

FISHERIES REPORT '66

SECOND SECTION THE GUARDIAN THE EVENING PATRIOT PAGE 1-A

LOBSTERS RESPONSIBLE

Growth inspires confidence

The following message has been received from the Hon. H. J. Robichaud, federal minister of fisheries in which he points up the extent to which the fishing industry in the Maritimes continues to expand.

Continued expansion of the fisheries of Prince Edward Island has inspired new confidence in the role that the industry will play in the overall economy of the province.

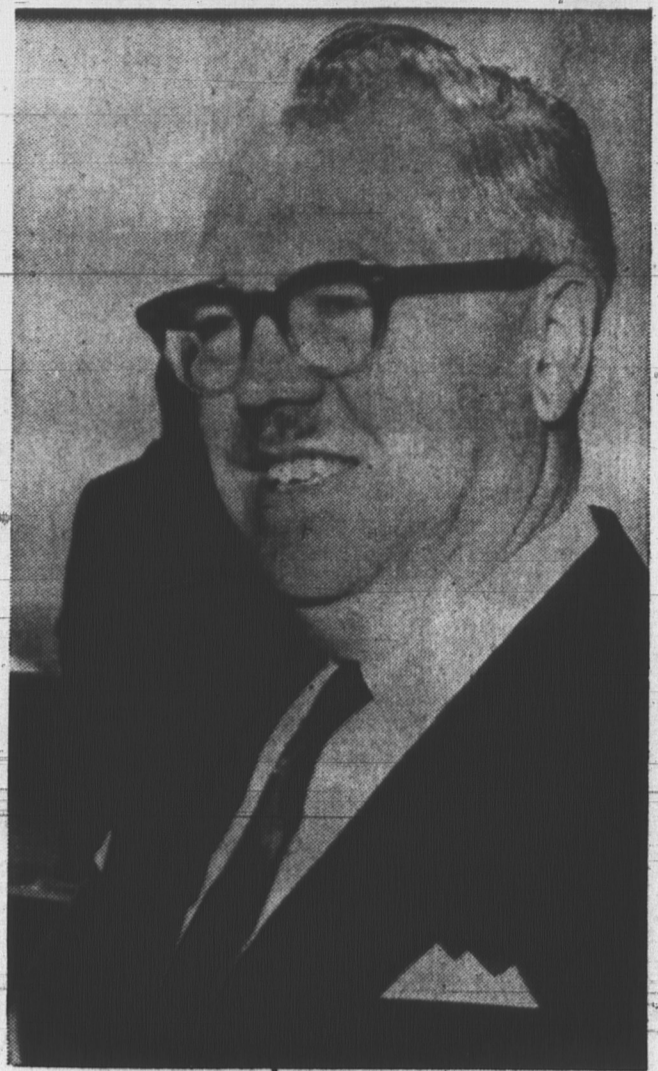
This growth has been exemplified in the constant developments that are being carried out to improve and facilitate fishing activities. Never before has there been so much action for the advancement of the industry and of those who depend upon it for a livelihood.

An increased lobster catch combined with higher prices for lobster was mainly responsible for a substantial increase in the value of Prince Edward Island's landings as indicated in last year's outcome. Total fish landings were increased by more than six per cent over the previous year. The future is bright, particularly in offshore fishing operations which in the past have been dominated by Prince Edward Island's sister Atlantic provinces. However, P.E.I. is now moving into that field with the building of a substantial fleet of steel druggers for the new Georgetown plant.

The new oyster hatchery at Ellerslie, Prince Edward Island, the first of its kind in Canada, has been constructed to develop methods of providing large quantities of disease-resistant oyster seed. I feel confident that when technical problems are overcome we shall see the rehabilitation of this industry, which in the past has been so important to the economy of the province.

The experimental segweed processing plant being established this year at Miminegash should provide the guidelines for development of another marine resource which could also play a major role in the expanding fishing industry.

Continuation of co-operation between the province's fisheries authorities and those of the federal government is indicated in the work of the Federal, Provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee and I am confident that this joint approach to the development of the fisheries of Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic coast provinces generally will culminate in a program that will prove to be of great importance to those who live by the sea.



HON. H. J. ROBICHAUD



SEINE NET FISHING FOR MACKEREL BOOMING

HIGHER LANDINGS, PRICES

Island fisheries show substantial increases

An increased lobster catch combined with higher prices for lobster was mainly responsible for a substantial increase in the value of Prince Edward Island landings during 1965. The value climbed to \$7,140,000 from the 1964 total of \$5,741,000.

Seafish landings in Prince Edward Island totalled 47,476,000 pounds an increase of 6.5 million pounds over 1964, while the harvest of seaweed, an industry of some importance on the island, increased to 17.1 million pounds from 7.1 million pounds the previous year.

Lobster landings of 8,838,000 pounds, an increase of one million pounds over 1964, had a total landed value of \$5,177,000, nearly one million dollars higher than the previous year.

Fishermen landed 2,193,000 pounds of oysters, worth \$399,000. The quantity of landings was down by 600,000 pounds, but the value increased by \$28,000. Other molluscs and crustaceans totalled more than one million pounds, worth \$204,000.

Groundfish landings increased by 2.5 million pounds to 24 million pounds in 1965, representing gross earnings to fishermen of \$833,000. Principal species were cod, flounders, sole and hake. Fishermen also landed 11.4 million pounds of pelagic and estuarial fish: the herring catch rose

400,000 pounds to 46 million pounds, while mackerel landings rose by two million to six million pounds.

RECORDS TOPPLED

Increased landings and prices in Prince Edward Island were in step with fisheries trends throughout the Maritimes area, where all previous commercial fishing records were toppled. Maritimes fishermen landed 928 million pounds of fish and shellfish, valued at 65.7 million dollars. These figures represented substantial increases over the 1964 catch of 811 million pounds valued at 56.9 million dollars.

For the future, Prince Edward Island's participation in the fisheries promises to expand, particularly in the offshore operations which in the past have been dominated by its sister Atlantic provinces.

Expansion of offshore operations was heralded by plans announced early this year by Gulf Garden Foods Limited of Georgetown, P.E.I. The company revealed that nine steel druggers, each 129 feet in length, will be built for the Georgetown plant during the next three years. All will be constructed by Bathurst Marine Limited of that community.

Gulf Garden Foods opened a new processing plant in the summer of 1965. It is equipped to process both agricultural and fishery food products.

OFFSHORE CRAFT

Further evidence of the emphasis being placed on development of offshore fishing craft was given by a provincial spokesman for Prince Edward Island attending the Canadian Atlantic Offshore Fishing Vessel Conference in Montreal in February this year. Eugene M. Gorman, Deputy Minister of Fisheries for the province of Prince Edward Island, told the conference the development of more efficient fishing vessels is one of the principal factors bearing upon a more extensive fishing economy in his province.

He expressed the hope that the conference would make important contributions to increased safety at sea, more efficient catching operations and improvement in the quality of fish landed.

Prince Edward Island first entered the offshore fisheries when a 50-foot wooden dragger was put into operation in 1950. Subsequent development resulted in the operation of a fleet of 23 wooden draggers in the 60 to 65-foot class and the construction of two frozen fillet plants at Souris. The development of steel side and stern trawlers followed. These ranged in length from 92 to 128 feet.

300,000 cases in 1965. That was due mainly, he said, because of the largest pack of sardines ever produced in Canada. That amounted to 1,155,000 cases.

Mr. McNeill reported that the new inspection laboratory at Shippegan was nearing completion. It is expected to be ready for the opening of the spring fishing season. When the laboratory is completed the mobile laboratory at present stationed there will be relocated in Sydney and will operate in the greater Cape Breton area. There will be two mobile laboratories operating in Nova Scotia this year.

Increase in groundfish landings was reflected in the amount of groundfish and scallops landed by the branch. Mr. McNeill said 115,000,000 pounds of fish fillets were inspected by his branch in 1965. Scallop inspections increased from 16,000,000 pounds in 1964 to more than 18,000,000 pounds last year.

While overall lobster landings were down about a million pounds over 1964, the production of fresh and frozen lobster meat increased by more than 600,000 pounds last year. Mr. McNeill said the production of canned fish jumped by nearly

Discuss mutual problems

Recent developments and mutual problems in fisheries technology were discussed by U.S. and Canadian research group representatives in Charlottetown, P.E.I. October 3-5 1965. The Tenth Annual Atlantic Fisheries Technological Conference was attended by well over 100 delegates, including the largest representation from industry ever to turn out for such a gathering.

Discussions centered on problems of communication between science and industry, a theme underlined at the opening session by David F. Corney, President of the Fisheries Council of Canada. Nine panels were conducted on various aspects of fisheries technology, and papers were presented on topics ranging from basic industrial problems to complex research programs in bio-chemistry.

The scientist in charge of the new oyster hatchery at Ellerslie, P.E.I., reported on the work being carried out there. The hatchery, first of its kind in Canada, is a combined project of the federal Department of Fisheries and the Fisheries Research Board of Canada.

Exploring scallop beds

Exploratory fishing is to be continued this year in efforts to locate scallop beds of commercial value off the western end of Prince Edward Island.

This work is being carried out as a joint federal-provincial project. The search will be concentrated in an area where some preliminary scouting has been done for scallops.

Pollution serious problem for Maritime fishing sites

HALIFAX—Pollution of lakes, streams and coastal waters of the Maritime Provinces presented the most serious problems faced by the Resource Development Service of the Canada Department of Fisheries last year.

The gravity of the situation was emphasized here by J.P. Parkinson, Acting Chief of the Resource Development Service in the Maritimes. He reviewed the situation before the annual meeting of the federal fisheries officials in the Maritime area held in Halifax in mid-September.

Mr. Parkinson said that the annual Director's Conference on the subject of pollution, which he chaired, emphasized the need for a coordinated effort to provide as well as a delegation to Ottawa headed by Dr. J. J. O'Leary, Assistant Deputy Minister (Operations) of Fisheries in Canada.

Mr. Parkinson, who also heads the service's engineering section in the Maritimes, said that the most serious pollution problems were those caused by the disposal of refuse, industrial and food processing wastes, and agricultural chemicals. The most serious causes of pollution, he said, were the two large dams on the St. John River in New Brunswick, which were being carried over into 1966, he told the meeting.

BEARING BRUNT

Effects of pollution, he explained, ranged from merely reducing oxygen levels below those which will support fish to out and out poisoning of waters by the various chemicals and insecticides. "Unfortunately," he added, "our most valuable salmon producing waters are bearing the brunt of this continual pressure."

"The struggle to overcome this urgent problem," continued the fisheries engineer, "the branch expends a large portion of its technical energies in monitoring pollution, searching for successful pollution abatement techniques and presenting with principals to negotiate mutually acceptable solutions."

A drastic example of what pollution can do is illustrated by the killing of 100,000 salmon and trout under-yearlings at the federal fish hatchery at Florenceville, N.B. Agricultural crop spray material found its way into the water supply brook of the Florenceville station with the resulting dramatic effects.

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Fleet owners prefer stern trawlers

There is a definite preference on the Atlantic coast for stern trawlers among Canadian fishing fleet owners planning to build new vessels, J. A. MacIntyre, a naval architect of Halifax, N.S., told the Canadian Atlantic Offshore Fishing Vessel Conference held recently in Montreal.

Mr. MacIntyre said a number of stern trawlers are being built in the most pressing need with respect to the speed of recovery and establishment of optimum levels.

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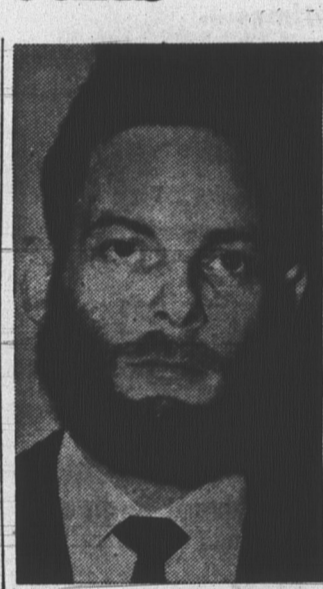
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size, they are screened out on a nylon mesh of appropriate size and transferred to tanks provided with suitable collector material. Larvae set readily on the walls and sides of the tank and settle more densely on those at the bottom of the tank and preferring horizontal surfaces to vertical ones.

Following initial experiments the previous year, in 1965 spat were to be kept in the hatchery for three to four weeks after setting and fed cultured foods before being put out in natural conditions. Dr. Drinnan said that this has produced most encouraging results. "The first rearing of oysters treated in this way have reached, at the end of six months, a size equivalent to two years normal growth in nature," he stated.



ROY DRINNAN

and larvae. Dr. Drinnan pointed out that other methods of water clarification, including the use of sand filters, are being considered and tested.

Oysters under natural conditions develop ripe gonads in early summer and spawn when water temperatures reach suitable levels. In the hatchery, spawning must be controlled to supply fertilized eggs the year round. This is achieved by holding adults at 18 degrees centigrade (64 degrees Fahrenheit) at which temperature they ripen but do not spawn. Sea water temperature is adjusted by passing it through a stainless steel converter. Warming is supplied by the application of boiler water to the converter jacket, as accomplished by the similar use of cold fresh water.

The oysters are conditioned for spawning in fibre glass trays so stacked that water introduced at the top runs down from tray to tray and finally to the drain.

To stimulate spawning, ripe oysters from the condition 1 trays are placed in clean sea water and the temperature is raised from 25 degrees to 30 degrees centigrade. Oysters which spawn are removed to containers of clean sea water. Eggs released are washed through a fine screen, sperm added and the fertilized eggs put into rearing containers. If oysters are fully ripe the whole spawning process is a rapid and simple one. Within 24 hours the fertilized eggs develop into swimming larvae.

VULNERABLE PHASE

The larval stage is the most vulnerable phase of the oyster's life and this step is the most difficult in the hatchery process. According to hatchery technicians, water quality is of supreme importance here.

Larvae are reared in conical shaped tanks, each containing 100 gallons of sea water and 3 to 5,000,000 larvae.

When larvae reach setting

Dr. Drinnan said that the present situation indicates that a successful commercial oyster hatchery could become a reality in the near future," Dr. Drinnan added. "It should be stressed, however, that this is still an undertaking which involves a substantial degree of risk. It is also important to realize that Canadian experience is limited to one locality," he said.

Dr. Drinnan noted that Ellerslie was chosen as the site for the experimental hatchery convenience and from the greater knowledge of this area, rather than from any belief that it is the most promising site in the Maritimes. "Though the area has had a number of favourable characteristics, there are also other serious disadvantages. Alternative sites which would allow simplification of hatchery processes or demand alterations," he said.

It has been found that the present method of rearing spat in the early stages is a relatively costly one. A simpler process would be of obvious advantage and the use of covered tanks containing filtered sea water shows great promise.

Inspection service on constant jump

With the commercial fishing industry booming in the Maritime Provinces, the federal department of fisheries inspection service is kept on the jump handling demands created by this turn of good fortune.

With new fish plants being built and older ones being expanded and improved, inspection officers have little time to waste. On top of that, many new vessels entered the inshore and offshore fisheries last year, and fish landings and values soared to heights never before experienced in the colorful history of this ancient industry.

The extent of increased fish inspection activity was reflected in a report given here by Ronald J. McNeill, assistant Maritimes head of the inspection service. He was addressing the annual meeting of departmental officials from area headquarters throughout the Maritimes and a delegation from Ottawa headquarters.

Mr. McNeill noted that the vast expansion of fish processing plants was matched by a substantial increase in the fishing fleet. "All shipbuilding yards in the Maritimes were working to capacity constructing both steel and wooden trawlers, scallop druggers and longliners, the fisheries official told the meeting. He said the raising of building wooden scallop druggers had levelled off, but the building of groundfish (cod, haddock, cusk, etc.) druggers had increased. He noted that there was a trend toward the building of steel stern trawlers, but with trawls over one side) were still being built.

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ALBERTON—Over a million pounds of Mackerel is expected to be landed at Alberton South this summer from an expanded seining operation.

Experimental seining for Mackerel off Alberton was carried out by two Alberton fishermen, Lemont and Cecil Hutt in 1964 and last year daily landings ranged as high as 30,000 pounds.

At least three other Alberton boats plan to use seines this year following the close of the spring lobster season on June 30.

Lobsters continue as the mainstay of Western Prince County fishermen and possible the greatest number of traps ever will be set out from Tignish and Alberton this spring.

Design new type dredge

These larger boats used in seining for Mackerel and Cod fishing. They are being turned out at two thriving Alberton boat plants operated by Alberton Industries and Hutt Brothers.

Boat launching began in Alberton on April 1 the earliest date in many years and a few herring were landed during the week of April 4 to 9, but no large amount has appeared as yet. Fair catches of herring were landed last year on April 19 and 20.

In addition to Lobsters and Mackerel, Scallop and Cod fishing will also be carried on from Alberton area this year.

Mr. MacLeod stated that the design of the dredge will be taken throughout the Maritimes seeking the location of these fish.

"Once we find out where the population of these fish are, we will be able to make it known to the fishermen," stated Lincoln MacLeod, a technician at the station.

This boat was described by Mr. MacLeod as being approximately 20 feet in length with an inboard and outboard motor. This motor will run a hydraulic set up which in turn will set up a pump and winch. This pump will pump water down a base and this will provide the digging action for the capturing of the fish.

"After we have assessed the population the next job will be, in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries, to find methods of producing and marketing the fish," Mr. MacLeod stated.

Heavy mackerel fishing planned

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A number of Alberton men are starting the season with brand new boats which are attracting considerable interest by their modern appearance and attractive variety of colors which are

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