

## FISHERIES

Canada, in company with roughly 100 other coastal states, declared its 200-mile zone as a matter of fisheries survival. On the Atlantic coast particularly, groundfish (bottom-dwelling) stocks, which had been the mainstay of the Atlantic fishing industry, were being decimated by modern long-range fleets operating from as far away as the USSR and Japan, employing high-powered catching technology and extremely efficient fish-detecting devices.

Until about the middle of the twentieth century, bad years for fishing on Canada's Atlantic coast were at least compensated by good ones, and the industry remained the backbone of the coastal economy. In Newfoundland, particularly, it was and is one of the largest employers. The commercial fishing fleet on the Atlantic coast numbers 35 000 vessels, supplying some 600 separate fish processing operations. Ashore and afloat, the industry employs nearly 100 000 people in an area with a total labour force of one million. Atlantic fisheries landings totalled \$585 million in 1982. On the Pacific coast the figure was \$300 million for the same period.

With the declaration of the 200-mile exclusive fishing zone, Canada was able to bring an end to over-fishing of most — but not all — stocks on which its coastal communities depend. While the zone more than covers Canada's narrow Pacific shelf, it falls short on the Atlantic side in places by over 200 miles (nor does it include the Flemish Cap, more than 600 nautical miles off the Atlantic coast).



*Canning mackerel: Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec.*

*Fishery officer aboard boat inspects operations.*

