

# Public oyster fishing answer to long want

By NEIL A. MATHESON  
 Provincial-Farm Editor  
 The opening of the Atlantic  
 River oyster beds to public  
 fishing is the answer to long  
 standing demands for more mu-  
 ble fishing in Oyster areas, and  
 particularly in this area where  
 the federal government had  
 held a tight clamp on their oyster  
 development despite re-  
 peated attempts to have the  
 area opened.

Normally served on the half shell the ideal shape is an oyster that is one and one-quarter to one and one-half times as long as it is wide, he said. "Fancy" is top grade and "choice" is second grade.

Top price last year, he said, ran \$30 to \$32.50 per barrel or half of that per box.

If one-third is top grade, he explained on that price basis, a 75-barrel production would bring perhaps \$1,650.

He based that estimate on 50 boxes of at \$15 for \$750 and 50 boxes of choice at \$18 for \$900, fancy and 50 boxes of 2nd grade oysters at \$8 for \$400. Mr. Fraser was speaking of the 1961 prices.

But it takes from five to eight years to grow fully developed oysters from seed and if a man has 10 acres, for example, he would be lucky if he could keep two of them on the average, top production. The oysters on the others would be in various stages of growth, he explained.

Mr. Fraser came home 16 years ago from the United States where he worked as an accountant and went to the Pictou area to fish. The Orwell Bay area was just starting to recover from the disease which practically wiped out the oysters. One couldn't collect one-half basket at the time, from a lease that would normally produce 800 barrels, he said.

With everything, including net, doors, rollers, and all other equipment the same as on a dragger, except on a much smaller scale, these two men have been bringing in good catches regularly all summer. It takes only a couple of days after the end of lobster season to convert the boat from a lobster boat into a miniaturized dragger.

Mr. Fraser thinks that others will soon be adopting their system. "It was supposed to have been tried in other island areas, without too much success, but I think that we've proved that it could be done. All anyone has to do is look at our landings for the summer, and they can see for themselves that we've done it."

## Brother team fooling skeptics

A brother team, comprising Fee and George Roach of Souris are proving to skeptics that their new method fishing can be very rewarding in a financial way. The two brothers have converted their lobster boat, the "Patsy Ann" into a smaller version of a dragger.

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## Souris dragger catches down

The dragger fishing operations out of Souris are not as promising as they were in the past, and many veteran skippers feel that the situation will not improve. When operations began, about 11 years ago, it was a matter of going to the fishing grounds for about three days, then coming in with a full load.

At that time, a full load usually consisted of large head-dock. Other varieties, such as flounder, grey sole, and cod were also of the large variety. Other fish were sometimes discarded, and, if possible, were not caught at all. As the years passed, the size of the fish gradually became smaller, and the catches also decreased. Now, a skipper will take any size and any variety in an attempt to get a full load.

Last year an all-time low was reached. Some skippers had their lowest catches ever, and the average for the entire fleet was the lowest since the fleet came into existence.

Many skippers thought that such a season could not be repeated. Their contention was that it was an unusually poor summer, in which the slack spell lasted longer than it ever had, and then followed with an unusually windy fall which kept the boats ashore many days at a time.

CATCHES POOR  
 This year may prove those skippers wrong. This spring, the boats did not make their usual large catches. Instead, fishing was steady at about 40,000 pounds per boat. The slack summer season came earlier than usual and at the end of the present time is not showing many signs of abating. Final figures at the end of the season may prove, that for dragger fishermen it was the poorest season to date.

Quite naturally some of the reasons for small catches would be breakdowns, poor weather conditions, etc., but the main reason would seem to be the fact that the fish are no longer there to be caught. If that is true, then where have the fish gone?

ed them off reefs, and there was no way of telling how old they were.

The age of the seed oysters, though, is known as it is three

## HOW'S YOUR I. Q. ON COOKING FISH?

Fish 'n' Seafood Week, held this year Oct 15 to 21, focuses attention on one of our most abundant, economical, and easy-to-cook foods. Whether or not fish is popular at your house depends greatly on the cook.

Test your knowledge of fish cookery by trying this easy true or false quiz supplied by the home economists of the department of fisheries of Canada. Correct answers will be found at the end of the quiz.

Questions:  
 1. As a rule, fish require less cooking time than meat.  
 2. We cook fish to tenderize it.  
 3. It is advisable to handle fish as little as possible during and after cooking.  
 4. Cooking time for fish is calculated on the thickness rather than on the weight.  
 5. Cooked fish tends to be darker in colour than uncooked fish.  
 6. Overcooking fish makes it very tender and flaky.  
 7. Frozen fillets should be thawed before baking.  
 8. Frozen fillets should be thawed before frying.  
 9. For best results a fish steak to be broiled should be 1 to 1 1/2 inch thick.  
 10. Smoked fish takes longer to cook than unsmoked fish.

Answers:  
 1. True. Unlike land animals, fish have no tough muscle tissue or sinewy connective tissue to soften, and so thick layers of

## Hake is top money-maker, 4,000-pound catches routine

Hake is the money fish for the lobster fishermen this year. On the north side of the Island, hake, in larger numbers than some of the older fishermen can remember, are being caught. A load of 4,000 pounds per boat is not an unusual sight at any of the northside fishing ports this season.

This past season has been a highly successful one for most inshore fishermen. The lobster season was successful, not that smoked fish is either particularly or completely cooked when purchased.

As soon as the lobster season ended, most of the fishermen got out their nets, and had success right from the start. Large catches of cod and hake, especially the latter were reported that way all through the season. At the present time, in a

fishermen are getting ready for the annual mackerel run. Already some good catches have been reported, and indications are that it, too, will be a huge success.

All in all, it totals up to a prosperous year for most inshore fishermen in this area.

ANOTHER PROVINCE  
 SAIGON (AP) — South Viet Nam has created the nation's highest civilian award, the National Order of the Star of the Republic of Vietnam. The government believes smaller provinces provide more efficient administration and far better military co-ordination against the

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