

Historically, the fishing industry has experienced similar depressed periods on about a seven-year cycle. In recent times minimal government assistance designed to help the industry survive until the cycle reverses, has been provided at the lowest cost to taxpayers. It now appears that considerable government involvement may be contemplated, including the establishment of a Canadian Seafood Marketing Board (sometimes referred to as Fishagrex). The Board is opposed to the formation of any such organization, and recommends instead the provision of assistance along more traditional lines, intended only to maintain the viability of the most severely affected portions of the fishing industry until the market conditions improve.

The Board continues to seek input from all interested parties on issues and any other export related subjects. Presentations by industry groups, provincial governments and others during the last year are listed in appendix III. Such presentations provide a valuable opportunity for the exchange of information and opinions, and reports look forward to a continuation of this process during the coming year.