

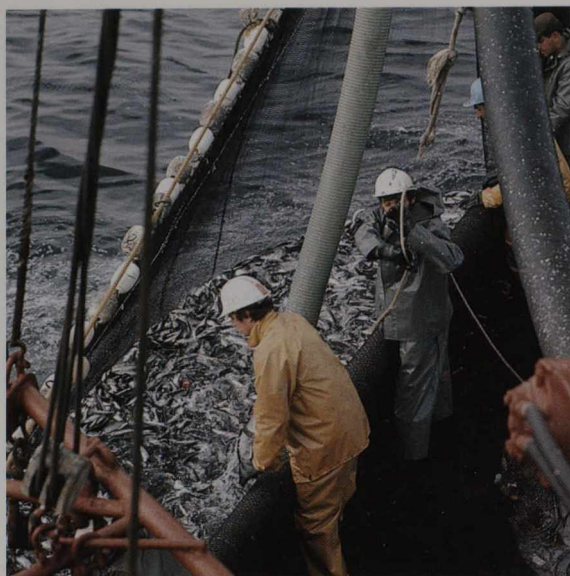


Commercial fishing boats come in many sizes.

They go out in small boats in the morning and come back at sunset. Unlike the offshore trawler-freezer fleets they leave more fish in an area than they take. In recent years their catch has declined, and they hope to benefit from Canada's January 1977 declaration of a limited jurisdiction over the waters within 200 nautical miles (230 statute miles) of its coast. The new rule permits ships from all nations to fish but gives Canada the responsibility for setting quotas.

Similar limits have been set by other coastal nations, and there are North Atlantic boundary problems. Two tiny French islands, St. Pierre and Miquelon, lie fifty miles off the southeast coast of Newfoundland, and the 200-mile extension from their coasts is entirely within the Canadian claim. There is another area of overlap between Greenland, which is owned by Denmark, and Baffin Island. The area of most significant practical disagreement occurs off Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia where a large rectangle of water, containing some of the best fishing grounds in the world, is within 200 miles of all three coasts. It may well contain buried oil and gas as well as fish. One hundred and twenty-six wells have been drilled since 1966 at a cost of \$550 million. There have been nine or ten "small" discoveries but no "commercial" ones. There are, however, an estimated 1.5 to 2.4 billion barrels of oil still waiting in the adjacent Atlantic shelf and another 2.1 to 3.4 billion barrels in the shelf off Newfoundland and Labrador.

There is another possible source of energy closer inshore. After decades of fruitless discussion, the governments of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have committed \$30 million for studies on the possibility of damming the mighty 54-foot tides of the Bay of Fundy.



[NEWFOUNDLAND]

Norsemen from Greenland discovered Newfoundland in 968, and Basque and Portuguese whalers and fishermen sailed to its deep harbours fifty years before Columbus left Spain. By the early 1500s, "masterless men," squatters from the fishing ships, were living hard lives in sod huts along its coast. The descendants of these men from Ireland, the Channel Islands and the southern counties of England live there today.

Newfoundland is old, but to say it is the oldest part of Canada requires a few words of qualification. Most of its thousand-year history was spent as a separate colony of Great Britain, sometimes dependent, sometimes semi-autonomous, and it waited seven decades before joining the Confederation in 1949.

The Narrows, entrance to St. John's harbour.

