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Canadian fishing industry — exports products and expertise

Canada, one of the world's principal fishing nations, is an important supplier internationally of fish and fish products as well as sharing its expertise with developing nations to assist them in making better use of their fishing resources.

The combination of rich fishing grounds, high standards of quality, numerous species and more than 900 processing plants of varying sizes and capabilities which produce a wide variety of product forms, is the reason for Canada's fish-export success.

Today, fisheries is a multi-million-dollar industry that employs more than 100 000 Canadians, either as fishermen or as processing industry employees; thousands more depend on the fisheries for their livelihood, including those employed in vessel design and construction, equipment manufacture and supply, and wholesale and retail operations. Most of Canada's fish harvest is seasonal, brought in by a fleet of some 43 000 vessels that are mainly owned independently.

The country's three broad fishing regions: the Atlantic and Pacific coastal areas, and the

thousands of lakes, rivers and streams in the central provinces and northern territories, yield the many species of commercially important fish and shellfish that have made Canada the world's leading exporter of fish, in terms of value, for the last six years.

Exported world-wide

There are currently 50 countries importing Canadian fish products and 12 international agreements exist which provide for Canadian access to the markets of various countries.

In 1983, Canada's fish exports reached \$1.6 billion, representing almost three-quarters of the total value of the fishing industry. The US remained the largest importer with 62 per cent, followed by the European Economic Community with 16 per cent, Japan with 12 per cent and other European, Central and South American and overseas markets accounting for 10 per cent. In terms of volume, Canada distributed almost 500 000 tonnes abroad.

Cod is the biggest seller in foreign markets with 145 100 tonnes, valued at \$396 mil-



Traditional systems of aquaculture in China. Canada is very active in helping establish fish farms in many developing countries.



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