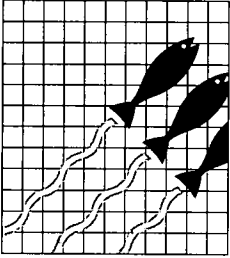


# FISHERIES



**T**he fishing industry, Canada's oldest, has always had a strong export orientation and has much at stake in trade negotiations, particularly with the U.S. About 85,000 fishermen and 400 firms with 21,000 processing employees, on both coasts, produced \$2.8 billion in shipments in 1986. Fifty-eight per cent of those shipments were exported to the U.S.

Canadian fish exports are internationally competitive and in many products and market segments set the standard. The industry, however, faces growing protectionism in its most important market. The U.S. has instigated countervailing, anti-dumping, fact-finding and unfair trade practice actions in the last decade. Harvesters are concerned that the U.S. will attempt to gain access to Canadian fishing grounds in these negotiations but share with processors the objective of negotiating improvements in the application of U.S. trade remedy laws.

- Canada is the United States' largest supplier of fish products, totalling about \$1.4 billion in 1986, largely Atlantic ground fish and shellfish. Less than 20 per cent of Pacific production (by value) goes to the U.S. Canada imports over \$300 million from the U.S., about 50 per cent of total imports.

- On each coast there are a few large integrated processing firms and a large number of small separate harvesting and processing operations. There is a small freshwater industry. Ownership is largely Canadian.

- While fresh fish enjoys duty free entry, tariffs range up to 15 per cent on highly processed products. Contingency protection, non-tariff barriers and Buy America regulations will enter into negotiations with the U.S.

- Canada remains committed in the bargaining to maintaining a positive environment for investment and technological upgrading; management of coastal waters for the long-term benefit of Canadian fishermen and preservation of industrial and socio-economic programs of regional development.



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