

approximately 177,000 km<sup>2</sup> are inland waters. It should be noted that during the course of the FFMC's existence, two areas of Ontario have been removed from its jurisdiction.

An outstanding feature of Ontario is the Canadian portion of the Great Lakes which accounts for approximately 40% of the region's waters. These huge bodies of water are the principal locations of the Ontario freshwater fishing industry. The importance of this factor is two-fold. First, the sources of freshwater fish are heavily concentrated around Lakes Erie and Huron. Secondly, these locations are adjacent to a huge market, the U.S.A., which is, by rule-of-thumb, ten times the size of the Canadian market. Furthermore, the highest concentration of Canada's population is within easy access from the major fishing locations. This market comprised of the Windsor-Toronto and Toronto-Niagara corridors accounts for almost 4 million people.

## 2.2 Landings in the Western Region

The FFMC is geared up to process and market the 23 species of fish listed in the *Freshwater Fish Marketing Act* that are harvested by licensed commercial fishermen within its jurisdiction. Approximately 3,500 commercial licensees spread across the FFMC territory supply the Corporation with fish for processing. In 1984, this harvest amounted to some 17.8 thousand tonnes (39.2 million lb.) of fish, practically the lowest quantity handled since the creation of the FFMC. It compares with a high of 26 thousand tonnes (57.3 million lb.) achieved in 1979/80, and an average of approximately 20.4 thousand tonnes (45 million lb.) over its 16 years of operation. Table 1 gives commercial landings over 10 years in the FFMC area, broken down by major species.

Table 1  
WESTERN REGION  
TEN YEAR LANDINGS TREND  
(quantities in tonnes, round weight)

Species	82/83	81/82	80/81	79/80	78/79	77/78	76/77	75/76	74/75	73/74
Whitefish	6,560	6,577	8,713	8,660	7,520	7,585	7,007	6,729	6,634	6,626
Pickrel	5,366	5,224	4,142	4,276	3,770	4,572	4,198	3,441	3,025	3,027
Sauger	1,476	1,769	1,903	1,372	1,398	1,512	1,639	1,912	1,778	1,881
Lake Trout	445	602	919	936	552	823	716	531	537	593
Northern Pike	3,956	3,883	3,927	4,207	3,714	3,694	3,470	3,040	3,123	2,969
Tullibee	228	294	386	451	393	520	462	748	1,054	299
Perch	107	100	101	61	59	48	53	61	90	58
Mullet	3,654	2,378	2,102	5,044	2,019	1,609	289	2,182	3,108	2,069
Carp	569	958	1,418	677	607	687	285	487	655	13
Arctic Char	68	76	92	78	76	125	53	33	16	0
Inconnu	18	40	70	130	167	91	79	100	95	100
Sturgeon	21	14	20	16	15	15	16	11	9	13
Others	108	28	39	130	106	80	241	163	293	626
Total	22,576	21,944	23,830	26,038	20,395	21,360	18,506	19,440	20,417	18,275

Source: Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Western Region, *Annual Summary of Fish Harvesting Activities, Western Canadian Freshwater Fisheries*, Winnipeg, 1982-83.