
Rebuilding and Resource Conservation

January 1, 1988 marked the eleventh anniversary of the extension of Canada's fisheries jurisdiction to the 200-mile limit from the previous 12 miles. In those 11 years, Canada's ability to manage its own fish stocks within the 200-mile zone and the application of increasingly sophisticated scientific technology have brought about a dramatic recovery of a number of fish stocks that had been severely over-exploited.

Among the management initiatives, which contributed to this recovery, have been fixed allocations for total allowable catches, increased surveillance and enforcement, fleet and gear sector quotas, regulations governing fishing effort, limits on vessel size and numbers, and the Pacific Salmonid Enhancement Program. The foreign overfishing, which had seriously depleted stocks, has been curtailed, and the federal and provincial governments are acting to reduce foreign overfishing which is now primarily confined to stocks overlapping the 200-mile limit (straddling stocks).

The success of these scientific and management efforts is reflected in the improved total catch for Canadian fishermen which doubled in the seven years from 1977 to 1984 and continues to increase.

Landings

Fish landings continued to increase in 1986 following a solid performance in 1985. Total landings again reached record highs — 1.5 mil-

lion tonnes valued at \$1.4 billion, a six per cent increase in volume over 1985 and a 20 per cent increase in value. In dollar terms, 65 per cent of the landings occurred in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec, 29 per cent in the Pacific and six per cent in the freshwater fisheries. The relative importance of various species by volume in each geographic zone is highlighted in the figures on the following pages.

Production

Production figures also continued their upward trend in 1986 following a significant increase in the previous year. Production totalled 805,000 tonnes valued at \$2.99 billion in 1986, an increase of 21 per cent in value over 1985.

Atlantic coast production increased by 28 per cent in value to reach \$2.1 billion, due primarily to more favourable cod markets. Herring production on both coasts fell in 1986 following the remarkable increase in volume experienced in 1985. The overall value of Pacific coast production rose somewhat in 1986 to \$767 million following a 55 per cent increase in the preceding year. Salmon accounted for most of the total value (\$536 million), followed by herring (\$88 million).