

Ontario figures were arrived at by deducting the FFMC exports from the total freshwater fish exports reported by Statistics Canada.

Table 5 shows a breakdown of 1984 exports by freshwater fish species by product form from all Canadian provinces and territories. In terms of quantity, whitefish is the top export species followed closely by smelt, pike and pickerel. The major product form is round or dressed sold either fresh or frozen. On the whole, most of the freshwater fish production (68%) is sold in the frozen form.

Table 5
CANADIAN FRESHWATER FISH EXPORTS BY SPECIES AND PRODUCT FORM IN TONNES, 1984

	Freshwater Fish Round or Dressed		Freshwater Fish Fillets		Freshwater Fish Blocks	Total	
	Fresh	Frozen	Fresh	Frozen	Frozen	Fresh	Frozen
Perch	414		756	1,216		1,170	1,216
Pickerel	1,232	193	202	1,591		1,434	1,784
Pike	444	538		430	824	444	2,236
Sauger	85	92		524		85	616
Smelt	1,245	4,806				1,245	4,806
Tullibee	315					315	—
Whitefish	3,148	2,176		199	779	3,148	4,399
Mullet					418	—	418
Other	2,291	908	195	113	132	2,486	1,153
Total	9,174	8,713	1,153	4,073	2,135	10,327	16,628

Note: Export figures shown here include exports from all provinces.

Source: Department of Fisheries and Oceans, *Canadian Fisheries Exports — 1984*.

3.1 Canadian Channels of Distribution for Freshwater Fish

Canadian distribution channels for freshwater fish appear to be less developed than those in the United States. A number of factors have kept them from developing to their full extent.

On the whole, the New York market primarily influences the prices of freshwater fish in the North American market. Since the prices for Canadian freshwater fish in the United States are generally higher, in Canadian dollar terms, than in Canada, a large proportion of Canadian freshwater fish supply is consequently exported to the United States. As a result, many Canadian consumers find freshwater fish not readily available or is simply not distributed widely enough. Obviously this adversely affects the consumption of freshwater fish in Canada. However, in areas close to the freshwater fish sources, consumers can buy freshly caught fish at lower prices.