

Fisheries

Fishing is the country's oldest industry ; 1,097,617 tonnes are taken annually – the total market worth being \$391.7 million. Two-thirds of the catch is sold abroad.

The Atlantic provinces yield more than half the value of all Canadian fish sold. Lobsters, cod, "ground-fish", flatfish, oysters, scallops, Atlantic salmon and swordfish are among the 30 varieties of fish caught.

The Pacific salmon dominates the British Columbia fishery. Five species, born upstream, spend their lives (up to four years) as far as 1,600 km out in the Pacific, and return to their native streams to spawn and die. The Pacific salmon catches amount annually to about 55,248 tonnes, worth \$91.9 million.

The Atlantic salmon follows a similar cycle but lives after spawning to return to the sea. Some return five times to the same fresh waters to spawn.

The annual landed value of the inland fisheries catch is about \$26 million. Ontario accounts for about one-half of this production with the bulk of its catch coming from the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Erie. But in recent years, pickerel, whitefish and trout catches have declined.

Canada's coastal waters are among the world's most important fishing grounds but pollution and over-harvesting are threatening the natural renewal process. Canada has temporarily banned certain domestic fishing catches and is seeking similar action by other countries.

