

5-120011

HERRING BY THE MILLIONS

62/15

It's the height of the herring fishing season in the Strait of Georgia, on the Canadian west coast, 50 miles north of Vancouver. They use an immense net, manouved by three vessels, when large shoals have been located by echo sounders. It's called a purse-seiner and costs between four and five thousand pounds. Smaller nets scoop up the fish trapped in the seiner.

Perhaps because they're so plentiful, herrings aren't a popular food on the west coast, so most of the catch is turned into fishmeal, for fertiliser and stock food. A lot are canned for export. At this stage, it's all one to the herring. And if Canadians don't want to eat them modern science turns them to good account all the same.