

In 1985 Canadian exports to the U.S. of all fishery products (edible and non-edible) amounted to a record 340.4 thousand tonnes (750 million lb.) valued at U.S. \$832.2 million. Of this total, 19.5 thousand tonnes (43 million lb.), valued at U.S. \$51.9 million, were freshwater fish exports. Canadian freshwater fish exports therefore accounted for 5.7% of the volume and 5.2% of the value of Canadian exports of fish to the United States. The fisheries of the Western and Ontario Region accounted for over 92% of these exports. Of this, the FFMC supplied approximately 45% and the Ontario Region 55%, as shown in Table 4. However, neither of these two fisheries is a dominant force if one considers overall freshwater fish production in the U.S.

According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, commercial landings of freshwater fish in the United States were in the order of 75.8 thousand tonnes (167 million lb.) in 1983, which is a level consistent with the average of landings over the past 10 years.<sup>(1)</sup> By comparison, Canada's freshwater commercial landings were in the order of 48.8 thousand tonnes (107.5 million lb.) in 1983.<sup>(2)</sup> Therefore Canadian commercial freshwater landings represented approximately 39% of total freshwater landings of Canada and the United States.

In addition to commercial landings, a substantial quantity of freshwater fish is produced through aquaculture in the United States, possibly up to 156 thousand tonnes (344 million lb.) in 1983, approximately 60% of which was catfish. Other freshwater species produced through aquaculture in the U.S. include trout, sturgeon and certain varieties of carp. In the U.S., freshwater fish accounts for 86% of the total aquaculture production. By comparison, freshwater fish aquaculture in Canada largely consists of approximately 1.5 thousand tonnes (3.3 million lb.) of trout produced mainly in Quebec and Ontario.<sup>(3)</sup>

Thus, the harvests of natural stocks from Canada's major freshwater fisheries, although important, do not figure prominently in the total U.S. fish supply picture. However, the FFMC is a major supplier of two species: it accounts for up to 60% of the total North American production of whitefish and for as much as 75% of pickerel production, depending on annual harvest conditions.<sup>(4)</sup> Lake Michigan is the second largest source of production of whitefish, the Canadian Great Lakes being a distant third. On the other hand, Ontario is a major supplier of perch and smelt with large amounts of these species being harvested from Lake Erie.

### 3.2.2 Trends in Fish Consumption in the U.S.

The demand for fish has risen substantially in recent years. From a level of 5.6 kg (12.3 lb. - edible weight) in 1982, per capita consumption in the U.S. rose to 6.6 kg (14.5 lb.) in 1985. While this recent increase applies equally to fresh and frozen fish and to canned and cured products, the long-term trend has been towards an increased

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(1) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Yearbook of Fishery Statistics - Catches and Landings*, Volume 56, 1983.

(2) Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, *Annual Statistical Review*, 1983.

(3) Data on U.S. and Canadian Aquaculture production were obtained from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and from *The Future of Aquaculture: Profile of Global Growth Industry*, The International Aquaculture Foundation, Washington, D.C.

(4) Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, special compilation.