

fisheries fact sheet



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Canada's Fisheries

The waters off Canada's coasts comprise some of the most important fishing grounds in the world. Those off the Atlantic coast have been continuously exploited by many nations for more than 400 years.

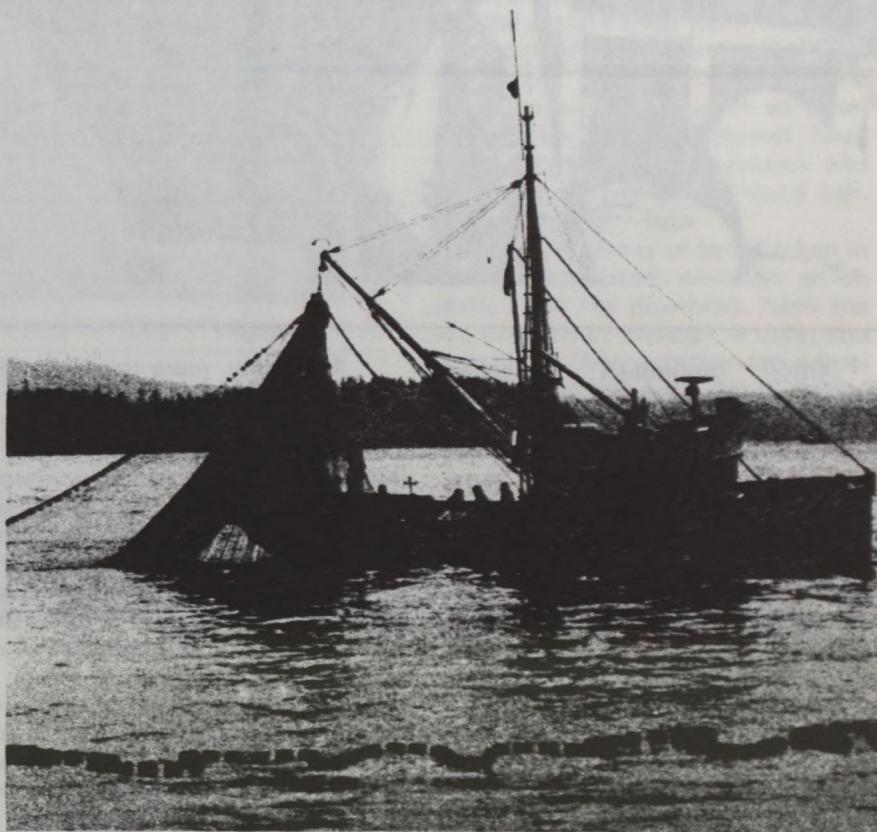
Fishing is Canada's oldest industry and is carried on in inland waters as well as on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. The industry is of the greatest importance to many of the communities along Canada's many thousands of miles of coastline. It provides approximately 82,000 people with full or seasonal employment either in fishing or in fish processing industries. The industry ranks among that of the 12 top fishing nations of the world, and Canada, with about two-thirds of her catch being sold in foreign markets, is one of the world's largest fish exporters. Approximately 2½ billion pounds of fish are caught annually, having a total marketed value of about \$455 million.

Canada's fishing grounds fall naturally into three main divisions: Atlantic, Pacific and Inland, each with its own special characteristics.

Atlantic Fisheries

The fisheries of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Quebec together account for more than one-half the marketed value of all Canadian fish.

The most valuable Atlantic catch is that of lobsters, which are mainly caught in the three Maritime Provinces, but are also found in the waters of Quebec and Newfoundland. Second in value among Atlantic fishery products is cod, taken by fishermen in all the five provinces, with Newfoundland and Nova Scotia predominating.



Purse Seine netting