

## Sidelights gathered from annual reports

Here are a few news sidelights emanating from various reports given at 1966 annual meeting of the federal department of fisheries in the Maritimes convening in Halifax earlier this year.

Most interesting results have been achieved at the new oyster culture station at Ellerslie, P. E. I. A joint project of the department of fisheries and the

Fisheries Research Board of Canada, the station could prove said a Halifax fisheries official, to be the threshold to reviving and possibly increasing the oyster industry in the Maritimes beyond anything know heretofore.

Landed weights of cod, cusk, catfish, smelts, flounders, herring, salmon, redfish, halibut, clams and scallops showed increases last year over 1964. Also increasing in 1965 over the previous year were the landed values of cod, hake, cusk, flounders, salmon, herring, mackerel, alewives, smelts, halibut, clams, oysters, and scallops.

Four vessels in Nova Scotia were engaged in whaling operations last year. Three vessels landed their catches in Lunenburg County, and the fourth landed in Meteghan, Digby County.

The sealing enforcement program was directed by Mr. Homans.

In 1965 the federal department of fisheries in the Maritimes issued 24,562 licences for the fishing of lobsters. Most of the licences were bona fide commercial fishermen, but many licences were issued to part-time fishermen fishing for lobsters for their own use or fishing a small number of traps for commercial purposes.

Twenty-six persons lost their lives while engaged in fishing in the Maritimes last year. They included 14 sports fishermen and 12 commercial fishermen. During the year nine draggers six longliners, and 21 smaller boats were lost. They represented a value of \$1,047,900. In addition, loss of fishing gear and miscellaneous damage accounted for losses amounting to \$361,269.

Federal department of fisheries patrol boats in the Maritimes engaged in 30 sea search and rescue incidents in 1965. The flagship of the fleet - CGS Cygnus - went to the aid of six large trawlers in distress on the offshore fishing grounds. In one case, she delivered an engine part and transported an injured seaman ashore. In the other five cases, she towed the crippled vessels to port. The other 24 cases concerned fishing boats in inshore waters.

Bounty payments for the destruction of grey seals amounted to \$2,675 last year. These payments are made by the federal department of fisheries. Grey seals, so Halifax fisheries officials said, are becoming very plentiful in Northumberland Strait and Chedabucto Bay

area in Nova Scotia. These animals are destructive to fish taken in nets, and fishermen in the above areas are requesting that they be included in bounty payments. At present bounty claims are only payable on grey seals in the Miramichi estuary in New Brunswick.

**MAIL HELD UP**  
OTTAWA (CP)—All mail addressed to Jamaica, except letters and postcards will be returned to senders until further notice, the post office department announced Friday. The policy results from official advice from Jamaica that all delivery services within Jamaica, as well as mail despatches from Jamaica, have been suspended since April 4. Letters and postcards will be forwarded at the first opportunity.



### GOOD MONEY IN MACKEREL

One species of fish, the mackerel, which is prevalent in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and other Island waters during the fishing season is considered by fishermen to be a valuable cash crop and one that finds many ready markets. Here a couple of Alberton fishermen prepare that mackerel catch for landing and delivery to the market.

able cash crop and one that finds many ready markets. Here a couple of Alberton fishermen prepare that mackerel catch for landing and delivery to the market.

### MAY PASS \$300 MILLION

## Canada's fisheries catch reaches all-time record

The quantity and value of Canada's fisheries catch attained record levels in 1965, according to preliminary estimates prepared by the Economics Service of the federal Department of Fisheries and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Total landings of fish and shellfish were estimated at close to 2.4 billion pounds, representing gross earnings by fishermen of \$153 million. Both totals showed an increase of three per cent over the previous records established in 1964, when landings amounted to 2.3 billion pounds with a landed value of \$148 million.

The total marketed value of all fishery products of Canada last year is likely to exceed \$300 million for the first time, the Economics Service predicted. This figure, combining both domestic and export market values, has been climbing steadily within the past decade and has risen 50 per cent since 1960.

The value of fishery exports has shown a comparable increase in the same period, rising from less than \$140 million in 1960 to more than \$200 million in 1964.

Exports for the first nine months of 1965 were running \$10 million ahead of 1964 and this margin was expected to be maintained for the last three months, bringing the year's total export value to an estimated \$213 million.

**U.S. MAJOR MARKET**  
The United States was again the major market for Canada's fishery exports, and increased its purchases to more than 70 per cent of all exports. The increases were chiefly in quantities of groundfish fillets and shell lobsters. Exports to Europe and the Caribbean area declined from 1964 levels, mainly as a result of a short supply of canned salmon and salted fish.

In the northwest Atlantic fisheries, Canada last year established new records for total landings and earnings of fishermen.

The Atlantic fisheries harvest totalled 1.65 billion pounds, worth to Canadian fishermen \$97 million. The comparable totals in 1964 were 1.5 billion pounds and \$87 million.

British Columbia, as sole Canadian participant in the Pacific fisheries, again led individual provinces in the volume of sea-fish landings, despite a serious decline from the 1964 catch. B. C. landings in 1965 amounted to 620 million pounds, worth to fishermen \$46 million.

Fishermen of Nova Scotia achieved notable success in 1965 by outstripping British Columbia fishermen in earnings for the first time, and seriously challenging Newfoundland's lead among the Atlantic provinces in physical quantity landed. Gross earnings by Nova Scotia fishermen rose to a record \$45 million last year on a total catch of 592 million pounds. Newfoundland's landings amounted to 604 million pounds, representing an income to fishermen of \$24 million.

In fact, Nova Scotia's catch of fish and shellfish, excluding livers, tongues, and scales, actually exceeded that of Newfoundland—591 million pounds to 585 million pounds. Newfoundland landed 18 million pounds of livers, tongues and scales as compared to one million pounds for Nova Scotia.

British Columbia's catch in 1965 dropped sharply from the previous year's total of 712 million pounds, valued at \$46 million. The annual catch in B.C. in the past decade has ranged between 600 and 700 million pounds but reached its peak with 773 million pounds in 1963.

**STEADY INCREASE**  
Nova Scotia's annual catch has shown a steady increase since 1954 when it was less than 400 million pounds. In 1964 the catch was up to \$19 million pounds, and it gained another 73 million pounds last year. The rapid increase is attributed to intensification of fishing effort

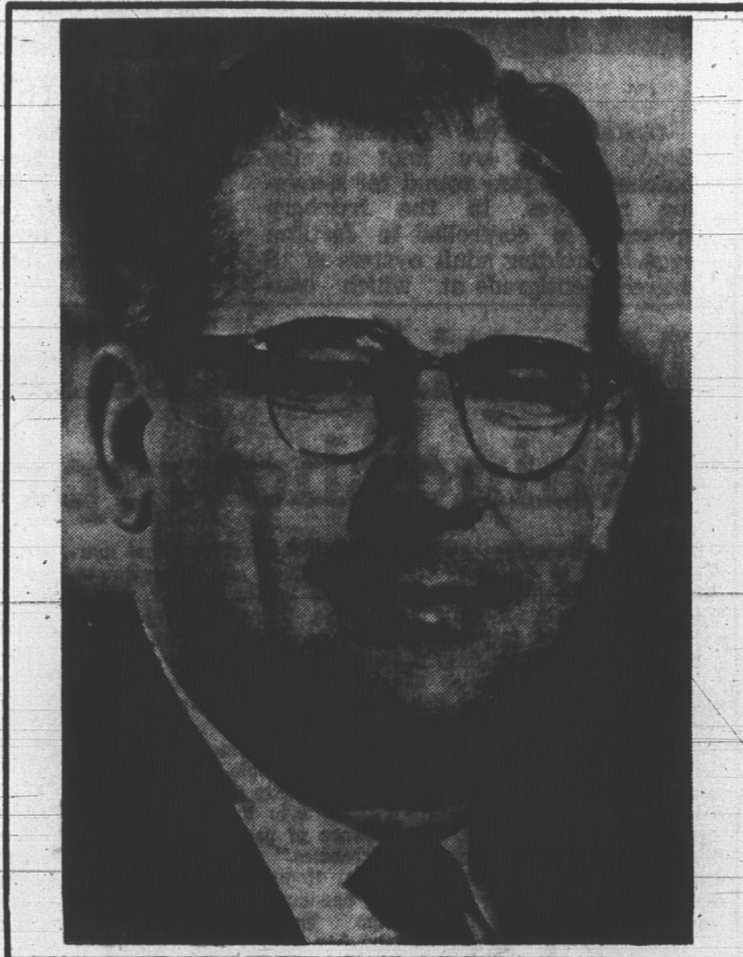
through plant and offshore fleet expansion: Nova Scotia at the end of the year had 61 of Canada's 113 deepsea trawlers, compared with 46 in Newfoundland. Catch has ranged between 500 and 600 million pounds for more than a decade; last year's catch was the highest since 1964, when it totalled 607 million pounds. Significant expansion in fleet and plant facilities has also taken place in this province, and the expanding offshore fleet has been taking an increasing proportion of the catch: in 1965 the fleet landed 208 million pounds, representing more than one third of the total and a 23 per cent increase over the previous year.

**OTHER PROVINCES**  
Other provincial sea-fish landings and value totals last year were: New Brunswick 289 million pounds worth \$11 million; Quebec 141 million pounds worth six million dollars and Prince Edward Island 47 million pounds worth seven million dollars.

Figures on landings and earnings by fishermen engaged in the 1965 freshwater fisheries have not been compiled to date. Commercial operations on inland waterways give employment to some 17 thousand fishermen. In recent years their landings have totalled approximately 120 million pounds annually, worth to fishermen some \$13 million.

Most abundant fish species landed by Canadian fishermen in the past year was herring, which accounted for more than one third of the overall catch. West coast fishermen landed 444 million pounds of Pacific herring, while the catch of Atlantic herring totalled 304 million pounds. The combined herring catch of 848 million pounds had a total value of only 10 million dollars.

**DOLLARS**  
Codfish landings on the Atlantic coast of 570 million pounds made up more than half of the total groundfish catch. How-



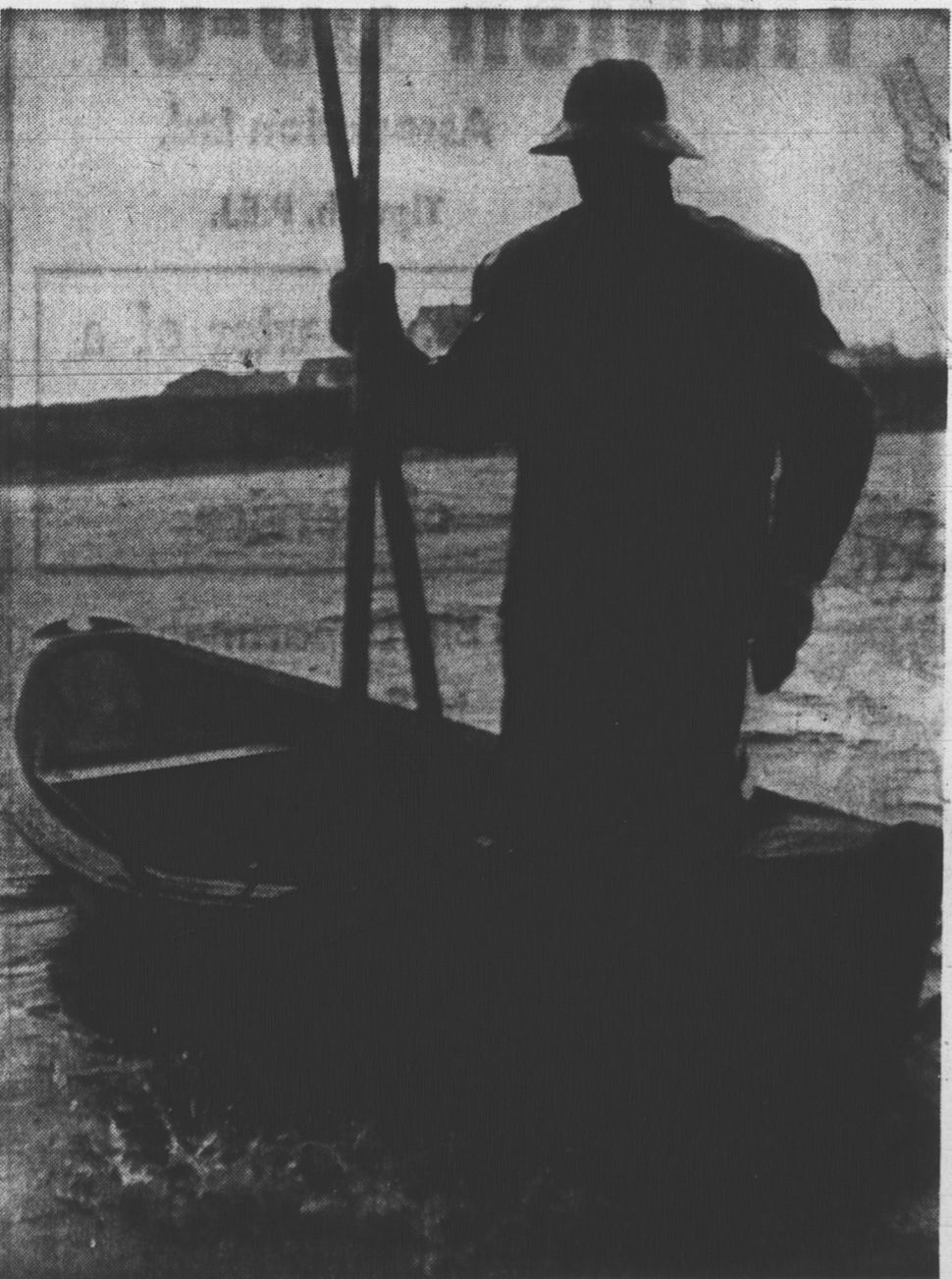
LEO F. ROSSITER

"A 23.2% increase, during 1965, in the value of the Prince Edward Island fishery, is a sound argument for further investment in the development and expansion of the industry.

"Our location, the rapid growth of our processing facilities, the increase in practical research and the development of modern, efficient fishing fleets is further evidence that our industry is on the move.

"We invite the North American fishing industry to note our growing opportunities for investment."

Leo F. Rossiter  
Minister.



EDGAR OATWAY, ELLERSLIE RAKES OYSTERS

# PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND Dept. Of Fisheries