

- ° Curtail trade impediments arising from U.S. regulations and procedures. Canada and the United States are committed to work toward the removal of technical barriers to trade;
- ° Leave intact the powers of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to ensure benefits are derived from our fish resources for Canadians. The Agreement provides no direct or indirect access to Canadian fisheries stocks by U.S. fishing vessels; and
- ° Maintain the Government of Canada's ability to operate social and regional development programs which benefit the fisheries.

Canada's fishing industry is the mainstay of hundreds of small communities in coastal areas throughout Canada. In redefining the rules and procedures for trade with Canada's largest trading partner, the Agreement will strengthen the potential for future growth of the fishing industry. Probably nowhere else is this more significant than here in Newfoundland.

The U.S. Seafood Market

The United States has been a net importer of seafood since 1895. Total imports in 1987 (the last year for which we have statistics) amounted to U.S. \$5.7 billion. This places the U.S. second only to Japan in fishery products imports. At the same time, the U.S. is the second largest exporters of seafood with 1987 exports totalling U.S. \$1.5 billion. Canada has retained its first place with 60 percent of its exports going to the United States.

In 1987, per capita consumption of seafood products in the U.S. hit a record high of 15.4 pounds. This is a low figure compared with many other countries (and also in comparison with per capita consumption statistics for beef and poultry), but it represents a 25 percent increase over the last five years.