

PREFACE

On February 6, 1985, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was given an Order of Reference pertaining to a study of the marketing of fish in Canada and all implications thereof. On May 14, 1986, the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry was divided into two separate committees, one being the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the other the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries. As a result, the Order of Reference of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry pertaining to a study of the marketing of fish in Canada and all implications thereof was referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries on June 12, 1986.

This interim report, which is the result of the work of the two last mentioned Committees, focuses on the freshwater fisheries of the Ontario and Western Regions. (The latter includes Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and a small sector of northwestern Ontario.) Together these two regions produce 97% of both the landed value and the quantity of freshwater fish harvested in Canada.

In keeping with the relevant Orders of Reference, 25 hearings related to the marketing of fish in Canada were held between March 1985 and May 1986. Of these, some 17 dealt exclusively with the freshwater fisheries while the others laid the groundwork for studying the marketing of all types of fish throughout Canada. Most of the formal and informal hearings on the freshwater fisheries were held in the Western Region, but were supplemented by several meetings in Ottawa.

The Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries is indebted to the various interested parties from across Canada who provided it with well over 40 submissions on the marketing of fish in Canada.

During the study and the preparation of this report, much assistance was provided by the Clerk of the Committee, Mrs. Diane Deschamps; Mr. Pierre Touchette, Research Officer, Library of Parliament; and Miss Raine Phythian, Administrative and Research Assistant of the Committee. Recognition also goes to the work done by Econome Consultants Inc. The Committee would also like to thank Mr. Vince A. Gobuyan, who has recently assumed the position of Director of Research of the Committee.

Many witnesses from industry (fishermen, processors, wholesalers, retailers and distributors) and from government generously contributed their views and knowledge to the conduct of this phase of the study. It is hoped that their continued co-operation will be forthcoming over the next year as the Committee pursues the completion of its mandate to examine and report on all aspects of the marketing of fish in Canada.