

CANADIAN FISHES

THE LAKE TROUT

(*Salvelinus namaycush*)
Perhaps it is a bit unfair to use the similar word "salmon" in connection with a different creature like the Lake trout but the fact is that the fish does go by more than half a dozen names. Lake trout and Salmon trout are the two most generally used but in New Brunswick people call the fish the "logue" in parts of Quebec the "touladi", in some other Quebec areas and sometimes in Ontario the "Gray trout". Once in a while, perhaps not very often, the fish is called the namaycush and occasionally the Great Lake trout, too. In northern British Columbia some of the Indians have a name for it which, in rough conversion into the white man's tongue, seems to be "so-pi".

Scientifically, the fish belongs to the Salmonidae family. That means that it has a good many relatives, in one degree of relationship or another among Canadian fish. The closest is one known by the scientists as *C. namaycush siscowet*, which, by the way, is practically confined to Lake Superior though occasionally taken also in Lakes Erie and Lake Huron. The whitefish and the Lake herring belong to the same family though the two species to different branches of it. So do the Atlantic salmon and the five species of Pacific salmon, the Spokan trout, the Rainbow trout, and a number of other fish, among them, as interesting examples the Inconnu of the Northwest Territories and the Arctic char.

Most trout, of course, are game fish but Lake trout enter mainly into the commercial fishery. They will take the hook, both in fly fishing and when some baits are used, but their importance in Canada is as commercial fish. They run, in general, to bigger sizes than most of the other species of trout. Those living in large lakes usually grow to larger size than those in smaller waters. Occasional specimens weighing as much as 75 pounds, or perhaps even more than that, have been taken by the fisherman. Most are 20 or 30-pounders but are not uncommon though, on the average, the weight of the fish entering into the commercial catches is probably around 10 pounds and the length two feet or so.

In exterior coloring Lake trout vary from almost black to grayish or very light green. Similarly, there are variations in the colour of the fish. Sometimes the scales are fairly deep pink, sometimes any one of the several shades between the other two. These differences, says one Canadian au-

thority, Dymond, are probably determined in part by heredity and in part by environment. Some of the fish are probably by nature lighter in flesh colour than others. On the other hand, it is probable that the kind and amount of food eaten also influences flesh colour.

Where Taken:

Lake trout are North American fish, with wide distribution over the continent. They occur in Labrador in one or two sections of the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, and thence westward and northward. In the western provinces their distribution is in northerly waters rather than those in the southern areas. They are present, too, in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. In the United States the fish are found in Maine and in some of the western states and in Alaska. Incidentally, the statement that Lake trout occur in the Maritime Provinces should be qualified by the explanation that they are indigenous to only one area or perhaps two areas in that part of the Province. They are native to Sherbrooke Lake in western Nova Scotia and the population in waters of the Chignecto Lakes region of southwestern New Brunswick is probably also indigenous. More than half of Canada's commercial landings of trout are in Lakes Huron and in Lake Superior. Saskatchewan is much the largest producer among the other Lake trout provinces. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick fishing for trout is restricted entirely to angling.

Fishing and Marketing: Commercial fishing for Lake trout in Canada is done by means of gill-nets and pound-nets. The greater part of the catch is taken in the summer months but in the Prairie Provinces, as a whole, most of the fish are caught in winter when the nets are set through the ice. Total Dominion catch fluctuates, of course, from year to year. In 1944 the landings were about 4,900,000 pounds. The fish are marketed in the fresh and frozen forms. Much of each year's catch is exported to the United States.

Machinery can be pretty smart, for example, a machine in use in the British Columbia fishery can fill 132 half-pound cans to the minute. Other fish canneries have similar apparatus which operate at similar speed.

and come to the surface they scoop up any fish which have chanced to swim against them at the right moment.

The fish wheel is operated on a hollow-square raft which is moored a few yards out from the river bank. The raft is made of logs, and a spot where the current runs is a 3-foot upright post and from its top a four-foot diameter wheel which has bolted to it, radially, several wooden frames, sometimes made of iron. The frames are in the form of a scoop about 10 feet square and covered with chicken wire.

As these blades or scoops are rotated by the current each dips, in turn, about six feet under the water. Swinging up to the surface they bring their catch with them and as the wheel continues to revolve the fish slide from the scoops toward the axle and are diverted thence by sloping gutters into collecting boxes set below.

Fishing Industry Behind Conservation Measures

Steadily increasing sense of responsibility on the part of commercial fishermen and fish plant operators as regards fisheries conservation is noted by one of the Dominion Department of Fisheries in the course of his report for 1945. Testimony of the same kind could be given by other officers, both East and West.

With prices firm and fish demand at an exceptionally high level, the British Columbia officer points out, it was not surprising that there was the occasional case of some would-be profit-grabber trying to "beat" the conservation regulations laid down by the fisheries authorities. That sort of thing was to be expected, human nature being what it is. But unscrupulous chaps who tried it were the exceptions. The great majority of fishermen and plant operators, the inspector further added, showed themselves more than ever aware "of the necessity for preserving the fisheries for the future and, consequently, a readiness to co-operating in and a sympathetic attitude toward conservation measures."

Of course, uncontrolled, go-as-you-please exploitation of any fishery always means larger earnings for the time being. But, in most fisheries at least, it means smaller returns for the fishing industry a few seasons later, and if reckless exploitation is carried far enough it means depleted stocks and vanished returns. It is mainly because this is the case that regulations are laid down under Dominion law to govern the fisheries, both commercial fisheries and port fisheries. In major purpose, the regulations are of a conservation nature, designed to maintain the country's fishing resources and ensure, for to-morrow, satisfactory returns for the commercial fisherman and good sport for the angler. Wise fishermen of both groups respect the regulations in their own interest, if for no other reason.

Capital investment in Canada's fishing industry in the last two years of peace, 1938 and 1939 (actually, of course, the last two or three months of '39 was wartime) averaged nearly \$47,950,000. In 1942 investment was over \$62,400,000.

Yacht Completes First Leg Of Voyage

HAMILTON, Bermuda April 16 (CP) Cable.—The 36-foot yacht *Asteria*, put in here tonight at the end of the first leg of her 4,000-mile voyage to Recife, Brazil.

The yacht which as the *Wildfire* once won the Astor Cup, will have scuppers fitted in Hamilton to protect her against the high seas which washed over her deck after leaving New Bedford, Mass., last Thursday.

The party aboard the craft, owned by George Meade, captain of the Rio De Janeiro Yacht Club, will remain here to watch the United States-Bermuda international yacht race this week.

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Dalhousie Professor Goes To Saskatchewan

TORONTO, April 17 — (CP) — Dr. H. Bruce Collier of Toronto has been appointed professor of biochemistry at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, and is to take the position during the summer. It was announced yesterday. At present he is associate professor of biochemistry at Dalhousie University, Halifax.

Dr. Collier graduated from University of Toronto with honors in chemistry in 1927. Three years later he obtained his Doctor of Philosophy Degree in biochemistry. In 1930, accompanied by his wife, he went to West China for the United Church of Canada Board of Foreign Missions and until 1937 was head of the department of biochemistry in West China University. In 1939 he became biochemist at the Institute of Parasitology at McGill University, Montreal, and in 1942 went to Dalhousie.

River Operate Gear For Yukon Fisherman

Salmon, Lake trout, and whitefish, with a few other species grouped in catch reports as "mixed fish" make up the principal fisheries production in the Yukon Territory but, as a matter of fact, commercial fishing in that part of Canada is only of local significance. Total catch in 1944, taken by 38 fishermen, was something more than 28,000 pounds—salmon made up a little more than half of it—and its value was \$24,000, roundly stated. Record production in the territory, in 1915, was 308,200 pounds, with a value of over \$63,700 but the highest figures reached in recent years were 52,800 pounds and \$6,650.

Not only a half a dozen different kinds of fish enter into the territory's commercial landings but, at least, are present in Yukon waters. Scientists who made a preliminary survey of the fish resources of the area for the federal Fisheries Research Board in 1945 collected specimens of nearly 30 different species. Among those collected were all five species of Pacific salmon, though their distribution was not uniform—some were found only in certain waters, some only in other areas. Whitefish included five or six species; Rainbow, Steelhead and Dolly Varden trout, as well, of course as the Lake trout, were found, the loche or Freshwater ling, the Northern pike, the grayling, the inconnu, the Northern sucker, the Northern chub, Spoonhead sculpin, and several others. The species varied in distribution and in abundance and, of course, some of those named are fish which are never of value, either commercially or from the angler's point of view, in the Yukon or anywhere else.

No Power Costs Here
Featuring commercial fishing on the Yukon River is the use of a device known as the fish wheel, which depends only on the water's current to make it go. Salmon are the fish which it seeks, though incidental catches of some other fish are also made. The flow of current makes the wheel go round and as its blades swing through the water

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QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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