

**Growth Story Of Canada's Favorite Delicacy And Province's Leading Cash Crop From Sea, The Island Lobster**



**FEW SURVIVE FROM THIS EARLY PHASE**



**SIZE AT ONE, TWO, THREE YEAR STAGES**



**GIANTS SUCH AS THIS, WEIGHING SOME 20 POUNDS, ARE RARE—A REAL 'GRAND-DADDY'**



**The Guardian**

"Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew"

(With The Evening Patriot)



SECOND SECTION

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY, 27, 1959

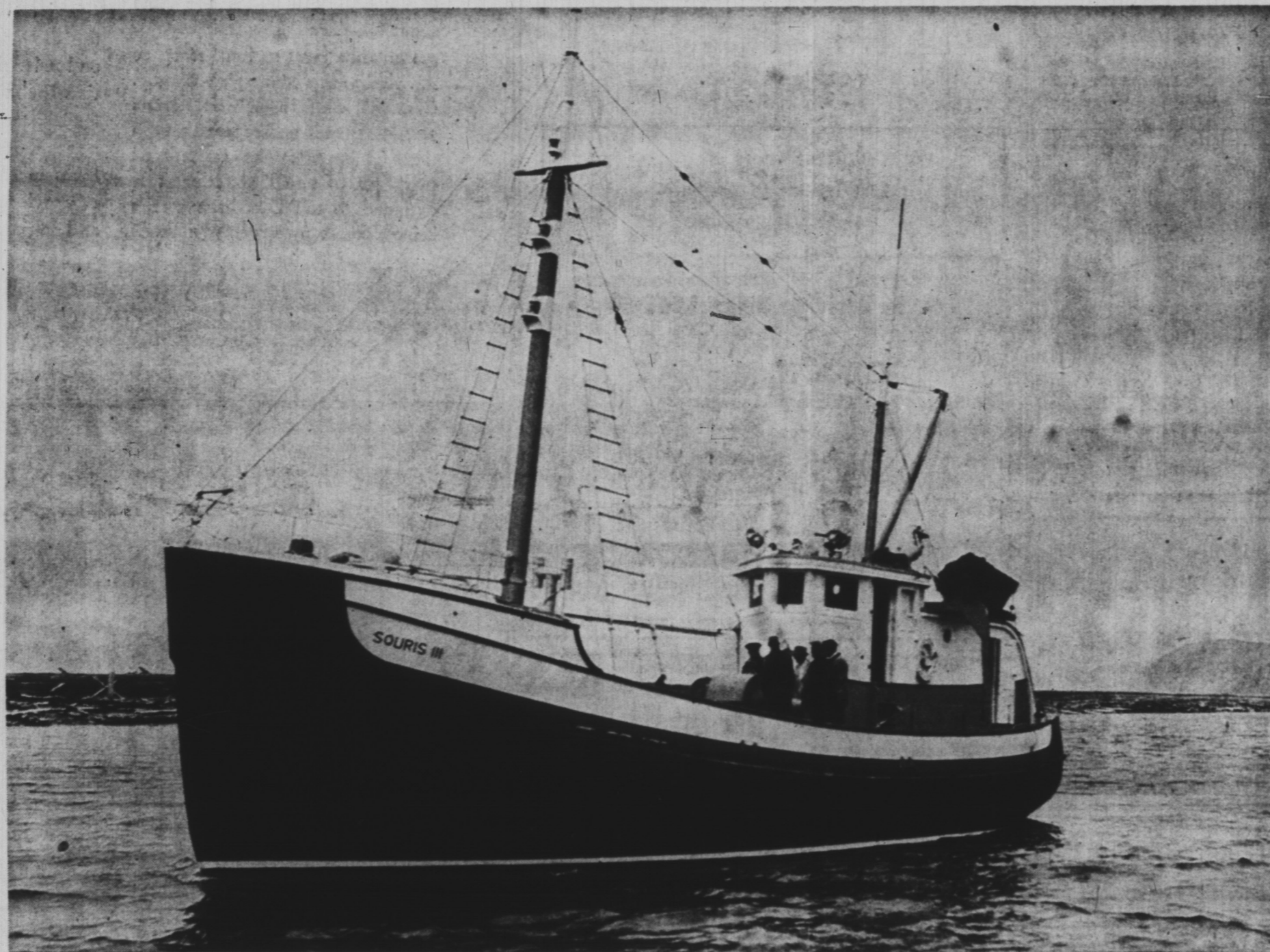
**Lead Held By Island In Oysters**

When connoisseurs speak of succulent bivalves they mean Prince Edward Island oysters. With the possible exception of lobsters there is no seafood so popular among Islanders. Oysters are our best advertisement in other parts of Canada where they are justly famous. One great advantage is their prevalence all along Island shores so the true oyster lover can take a knife with him and open them on the beach. If he forgets the knife a sharp rock comes in handy.

**MALPEQUES**  
Malpeque oysters are a byword and a buy word as well especially in the elite clubs of Montreal and Ottawa and the demands from these customers keeps fishermen busy. Their excellence is recognized by oyster eaters wherever they are tasted. A distinctive flavor not common in oysters elsewhere is the first delight noticed, with it is a firm flesh unlike many oysters of a jellyfish texture. It is encouraging to note that many of the latter will be removed from Island waters in the three-year campaign to restock oyster fisheries in the neighboring provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It has been stated that these oysters will soon take on the marketable quality of the region in which they are transplanted.

One fact for which Islanders in general and fishermen in particular can be grateful is that oysters multiply fast. It means that thick beds are actually enriched in time by siphoning off unnecessary surpluses. This present restocking scheme of the Federal department of fisheries will benefit all three provinces. But primarily it will benefit the oyster lover who within a very few years can expect more and bigger oysters. He cannot reasonably expect better quality as when he buys top Island oysters he is automatically buying the world's best. At least no Islander could be convinced of the contrary. Real oyster lovers of the Province would favor keeping all of them here. But, then, they do not have an economic mind. However, their attitude is understandable as all oyster eaters would like to keep them all for themselves. Those who enjoy the bivalves are much the same the world over and exclaim over the variety from Maryland, U. S. A. until they sample a Malpeque. Nearly always the argument of relative merits ends right there.

**RESISTANT STRAIN**  
A recent story from the State of New Jersey that efforts were being made to combat the 'X' disease in oysters recalled that this same disease had struck Island beds in a series of epidemics from 1915 to 1940. Dr. R.R. Logie of the Biological sub-station at Ellerslie said at present "P.E.I. oysters were descended from the resistant survivors of these epidemics and passed the resistance to their progeny". The biologist also said the Island is now supplying "most of the Atlantic oysters to the Canadian market at a very high price indeed".



**INDUSTRY LOOKS TO FUTURE THROUGH CRAFT SUCH AS THIS NEWEST DRAGGER AT SOURIS**

**Souris Takes Lead In Fisheries**

The eating habits of the world are changing, particularly in the matter of seafoods and Souris is in the forefront of fishing communities keeping up with the changing tastes. The development of fast transportation and techniques of freezing and otherwise keeping fish in practically new-caught condition have created a market for fresh fish products which is bringing about a revolution in the industry.

The housewife, far inland, wants a fresh or frozen fillet and Souris is prepared to supply it. The means are basically twofold. —

**RIGHT IN STEP**  
Souris now has two large modern filleting plants which take the prime fish landed there and quickly process it for rapid movement to market. The dragger fleet, thirteen vessels, the largest of which is the

Souris III, capable of bringing in nearly 120,000 pounds of fish at a time, keeps the fish on ice from the time they are caught until they are landed. The trip is a very short one compared with that required by boats operating out of European ports, Newfoundland, most Nova Scotian ports or the New England States.

**HELPS ALL**  
It is thus possible to land the

highest quality of fish and market it in the finest possible condition operating out of Souris. Contrary to the expectation of some, the inshore fishermen benefit from the operations of the trawler fleet. Facilities for handling and marketing their catch is provided which would be quite out of the question if the total supply depended upon the catch of the shore boats. The draggers have so far used mainly the otter trawl, a cone

shaped bag, but there has been interest too in the Danish seine.

**IS PROFITABLE**  
The 13 draggers with some 65 men last year caught nearly half the groundfish landed in this Province, 9.8 million pounds out of 20.7 million. The two Souris plants produced three and three quarters million pounds of fillets and had between them a payroll of \$275,000 to between 225 and 250 employees from April to December. The top boat landed more than 10 million pounds of fish. The average was 752,000, about one per cent lower than a year ago. The average net earnings of a boat, after meeting all expenses including wages, was \$2,794. Deck hands, besides board, earned an average of \$1,908, for 112 days at sea. The average period was from April 4th, to December 1st. A good man in a good boat got as high as \$44 a day as his share. The average boat owner cleared \$4,475 from all sources, although there was considerable variation. It is worth noting that the catch of the draggers represents new wealth on Island. It consists of offshore fish that out fishermen did not previously touch. Many of the important varieties, even, are new to the Island fishing industry. For instance 2-3 million pounds of haddock were landed compared with a negligible catch in earlier years. Also 3 million pounds of flounder were included, a fish not taken by the shore fishermen at all.



**ICE LOCKS THE DRAGGER FLEET**

**JOBS FOR 3,500**

**Fisheries Rate As 2nd Industry**

The fisheries industry of Prince Edward Island, with an annual market income of about five and a half million dollars, gives employment to some 3,500 people either full or part time. In importance it ranks next to agriculture.

At present 60 per cent of the total income is derived from lobsters which thrive in the warm coastal waters of the province. The lobster fisheries of the Island rank fourth in the world and are surpassed in quantity only by New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Maine.

**FOR GOURMETS**  
Prince Edward Island lobsters have for many years been the gourmet's delight in the fashionable dining halls throughout North America.

In order to preserve the supply of lobsters, fishing seasons are confined to two months. For this reason a large number of farmers whose land borders on the coastline, are engaged in the industry.

**DRAGGERS**  
Fast developing into a major industry is that of the dragger fishing. Until 1950 all groundfish landed on the Island were caught by the old fashioned hand line method.

In that year through a government promotion program instituted by the late Premier J. Walter Jones, the first dragger put to sea from the port of Souris. At first it was difficult to convince the fishermen that this new method of fishing would really pay off. This is made evident by the fact that the first dragger crew was changed 52 times during the year.

After a time industrious fishermen saw that by strict attention to duty and with a minimum loss of time dragger fishing could indeed become a profitable venture.

**MILLION POUND BOAT**  
There are now 13 draggers being operated out of Souris and at least one has gone well over the million pound mark in one season with 1,300,000 lbs. Before 1950 the annual codfish landings were valued at about \$283,000. Latest reports indicate that cod has accounted for \$479,000. By the same token, only \$5,500 worth of haddock were landed before 1950. Recent statistics show that this variety of fish brings in an annual market value of \$139,000. Flounders which were non-existent in the catch now have a yearly value of \$179,000. Other fish products such as meal, livers and oil account for an additional \$116,000 each year.

**NEW PLANTS**  
In 1950 one small filleting plant was handling the fish catch at Souris. Today two large filleting plants along with a fish meal plant have an ever increasing output which is finding a ready market in different parts of the continent. Two more draggers now under construction will increase the production of these plants considerably.

**FINANCE**  
There is no scarcity of ground fish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Fishery experts point out that the Gulf situated as it is at the mouth of a huge inland drainage area forms a natural feeding ground for fish. Every indication points to the fact that the fish population in the area is increasing. Previous to 1950 there was a CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



**HON. J. ANGUS MacLEAN**

**Federal Minister Sends Greetings**

"It is indeed a pleasure for me to extend greetings to the fishermen of Prince Edward Island, my home province, and to the readers of 'The Guardian', and 'Evening Patriot' through this special 'Fisheries Edition' inaugurated last year, and so well received in so many quarters.

"Canada's place in the fisheries of the world is an important one. The initiative and enterprise of those in the fishing industry, coupled with the wise management of our fishery resources, has made it so. Latest figures on a world basis show that Canada is in second place in the value of the fishery products she exports, and eighth in the poundage of fish landed by her ocean and freshwater fishermen.

"The fisheries picture last year was not satisfactory on all fronts, but it is already brightening for this year, and I have high hopes that it will continue to do so. You may rest assured that I, and the officials of my Department, will continue to work in the best interests of the fishing industry so that fishermen will be able to take increasing yields and will be able to get adequate returns for their fishing effort. I know, that with the continuing co-operation of those in the industry, our work in this field will be made much easier.

"I should like to take this opportunity to express the hope that the efforts of all Prince Edward Island fishermen, and Canadian fishermen everywhere, will be well rewarded in 1959."