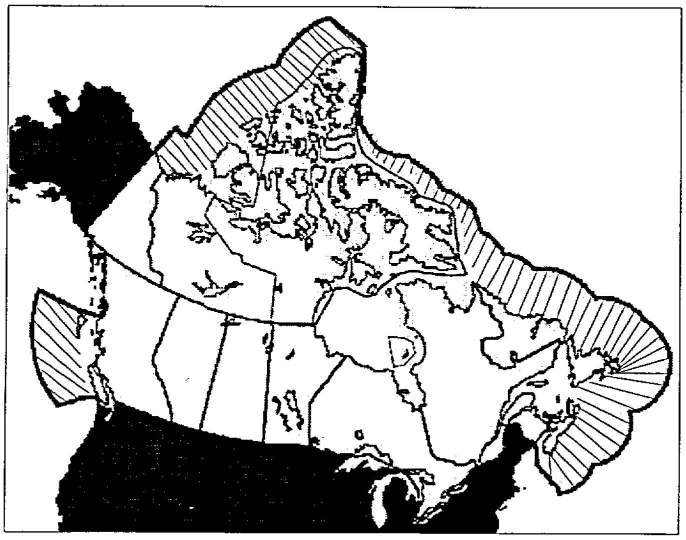

Canada and its exclusive economic zone, which extends to 200 nautical miles.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The economic contribution of the oceans sector was estimated to be a minimum of 1.4 percent of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) in 1996, with contributions to the regional economy of Canada's coastal areas ranging as high as 10.9 percent of the GDP. In 1996, there were nearly 145 000 full-time equivalent jobs throughout Canada in the oceans sector. The actual number of people employed in oceans-related activities is much larger, given the highly seasonal nature of work in many sectors of this industry. (For example, there were more than 73 000 people working in the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sectors in 1996.)

The total value of output from the oceans sector increased from $17.4 billion in 1988 to $18.9 billion in 1996 — an average growth rate of 1.1 percent per year. The fishing industry was the largest employer, accounting for nearly 37 percent of employment (full-time equivalent basis), while contributing approximately 15 percent of the total value of output from the oceans sector. The fisheries share of both output value and employment in the oceans sector has been relatively steady over the 1986–1996 period — sustained by strong world prices for shellfish and a rapid growth in aquaculture. In other oceans industries, the value of output in the oil and gas, manufacturing, and services sectors has doubled over the same period. Tourism and marine construction output values have increased by about 30 percent, while the ocean transportation and government sectors' share of output has experienced