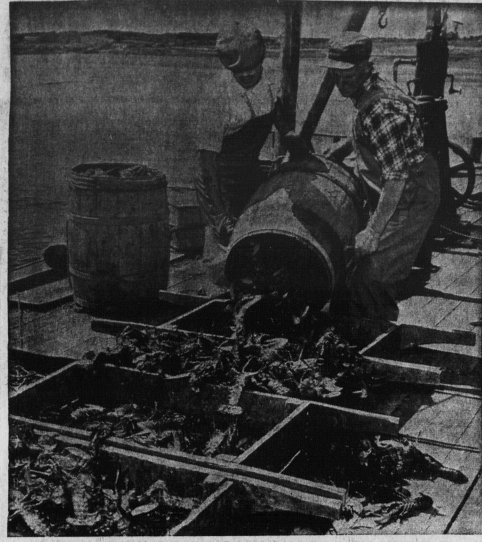


3,000 FISHERMEN RELY ON SEA HARVEST

Dept. aims program at increasing efficiency



Island fishermen did not fare as well in 1961 as they did during the record breaking year of 1960, but they continued to contribute a healthy slice to the economic pie of the province. Returns up until Nov. 30, 1961, showed a decline in dollar value of about \$300,000.

Here is a comparison in poundage and value for the 1961 and 1960 seasons with the 1960 figures in parentheses.

Sea fish pounds landed 55, 619,000 (41,000,000). Estimated landed value \$4,422,000 (\$4,557,000).

In Lobster landings the story was as follows: Pounds landed 9,512,000 (10,137,000). Estimated landed value \$3,056,000 (\$3,213,000).

The sea fish poundage was a down by 15 per cent, and the value down about three per cent. In the lobster category, poundage was down six per cent and the value about 4.9 per cent.

SEASON LATE
No particular reason could be advanced for lower returns poundage and dollar-wise, for it was the general picture in many parts of the Maritimes and Newfoundland. The season



MR. ROSSITER

here, however, was a month late in getting underway. Recognizing the large investment of Island fishermen, particularly the offshore operators, Hon. Leo Rossiter, minister of fisheries has embarked his department on an ambitious educational program designed to increase efficiency.

Some of these courses, like those already instituted at Souris, have been made possible through the co-operation of the federal department of labour and the provincial department of education. One of these sources was in fish cutting and filleting and the other in the making and repairing of trawl nets.

Other courses designed for specific techniques are aimed for particular communities. Still other courses embrace navigation, net mending and plant operation. All in all 18 to 20 courses will be run-off to aid the fishermen in reaping a profitable harvest from the sea.

The fisheries of the province involve about 3,000 fishermen, conducting their operations from some 1,500 boats. Their capital investment in these boats and equipment amounts to something in the vicinity of \$3.5 million.

These fishermen annually make use of some 450,000 lobster traps, about 5,500 mackerel and gill nets, about 2,500 smelt gill nets, about 2,000 trawls and thousands of hand lines. In addition to these the

fishermen also make use of smelt bag nets, trap nets, seal trap drags and oyster rakes. From their operations the fishermen brought in, during the season approximately 45 million pounds of product.

Approximately 42 per cent of Island fishermen are in Kings County, about 21 per cent are in Queens and 37 per cent are in Prince County.

The capital investment of fishermen in their primary operations equipment is usually something in the order of \$3 million. Approximately 52 per cent of this investment is in

Kings County, 16 per cent in Queens and 32 per cent in Prince County.

Of the landed value of Prince County, 44 per cent is brought in by Kings County, 15 per cent is accounted for by Queens and about 41 per cent is taken in by Prince County.

The percentage comparisons do not vary much year from year and this also holds true to varieties of fish landed. About 45 per cent of the lobster value comes ashore in Kings, about 17 per cent in Queens, and about 40 per cent landed in Prince

county. With cod fish, about 73 per cent is taken in Kings County, approximately 13.5 per cent in Queens and 14.5 in Prince County. While most of the flounders caught are landed in Kings County, Prince County has by far the largest harvest of Irish moss.

The investment of \$3.5 million by Island fishermen covers a wide field. Included in round figures, are 22 draggers, 1,333 gasoline or diesel boats, 50 piers and wharves, 325 smoke houses, 450,000 lobster traps 5,000 herring nets, 1,200 mackerel nets, 2,000 smelt nets, and 1,500 hand lines.

1962 LOBSTER CATCHES DOWN BUT PRICES HIT RECORDS

Deep sea fishing improves province's economic health

A new type of deep sea fishing which has been added to the province's fishing industry in recent years, will have greater emphasis this year on the provincial economy.

Visiting tourists, and some pleasure seeking Prince Edward Islanders, have been spending a share of their summer hours deep sea fishing with veterans who know where to find the fish that are normally caught commercially, and have the boats and equipment to get their passengers to where the big fellows lurk in the depths.

New emphasis was given to the sport last year when 38 fishermen were given special training in a special course at the Vocational School in Charlottetown.

Industries and government departments merge pretty closely in this small province and the deep sea fishing course serves as a good example.

The Travel Bureau which is administered by the provincial secretary, the fisheries department and the department of education shared the responsibility of making the training possible, for the men who are offering a service to visitors seeking deep-sea fishing experience. Many veteran skipper have years of experience as practical fishermen and know just about every trick in the trade.

They should know when engaged in this type of fishing, in completion of their training the men were required to undergo an examination by an official from the department of transport, Halifax. The successful candidates in the examination were granted a temporary master's certificate. Before the first week in July all the trainees will have had an opportunity to qualify for the certificate and their boats will undergo a thorough inspection by the department of transport.

In addition, the boats are required to be of a sufficient size to allow the acquisition of a cabin with toilet facilities — a stipulation to which the fishermen all agreed. The boats will also install other equipment for the comfort of passengers.

To assist the fishermen further, the Travel Bureau is issuing a folder which will be available to those interested and will list all the boats that meet the minimum requirements. The first

requirement will be a master's certificate. The location of deep sea fishing places, the name of the master, the name of the boat and other information will be listed. Information bureaus and resorts will be stocked with the folder.

On completion of the course in Charlottetown, the fishermen formed an organization known as the Prince Edward Island Deepsea Fishing Association.

Deepsea fishing operations give full-summer work for several fishermen and is a supplementary form of financial benefit to many others. The boats, most of them ordinary lobster boats, are 30 to 40 feet in length and require very little effort to fit them for this endeavor. Many tourist families avail themselves outing on the water. They catch of this opportunity to enjoy an cod, mackerel, haddock and other fish, mostly using handlines. Some boat owners will also have heavy rods for their pastime requirements. The first

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Commercial Fishing plays a major role in Prince Edward Island ECONOMY

In 1961 approximately 3,000 fishermen, conducting their operation from 1,500 boats landed over 60 million pounds of product, including Sea Plants. This was worth over 4.48 million dollars landed and approximately 7 million dollars marketed.

Prince Edward Island

DEPARTMENT of FISHERIES

L. F. Rossiter, Minister

HOLD SECRET MEETING

TAIPEI, Formosa (Reuters) The China Post reports that top-ranking Chinese Communist leaders were holding a secret conference in Peking which "may lead to a new crisis in the Formosa Strait." Quoting intelligence sources, the paper says that attending the conference are Communist party Chairman Mao Tse-tung and vice-chairmen Premier Chou En Lai, Liu Shao Chi, Teng Hsiao Ping and others.