



SOURIS FISHERMEN STAGE REGATTA

PROSPECTS LOOK GOOD

## Georgetown fishermen prepared for lobstering

By J. WALDRON LAVERS  
**GEORGETOWN** — Activity in the age old lobster fishing industry in the Eastern Capital of Georgetown is once again at fever pitch, with the opening date of the season fast approaching. The season is scheduled to open on May 1, which means that it is lawful to run the lines on Saturday, April 30, and put out traps, with the first fish to be landed on May 2.

Last season, with ice conditions in the Gulf worse than they had been for many years, many traps had to be lifted and taken ashore shortly after the opening date, as ice moved in over the fishing grounds. There were also a large number of lobster traps lost and smashed on fishing grounds where there was shallow water, not to mention quantities of rope, buoys and anchors.

As a result of last seasons adverse conditions, representations have been made to the authorities to have this season's opening extended to May 7, and for this date to become the regular opening date. So far no word has been received as to any official decision on this matter. Ice will not present any prob-

lem this season, as it has practically all moved out of the Gulf. The thousands of new traps and repaired old traps that have been built and reconditioned over the winter months are now being transported to the wharves in Georgetown, where they will be piled in readiness for the opening date. Boats, which have been hauled up all along the waterfront are now being scraped, painted and repaired and engines are being installed.

Rope, anchors and buoys will be placed in the boats on the day prior to the opening of the season and on the opening morning something over a hundred boats will leave for the fishing grounds, from Georgetown Harbour and its adjacent bays and rivers.

**THRILLING RACE**  
 The race for the best grounds is always something that thrills and catches the imagination, not only of the fishermen but of the land-lubber as well. A fisherman's success for the two month season, very often depends on his obtaining the best ground on which to run his lines. The rope is run in long lines, which are later trapped. Shorter lines, known as dog-trawls

are also run and these are becoming more popular, as they are lifted and shifted to new fishing areas each day; whereas the long lines remain in the same position, except that they are swung one way or the other as each haul is made.

Great changes have been made over the years in the methods of fishing lobsters. New improvements and innovations are costing the lobster fishermen more money and his expenses have tripled over the years as the price for lobsters has also increased. Every boat now employs an extra man; car engines are the order of the day; very few if any fishermen now fish their own bait and this is now brought in from the neighbouring province of New Brunswick by truck or from the Magdalen Islands by boat.

The fishing grounds off Georgetown Harbour are among the best in the province. The fishermen know the reefs and rocky ledges like the backs of their hands and have markings ashore that guide them to favourite locations. The fishing grounds have names that have become famous over the years; such as Panmure Island Reef, Burnt Point Reef, Boughton Island Reef, the Middleground, Launching Reef, the West End and many other names that are a household word in this fishing community.

**FEWER CANNERIES**  
 Where once the Eastern coast of Kings County was lined with factories engaged in the canning of lobsters, their number has now decreased to a very few. One cannery is located in Georgetown. A great proportion of the catch is sold alive and canned outside the Province or held in Lobster pounds to be placed on the market over the year. The larger lobsters are known as Market Lobsters and command a larger price. At one time many years ago lobsters were bought from the fishermen by count but now it is by weight. Prices have advanced over the years from a few cents per pound to a price of between 60 and 70 cents per pound which was reached last season. It is reported that the catches of lobsters have been anything but good on the Nova Scotia South Coast, where they have a winter season and this is expected to greatly effect the price that will be paid here this season. Fishermen are looking for a highest price ever to be paid for this seasons catch.

With no ice problems evident for the coming season and a good price almost certainly assured the fishermen are looking forward to one of their best seasons but this can only come true if the lobsters can be caught in sufficient quantities. The lobster is one of the most peculiar fish

there is, with habits that have to a certain extent confounded even the experts and veteran fishermen that have studied their habits over the years. No one ever knows for a certainty just how many lobsters will be found on the fishing grounds; how or when they will move about the grounds and many other aspects of their habits. In many ways there is no other industry in the Province in which there is such an element of chance involved over the short two month season. The peculiarity of the lobster; ice conditions; winds; the availability of bait; the obtaining of a good run on opening morning and many other factors enter into the picture and a combination of ideal conditions and some luck can mean the difference in having a successful or unsuccessful financial season.

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## Atlantic herring sparks conference

A new awareness by the fishing industry of the potential of Canada's Atlantic herring resource, coupled with a rapidly expanding market for herring meal, herring oil and herring as food for human consumption has prompted the Federal-Provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee to sponsor a Canadian Atlantic Herring Fishery Conference.

It is to be held May 5-7 in Fredericton, N.B., and is designed to attract the operators of herring fishing vessels and processing plants, biologists and technologists specializing in the behaviour, finding and capture of herring and those concerned with the processing of the species, as well as economists, mar-

being specialists, and provincial and federal government officials.

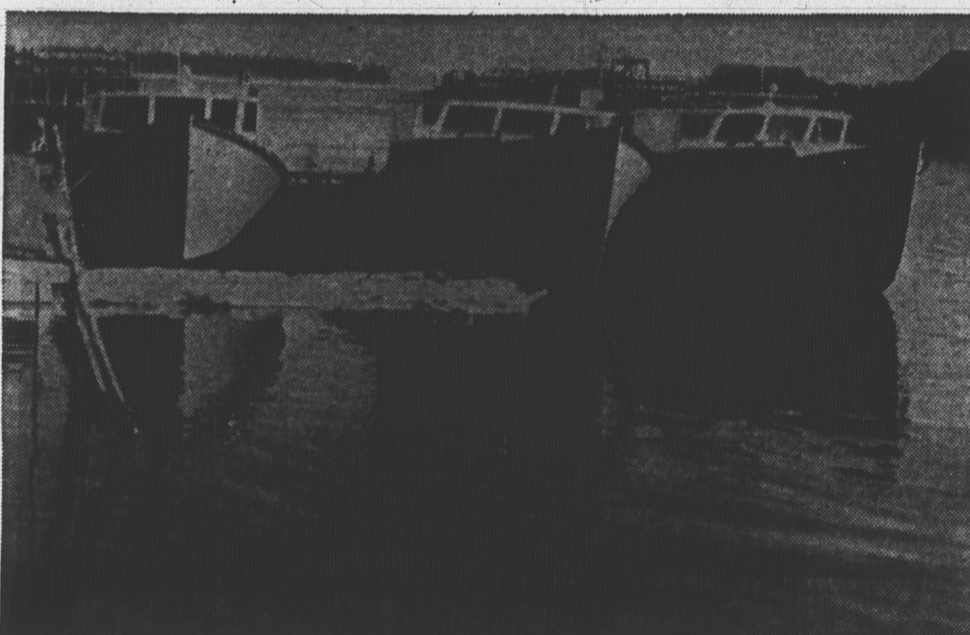
Main objective of the conference is to assess the potential of the herring fishery in Canada and, with millions of dollars already invested or earmarked for investment in this sector of the industry, to assist in its orderly development.

A number of papers are being prepared by scientists and technologists, provincial and federal fisheries authorities, fishing companies, and highline fishing skippers. These will form the basis for discussion by those attending the conference.

The subjects will include the herring resources of the Northwest Atlantic, current Canadian developments in the herring industry in the Atlantic coast provinces and fishing gear, trends in the utilization of the species, marketing and economic considerations, and the over-all approach being taken to the development of this promising fishery.

Federal Deputy Minister of Fisheries Dr. A. W. H. Needler, who is chairman of the Federal-Provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee, will be chairman of the conference. Session chairmen will include the Deputy Ministers responsible for fisheries in Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, who are the other members of the committee.

# We Salute P. E. I.'s Second Largest Industry FISHING!



We of the community of Charlottetown wish to extend a sincere message of appreciation and wishes for a prosperous 1966 fishing season to fishermen of P. E. I.

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## Insurance assistance extended

The Federal's government's Fishermen's Indemnity Plan, which for the past 12 years has provided low cost insurance for fishermen owning vessels valued at up to \$15,000, has now been extended, on a one-year experimental basis, to cover certain types of fixed fishing gear and shore installations.

Fisheries Minister E.J. Robichaud said that the insurance would be available, effective February 1, 1966 to fishermen of the Atlantic coast provinces and British Columbia. Coverage is provided for assets valued at from \$300 to \$15,000.

The voluntary plan provides coverage for major items of fixed fishing gear such as cod traps, herring traps, herring weirs and similar devices, which are reasonably durable and represent an investment of several hundred dollars. Coverage of shore installations is confined to buildings such as net lofts, salting sheds, boat repair sheds, etc. Wharves, piers, flakes and similar installations are excluded.

Miscellaneous fishing gear is covered only when in storage in an insured building.

The premium is the same as that assessed under the vessel plan, one per cent of the appraised value of the asset insured. The indemnity for total loss is limited to 60 per cent of appraised value of all the insured assets. A lesser indemnity for partial loss of assets is provided for in the regulations.

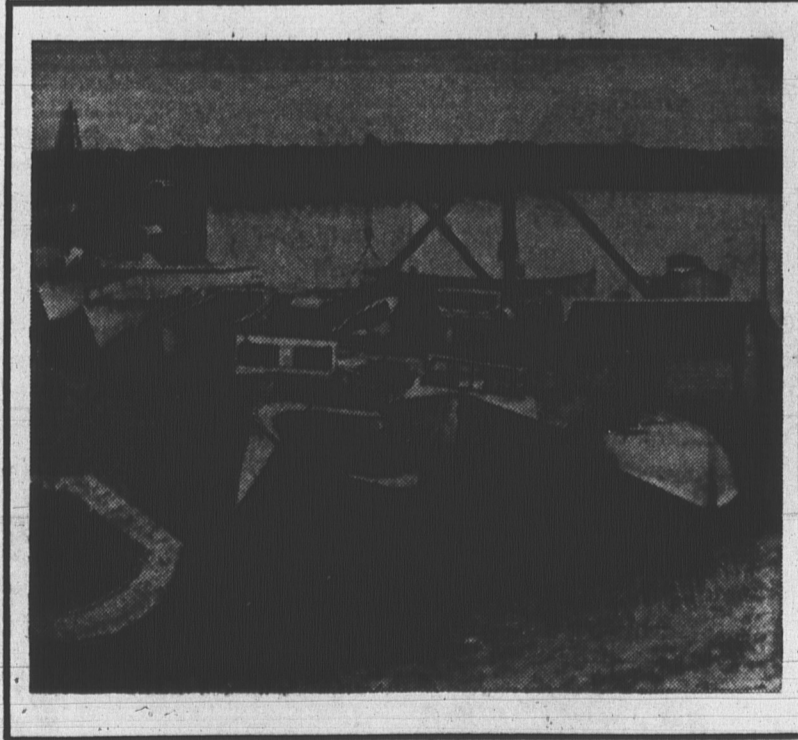
The insurance provides protection against natural perils such as storm, ice damage, etc., and fire but does not include loss from theft or damage by identified third parties.

Mr. Robichaud said that the vessel indemnity plan had been very well received since its inception in 1953, and had enabled many hundreds of fishermen to continue fishing after having suffered heavy losses. Fishermen have also benefited under regulations which provide coverage for lobster traps.

The plan for fixed gear and shore installations will be reviewed after it has been in effect for 12 months, said the Minister, at which time a decision will be made as to whether or not it will be continued and, if so, what amendments would be desirable.

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