

Lobster is big cash crop for N. Rustico

The big cash crop in the North Rustico area, as far as fisheries is concerned, is lobster.

Last year, during the season, about 400,000 pounds of lobster were landed and this landing had a value of approximately \$250,000 for local fishermen.

When the lobster season is over, fishermen concentrate on mackerel, cod and hake. Mackerel landings meant between \$60,000 and \$570,000 to local fishermen last year but cod, hake and similar fish were scarce and landings of this type brought to local fishermen a landed value of about \$30,000.

Most of the lobsters caught off North Rustico are of the canning variety and are canned at the North Rustico Fishermen's Co-operative plant. At the peak of the season about 50 persons are employed.

When lobster is out of season, and during the other four to five months the plant is in operation, filleting and freezing of ground fish is carried out and this fish finds a ready market in the United States.

Each year, about 50 boats fish out of Rustico and allowing two men per boat, this means employment for 100 fishermen.

The fisheries operation usually stretches over six months, beginning in May, and the other six months are spent by fishermen in repairing and replacing their fishing gear.

TOURIST FISHING
A significant development in the Rustico area during the past few years has been the practice of local fishermen taking tourists on deep sea fishing expeditions. Before fishermen can do this, however, they must qualify for a department of transport license.

About 10 fishermen in the Rustico area are now involved in the profitable deep sea fishing sideline and incomes are greatly bolstered by the practice.

Fishermen in the Rustico area as well as fishermen in many Maritime areas—may be facing a problem this year as far as lobster fishing is concerned. Each year, a fisherman builds from 20 per cent to 25 per cent more traps than he had the previous year to allow for lost

traps and traps too old to be efficient. Last year few traps were lost during the season and with the production of about 5,000 new traps in the Rustico area, fishermen will be setting about 30,000 pots this year.

FISHED OUT EARLY

One fish plant official, pointing out that only a certain number of lobsters can be taken from any one area in a season, said the extra traps this year may mean an increased catch in the first week or two of the season but the grounds would be fished out earlier and lobster catches may be no higher than last year.

"Extra traps," he said, "mean added expense and no real benefit."

The use of more and more traps each year in the Maritime area has led fishermen to consider setting up a trap limit by mutual agreement.

One fisherman said "this race of more and more traps and more and more gear should be stopped in the interests of all fishermen."



OYSTER FISHERMEN REAP THE HARVEST

The fame of the Malpeque oyster regarding its taste and quality has become widely known through a large section of Canada and the United States. As a result fishermen of the Malpeque

Bay area are hard pressed to obtain sufficient quantities to satisfy market demands. Using scissor-like tongs from dories these oyster fishermen bring the shell-fish to the surface.

ROMANS STARTED IT

Culture of oyster has long history

The oyster has long been a desirable article of food in the western world. The Romans went to great pains to transport oysters from Britain for banquets and even used primitive culture methods to grow and fatten oysters for consumption. Until the early 19th century, the natural production of wild oyster beds, supplemented by transplantation to good growing and fattening areas, was sufficient to meet the market demand. At this time, however, increasingly rapid transportation and population increase put heavy pressure on the naturally accumulated stocks and with increasing exploitation the inevitable decline in production occurred. For a time vigorous exploration for new beds compensated for the falling productivity of the old, but, eventually, both in the old world and the new, a serious shortage occurred.

In the mid-19th century, the first major technological advance occurred with the discovery that oysters appeared on clean materials, shell, etc., which were immersed in the sea in oyster-producing areas at the appropriate season.

NEW LIFE
This gave new life to the oyster fisheries but was still only one step removed from natural production and just as dependent on the vagaries of climatic conditions.

Later in the 19th century, it was realized that oysters reproduced by producing swimming larvae which float in the sea for some days before attaching themselves and transforming into minute replicas of their parents. The fact that an enormous mortality must occur in nature, in the millions of eggs produced by a single oyster, raised the hope that a method might be found to prevent this mortality by artificially culturing these

larvae, thereby providing unlimited quantities of seed oysters.

At the end of the 19th century, oyster eggs were artificially fertilized and developed into larvae but 30 years passed before larvae were raised to settlement. Hopes of a hatchery technique ran high but successes were rare; too many uncontrolled factors were operating.

CULTURED FOOD
Intensive work in England suggested that food played an important part in determining the success or failure of larvae rearing attempts and that only minute naked plant cells could be used as food by oyster larvae. Techniques were developed for the culture of these plants; and in 1896 larvae were first raised with cultured foods.

This was a major step forward but there was still no certainty of success in rearing attempts. Further work suggested that the growth of bacteria in the cultures was largely responsible for the failures. Until sulphur drugs and antibiotics appeared, control of such infestations was impossible. Some 15 years ago, simultaneously in the United States and Britain, techniques were developed to control bacteria and a reliable laboratory method of oyster culture at last achieved.

Many problems still remain. For example, oysters are prey to a number of diseases, control methods for which are being developed as they appear.

The first task in the immediate future is the transformation of an essentially laboratory method into a practical and economical commercial process. This is a major part of the Ellerslie Experimental Oyster Hatchery program.

Beyond this, vast new horizons of selective breeding aimed at produced faster growing, disease-resistant oysters, will be a continuing and expanding part of the work by the biologists and technicians at the station.

CLC GAINS MEMBERS

OTTAWA (CP)—The executive council of the Canadian Labor Congress has approved in principle the reaffiliation of the 13,500-member International Union of Operating Engineers, CLC President Claude Jodoin said Monday. Details are being worked out between congress officers and the union.

Fishing industry booming in centres around Tignish

By EDITH ELDERSHAW
TIGNISH — A total of 1,800,000 pounds of ground fish were landed during the past season by the fishermen of the Tignish Fisheries Co-operative, the largest amount landed in the history of the Fisheries.

The processing plant at Jukes Point was kept busy where a staff of 60 men and women were employed there at salt fish drying, packaging and lysing from September until December and where several are still employed.

4,000 cases of chicken haddie were processed during the year, 20 carloads of fish products were shipped during the year. Sixty-five boats at Jukes Point landed 452,000 pounds of lobsters during the spring season, the

highest landed by an individual boat during the spring season was 20,078 pounds.

Fifty-two boats at Skippers Pond landed 356,923 pounds of lobsters during the late summer or fall season. The high individual boat landing was 14,800 pounds. The total lobster pack of 1964 in the canneries was 11,444 cases. Sixty thousand pounds were shipped live to the Boston market by Prudham's transfer.

Total sales of products at the Fisheries were \$23,000 and \$87,000 was paid out in labor. Ebbsfleet co-operative Fisheries with 27 boats had 131,228 pounds of canners, with 15,708 pounds of markets.

They landed 2,200 pounds of cod, and 66,000 pounds of herring, and 69,000 pounds of mackerel.

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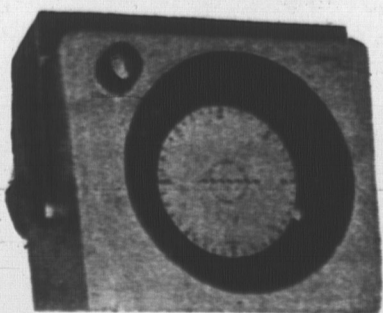
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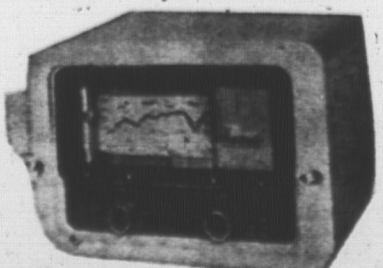
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