

Salt Water Canada



The lighthouse at Cape Spear, Newfoundland, the easternmost point in North America.

Forty per cent of Canada—739,266 square miles—is covered by salt water.

This includes three off-shore oceanic shelves and the floor of Hudson Bay.

These submerged plains and valleys and peaks are the source of food and wealth as well as havoc and surprises. They hold some of the greatest fishing grounds in the world and most of the world's whales. They are rich in oil and gas and minerals, most of which have yet to be discovered.

The bottom of Hudson Bay has been in place since the first continents were formed. The Pacific and Atlantic shelves are, in geological terms, very new. The western shelf (along with Vancouver Island and the Rocky Mountains) arrived within the last 225 million years, a relative wink in time.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we take a look at a part of Canada as large as Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba combined—the part that's under salt water and the one we know the least about.

Cover Photo:

This map shows the considerable part of Canada that is below the sea. The continental shelf and the slope beyond contain vast resources that are now being evaluated.