

## DOMESTIC FISHERY

The Netherlands as a fishing nation plays a significant role within the European Community and beyond with a fishery aimed at pelagics, groundfish, shellfish and shrimps. Besides the North Sea and the English Channel, the Dutch fishing fleet concentrates on the waters west of Scotland and Ireland. Most pelagic and groundfish species caught by Dutch fishermen in EC waters are subject to TACs. Exchanges of quota between Community member states is possible and has become an established practice. The role of the Netherlands as a trading country means that import and distribution of fishery products contributes to the fisheries economy in a significant way. About 80% of the fish landed at Dutch auctions is exported, as is a good portion of imported fish and products.

### FLEET

The in-shore fleet sailing under the Dutch flag comprises 483 trawlers between 18 and 45 metres long and half of the fleet is younger than 10 years. A majority of the fleet are beam trawlers specialised in fisheries on flatfish species such as sole, plaice, turbot, brill and dab; while the other vessels are concentrated on fishing for herring, cod and whiting, largely by pair trawling. The Dutch deepsea fleet consists of 13 modern freezer stern trawlers with the activity of the fleet mainly in the North Sea, the Atlantic Ocean west of Scotland and Ireland, as well as in waters of third countries. These vessels are owned by companies specialized in herring, mackerel and horse mackerel, and their catch may include over-the-side purchases. Much of the mackerel and horse mackerel is sold to markets in Africa.

### EXPORTS

Leading products sold abroad include flatfish (especially sole and plaice); herring and shellfish. Much of Dutch fish exports worth CDN \$1.7 billion in 1992 include imported products whether not processed, such as lobster, shrimp and canned fish. In the fisheries sector too, the Netherlands performs a significant hub function with many importers buying for other markets. Over 75% of Dutch fish exports goes to other EC markets, mainly Belgium, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain.

### IMPORTS

The value of fish and fish products imported into the Netherlands in 1992 totalled CDN \$940 million. The Dutch buy fish from foreign sources for distribution directly to the local market (fresh salmon and other fresh fish; frozen cold and warm water shrimp; mussels; canned products); for (semi-) processing (herring; mackerel; fresh and frozen salmon; eel; groundfish) and re-export (frozen mackerel; frozen and canned crustaceans). While EC countries continue to be the leading suppliers, a fair percentage of Dutch fish imports originate in sources worldwide ranging from North American live eel and Canadian live lobster to canned and frozen prawns caught and processed in Asia.