IN THE early part of the current century, and before, fishing ports throughout the Maritimes bristled with the masts and spars of dozens of schooners, which were the mainstay of the fishing

industry during their day. The schooners, with their stacks of dories on deck and tubs of baited lines hold a permanent place in the history of east coast fisheries.



GONE ARE the days of the smell of pitch mixed with the odor of fresh fish, along with the ripple of taut sails and the winds howling through the rigging. The modern fisherman now goes to the banks on well equipped steel druggers for

stern trawling and powered by huge diesel engines and instead of manhandling his gear the nets and lines are handled with powerful electric winches which has done much to improve the lot of "Toilers of the Sea."

prices were never higher and it looks like this trend will continue," was how Fisheries Minister Leo Rossiter summed up the 1964 fisheries on Prince Edward Island.

Prices to fishermen were higher last year than in 1963 and while there was a seven per cent increase in the poundage of landings, the price to fishermen was up by about 25 per cent.

Lobsters were the biggest revenue producer last year with 7,822,830 pounds landed, having a value to fishermen of \$4,210,000. Poundage is about 400,000 higher than in 1963 and value is about \$1,000,000 higher.

The oyster harvest of 2,801,258 pounds was valued at \$370,697. This was higher in value than the approximate 3,000,000 pounds landed in 1963 which was valued at \$365,000.

Clams, scallops, quahaugs and other shellfish brought a harvest of 775,113 pounds, valued at \$88,887.

Pelagic fish and estuarial fish, such as herring and mackerel were landed in the poundage neighborhood of 8,177,026 and had a value of \$263,461. Groundfish landed, the 21,000,000 mark and had a value of \$702,621.

"Looking to the future, Mr. Rossiter said it is the intention of his department to develop and expand exploitation of fish stocks other than lobster principally the off-shore stocks of groundfish and pelagic fish." He added "Exploitation of these stocks will require the development of larger, more powerful and more expensively equipped off shore boats."

In outlining the reasons for promoting greater exploitation of off-shore fish stocks, Mr. Rossiter said "it will be noted in present and in past statistics that the province's lobster fishery provided a heavy percentage of the landed value of the total fishery. Even in 1962, when a substantial off-shore fishery was beginning to take shape, the lobster nevertheless provided about 69 per cent of the landed value of our sea fishery."

This fishery, representing the large core of earnings for our whole in-shore industry, is therefore one of our most important concerns. Since this is an activity peculiar to small boats or in-shore boats, it serves to emphasize the importance of this in-shore fishery.

FALSE IMPRESSION

"It is this high proportion of value from lobsters, however, which sometimes give rise to a false impression as to the potential to be realized from the fishery resources available to the industry of this province. This is why it is sometimes necessary to point out that any analysis of past or present fisheries statistics does not give a true indication of the fishery potential of the province."

"Situated as it is in the southern portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence basin, some 97,000 square miles of area, this province has a rich potential in the exploitation of off-shore stocks. This is but another part of the prolific fishery of the Western North Atlantic, a resource which has supported commercial fishing activities years before Jacques Cartier ever came to our coast. A great many factors contributing to the wealth of the great fishery resource of the Grand Banks are active as well in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In spite of the research activities of many eminent contributors it is doubtful if any adequate assessment has yet been made of the fishery resource of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

"One notes the increase within

the last decade or two, in the exploitation of the groundfish resource, and the periodic heavy landings showing large percentages of older and larger fish. It might properly be asserted that even less knowledge

FISHING FACTS FOR 1965

FIRST IN WORLD

Research at Island oyster hatchery drawing interest

By CARMAN SMITH

The eyes of a number of countries are watching with interest the research work being carried out by a small group of people at the Eilersie Biological Station in Prince County.

The work, under the watchful eye of Roy Drinnan, investigator in charge for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, is contained mostly in a hatchery which was officially opened last year.

The principle aim of the station is to provide data for an increase in shellfish production. Other projects include the effect of silt in estuaries, shellfish diseases and control of eelgrass.

The biologists and technicians are experimenting primarily with oysters at the moment and Mr. Drinnan said recently "for once in its life Canada has a first. This is the first federal commercial scale hatchery ever built and the first one with the facilities this one has". He added that the hatchery

is much more important to Canada than to any other country due to being situated so far north. "As a result of this," he said, "we are faced with the problem of obtaining baby oysters".

The hatchery's main project now is to develop the oyster past the larvae stage. Mr. Drinnan pointed out that this is the most difficult stage in the oyster rearing process because the larvae are so delicate. He said that something like 30 to 40 million oyster spat were released in the Bideford River adjoining the station last year but mostly all of them had died.

He felt reasonably sure that the silt in the river had smothered them and he was quick to point out that the natural oyster spat had fared out no better.

FIRST IN WORLD

With these experiments being carried out now, Mr. Drinnan hopes to grow oysters, under supervision, to the bedding stage where "they will be able to look after themselves". He added "there is a possibility we'll be the first country to develop commercial scale rearing of oysters."

The great advantage of hatchery developed oysters is that the production, quality and bacteriological problems can be controlled. Already from the experiments carried out, Mr.



ROY DRINNAN

Drinnan stated "it appears like we will be able to double the growth rate of oysters".

Many problems have been encountered in these initial experiments and one of them was the growing of the oyster from the egg to the larvae stage.

Originally the larvae were placed in polyethylene tanks containing standard concrete covered veneer separators on which they were expected to

settle. They settled on the separators alright but had the tendency of staying on horizontal surfaces only and in groups.

WATER STERILIZED

The water in these tanks is pumped into the hatchery through a clarifier — a machine which operates similar to a milk separator and removes all the silt from the water — and then is sterilized by an ultra-violet light process.

Following the original experiment oyster shell chips, commercially produced for poultry, were then tried but the larvae would not settle on them.

The next attempt was with scallop shell chips and this experiment so far has proven the most successful of the lot with the larvae settling evenly on the chips. The next experiment will be with natural oyster shell chips, Mr. Drinnan said.

"We are trying to grow the oysters all the way on the shell," he said. He felt that growing them for commercial use could prove economical.

OTHERS INTERESTED

Other countries, as mentioned earlier, are starting to move towards this type of research and England is sending over two biologists this summer to gain knowledge and experience on this program. Afterwards they will proceed to North Wales

MAY FIRST DEADLINE

Lobstering preparations moving at feverish pace

By J.W. LAVERS

As if keeping pace with the coming of spring the Georgetown waterfront activities and lobster fishing preparations are increasing daily, as fishermen are preparing for the May 1 opening of the lobster fishing season.

During the long winter months the men have been busy overhauling their boat engines, carefully checking over their roping, bending bows, building and rigging traps and painting buoys. Today in many yards in the town may be seen piles of lobster traps in various stages of construction, and the wharves are filling up with thousands of traps piled there where they are readily accessible to the fishermen who have run their traps on the fishing grounds.

The cost of building a lobster trap and placing it in the water, which includes rope and anchors and buoys, had climbed from about one dollar to a present cost of between five and seven dollars, per trap.

Boats which have been turned bottom-up for the winter are now being scraped and painted and receiving general repairs. They are then turned over and engines installed. Gangs of fishermen assist one another in the launching of the boats. It is then that the welcome spring sound of engines running fill the air as the fishermen sail their boats over the harbor waters to test the engines and steering gear.

SPEED ESSENTIAL

During recent years the tough and dependable marine engine has to a large extent been replaced by car engines as a means of powering fishing boats, as speed is essential in modern day lobster fishing as it seems it is in most modern day activities. The great majority of boats are manned by two men and to aid in hauling aboard the traps a trap hauler is used.

Upwards of 200 boats will fish out of the Georgetown area; which includes those from Lower Montague, Panmure Island, Sturgeon, and New Port. On the fishing grounds off Georgetown Harbor the bottom will be literally covered with traps. Long lines of rope are run, anchored at each end and buoyed. Those are commonly referred to as trap lines and to them are attached traps at regular intervals.

These lines called dog traps have become increasingly popular in this area and where traps are readily accessible to the fishermen have run their traps on the fishing grounds.

The best known fishing grounds are Panmure Island, Reef, Boughton Island, The Middle Ground, the Bideford Ground and Launching Point. Many changes have taken place in the fishing industry in this area and where lobster canning factories have been built, the industry has expanded and modernized.

Some 30,000 Canadian fishermen engage part or full time in the fisheries. Total landed value reached up to \$125 million, and the market value of products approximates \$250 million.

Aside from those directly engaged in the industry, many thousands benefit from the subsidiary employment which the fisheries provide in the packaging, transportation and other allied industries.

Canada's catch about 150 million pounds of fish and shellfish are processed into products. These go to consumers all over the globe and Canada is one of the world's three leading exporters of fish.

New impetus was given to modernization of the fishing industry as a result of the National Fisheries Development Conference held in Ottawa last

held to supply the live and lobster-in-the-shell markets of the large Canadian and American cities.

Prices to the fisherman have risen greatly over the years but the fisherman's costs have seemed to rise steadily as well but lobster fishing is certainly a much more lucrative business than it once was.

Two lines in the industry of many Georgetown fishermen would not be complete without mentioning the dog traps which are used in this area and where traps are readily accessible to the fishermen have run their traps on the fishing grounds.

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worth seeing, even to those who have witnessed it many times, as the dozens of boats head out of the harbour to the fishing grounds with the hopes of each fisherman for a good run riding as it were "on the crest of each wave."

Seafood month set for October

Special recognition is to be given to the Canadian fishing industry and the resource on which it is built during the current year. This will result from a proclamation by Fisheries Minister H.J. Robichaud during the month of October, 1965, as National Seafood Month.

Mr. Robichaud said that the fishing industry is one of the world's great and varied fisheries, with a great variety and copious quantities of fish and shellfish.

AND WHEREAS these valuable resources have played a major role in the discovery of our nation and its subsequent exploration and development from coast to coast;

AND WHEREAS the rich harvests from our waters continue to make an important contribution to the livelihood of many thousands of our people and to the nutritional well-being of our nation as a whole;

AND WHEREAS Canada is one of the world's greatest exporters of fish products and thus our fisheries are of significant value in feeding many of the world's millions outside our own borders;

THEREFORE it is eminently fitting that this important resource, and the industry built on it, should be accorded special recognition;

IN PURSUANCE of which I have the honour to declare October, 1965, as National Seafood Month, and I heartily encourage all our people to give recognition to this event by enjoying the fruits of our waters and in other suitable ways.

H.J. ROBICHAUD Minister of Fisheries of Canada

year and rapid expansion is now taking place in construction of new fishing vessels, introduction of new fishing techniques and improvement of fish handling equipment.

A copy of the proclamation was made available to the public at the Eilersie Biological Station in Prince County.

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STATION STAFF MEMBERS RECORD TESTS

One of the records kept at the Eilersie Biological Station is of temperature and salinity tests taken in the Bideford River adjoining the station. These tests provide background information for the biologists and technicians involved in oyster research at the station. Here, K. R. Oatway (left) maintenance supervisor at the station records the

readings in a book as chief technician Stanley E. Vass (right) consults the meter used for the tests. During the winter a hole has to be drilled through the ice before the tests can be made. The thickness of the ice is also measured during the tests and on this day the ice measured 12 inches in thickness.