

development programmes and a continual flux of emigrant and returning labour have long been features of the provincial economy. Nevertheless, the second half of the 1970s saw an upturn in the fishing industry, and a flurry of activity in offshore oil exploration.

Most of the attention of oil companies has been concentrated on the massive Hibernia find, approximately 310 kms east of the provincial capital St John. Results have shown the existence of multiple reservoirs within the same sedimentary basin with high producing capacity and containing high-quality oil. The commercial potential of Hibernia is enhanced by the fact that it is located in relatively shallow water in an area that is not threatened by large numbers of icebergs.

There is no doubt, however, that the fishery will remain the backbone of Newfoundland's economy. Although only 8 percent of the population of 600,000 works directly in the fishery, either on the boats or in processing plants, many more work in related sectors, primarily supply and transportation. Offshore oil may, one day, bring in more dollars, but it will never come close to affecting as many people as does the fishery. During the 1950s and 1960s fish stocks were seriously depleted by the overfishing of foreign fleets and the Newfoundland economy was severely affected. Since Canada extended its jurisdiction over fish stocks to a 200 nautical mile limit in 1977, there has been some recovery, and further improvement is anticipated over the current decade. Complete and effective management of the fish stocks off Newfoundland cannot occur until jurisdiction is extended to the edge of the continental shelf which is the natural boundary of the fish.

Prospects for the processing sector are attractive as the quantity, and probably also the quality of fish landed is expected to improve. At least twelve new plants are currently under construction, and a further fifteen are undergoing expansion. Product quality remains an important consideration, and this is being addressed by increasing the emphasis on suitable transportation and by attempts to reduce the seasonal nature of the inshore fishery which led in the past to alternate gluts and plant closings.

The current emphasis on the exploitation of Canada's ocean resources ensures that there will be a continuing demand for technology appropriate to the northern marine environment. The Centre for Cold Ocean Resources Engineering, and the Arctic Vessel and Marine Research Institute, both at Memorial University, and the Newfoundland Ocean Research and Development Corporation are all undertaking research and developing new technologies related to cold and ice-frequented oceans.

#### EN BREF

#### CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS ADOPTED

On December 2, the Canadian House of Commons adopted the Government's constitutional proposals by a vote of 246 in favour and 24 against. The proposals also have the support of all the Provincial Governments except that of Quebec, which still disagrees