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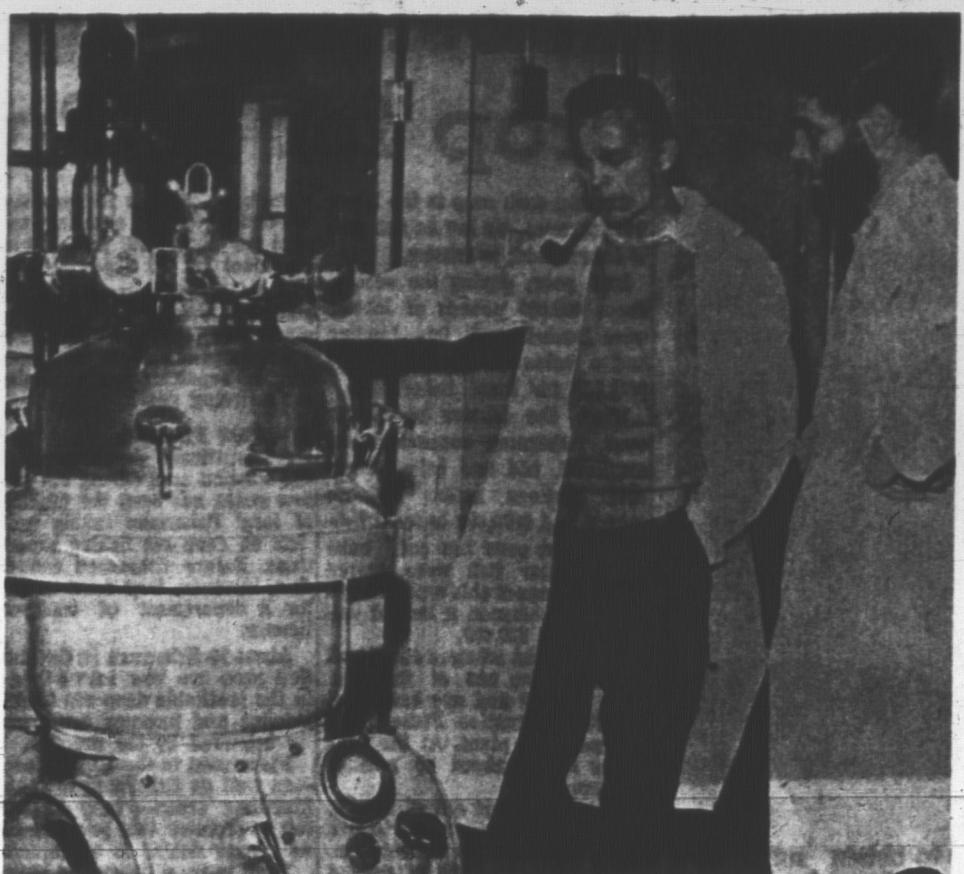
BEST OF LUCK
TO ALL
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IN 1965



We of the community of Charlottetown wish to extend a sincere message of appreciation and wishes for a prosperous 1965 fishing season to all fishermen of P.E.I.

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EXAMINE WATER CLARIFIER
Stanley E. Vass (left) chief technician at the Eilerslie Biological Station, and Roy Drinnan, investigator in charge, look over the centrifugal clarifier recently installed at the station. The clarifier removes all the silt from the water pumped in from the Bideford River before it continues on to the tanks containing the oyster larvae.

Biological station has important role

By CARMAN SMITH

Although the experimental oyster hatchery at Eilerslie was only officially opened last year the Biological Station itself, situated on the shore of the Bideford River, has been in existence much longer.

Canada's first fisheries biological station was built on a scow in 1899 at Indian Point, St. Andrews, N.B. and from then until 1907 when it foundered while being moved to Seven Islands, Que., it moved to various areas in the Maritimes. During the years 1903-04 it was situated at Malpeque, P.E.I.

While the floating lab was stationed at Malpeque, food, reproduction and local varieties of oysters were studied as well as practical problems dealing with cultch to catch larvae.

Few interrupted studies were carried on from 1914 to 1925 on the Island. In 1916 a devastating disease wiped out the Malpeque oyster stocks and the rule of thumb oyster culture that was carried on there.

Finally in 1929 the research board's oyster work was intensified with the establishment of a permanent sub-station of the St. Andrews, N.B., station at Eilerslie and with the appointment of a full-time investigator to direct it.

The investigator was also responsible for directing fisheries department work in oyster culture and for administering leases.

The dual responsibility for research and application was maintained until 1948 when responsibility for departmental work was assumed by a new appointee.

Research activities have always been carried out in the closest co-ordination with the department and industry. Early basic research studied the hydrographic, meteorological and other conditions affecting spawning, sex reversal, spatfall and spat survival and growth.

Practical results of the work were the development of a method of floating artificial cultch for mass collection of spat, a system of accurate prediction of spat fall and the use of floating trays for rearing young oysters.

Much of the work in the last 25 years has been directed to developing an economic method of growing bedding oysters and Roy Drinnan, investigator in charge at the biological station, said recently that this continues to be the hatchery's principal aim.

Mr. Drinnan, a native of England, said a push for the experimental hatchery at Eilerslie was started in 1959 but for the next few years little was done due to the federal government's tight money policy.

Finally, however, the green light was given for the construction of the hatchery with the next step being its design. Although having no practical experience in the design of a building of this type, Mr. Drinnan along with J.P. Parkinson, an engineer with the department, worked together in the design.

This was the first of its kind in Canada and Mr. Drinnan said the building was erected generally along the lines of hatcheries he had seen in Britain and in the U.S. although this one was more up to date in its equipment.

Finally the hatchery was officially opened on June 27 of last year with Hon. H.J. Robichaud, the federal minister of fisheries, being the guest speaker. Another high official in the department, Dr. A.W.H. Needler, the deputy minister of fisheries, was in attendance. Dr. Needler was the first investigator at the Eilerslie station when it first opened.

Since it opened a year ago, Mr. Drinnan said, a number of improvements and alterations have been made in the hatchery and more are planned.

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