Canadian Fishing Industry Has "Excellent Year" in 1978

Canada's Fisheries and Oceans Minister Roméo LeBlanc termed 1978 a bonanza year for the Canadian fishing industry as he released preliminary fisheries statistics which show that for the third year in a row Canadian fishermen and processors have set a new record in terms of earnings.

"Our projected figures for 1978 show that while landings are up 8 percent, landed values are up 35 percent, a figure that has more than doubled in 3 years. This was possible because we got a better dollar for most species," said LeBlanc.

Total landings in Canada (including inland fisheries) have been projected at 1,358,000 metric tons (t) valued at 652,790,000 compared with 1,254,930 t valued at $485,263,000 in 1977. The total marketed value of products in 1978 is expected to exceed $1.4 billion compared with $1.2 billion in 1977.

Atlantic coast products were projected to reach a market value of close to $1 billion compared with $767 million in 1977, while on the Pacific coast, the market value was expected to reach $450 million compared with the 1977 figure of $365 million.

"It appears 1978 has been a bonanza year for Canadian fishermen," said LeBlanc. "Their incomes have, in most cases, risen significantly. Employment in fish plants is the steadiest ever and most fishing communities are looking brighter, with more money. I look forward to this trend continuing into 1979 and well into the 1980's."

The projected value of exports for 1978 should be close to $1.1 billion compared with $816 million in 1977. Exports to the United States indicated an increase of 5 percent in volume and 28 percent in value over the last year, while exports to the European Economic Community countries showed a strong growth from last year of 17 and 39 percent in volume and value, respectively, the Minister noted. The projected value of imports also increased from $221 million in 1977 to $253 million in 1978. Per capita consumption in 1978 was also expected to reach 7.9 kg compared with 7.6 kg in 1977. "It appears that more and more Canadians have turned to fish in the last year," said LeBlanc.

Canadian marine[1] fish landings and landed values, January-December 1978.

Species	Landings (t)			Landed values (1,000)		
	1977	[2]1978	% Change	1977	[2]1978	% Change
Atlantic total[3]	1,003,074	1,119,800	+ 12	288,252	393,780	+ 37
Groundfish	515,355	603,300	+ 17	120,968	159,340	+ 32
Cod	237,622	290,000	+ 22	61,743	82,600	+ 34
Redfish	66,594	74,000	+ 11	9,781	12,400	+ 27
Flounders & soles	133,989	143,400	+ 7	27,876	31,600	+ 13
Pelagic & est. fish	287,028	309,300	+ 8	41,357	62,020	+ 50
Herring	228,993	235,000	+ 3	24,044	38,000	+ 58
Shellfish	200,691	207,200	+ 3	120,211	164,020	+ 36
Scallop	116,849	110,000	- 6	44,092	63,800	+ 45
Lobster	17,833	19,000	+ 7	56,614	69,700	+ 23
Squid	38,544	40,000	+ 4	5,128	7,800	+ 52
Pacific Total	204,821	191,440	- 7	167,905	228,910	+ 36
Groundfish	29,866	32,850	+ 10	18,322	26,000	+ 42
Pelagic & est. fish	166,233	150,090	- 10	143,307	195,210	+ 36
Herring	97,172	81,000	- 17	32,461	55,000	+ 69
Salmon	65,582	+ 1	108,725	138,000	+ 27	
Shellfish	8,722	8,500	- 3	6,276	7,700	+ 23
Shrimp	2,801	1,500	- 46	1,714	1,600	- 7

[1]Table does not include inland fisheries landings which were estimated at 46,760 t and valued at $30,100,000.
[2]Based on preliminary projected figures. Source: Intelligence Services Division, Marketing Services Branch, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada.
[3]Values for Atlantic Total include miscellaneous items.

Atlantic Coast

Total landings on Canada's Atlantic coast amounted to 1,119,800 t valued at $393,780,000 compared with 1,003,074 t valued at $288,252,000 in 1977. "One significant reason for the jump in Atlantic coast landings was the huge rise in the Canadian cod catch. Atlantic cod landings totalled 290,000 t valued at $82,600,000, showing increases of 22 and 34 percent in volume and value, respectively, over last year," said LeBlanc.

Other species which showed remarkable rises in value over the previous year include herring, whose landed value increased 58 percent, and squid with an increase in landed value of 52 percent.

Pacific Coast

Pacific coast landings totalled 191,440 t valued at $228,910,000 compared with 204,821 t in 1977 valued at $167,905,000. "What is significant on the west coast is that while Pacific herring landings decreased by 7 percent from the previous year, the landed value increased by 69 percent. As well, salmon landings totalled 66,500 t, about the same as in 1977, but the market value is expected to reach a record high of $138 million, an increase of 27 percent over 1977," said Le Blanc.

Canada Contracts for New Research Trawlers

Canada's Fisheries and Oceans Minister Roméo LeBlanc announced in March that work would begin immediately on construction of two $10 million fisheries research stern trawlers to be used in support of Canada's fish-

eries management programs in that nation's 200-mile zone off the east coast.

The contract to build the two 49.5-m (165-foot) vessels was awarded by the Department of Supply and Services to Ferguson Industries Ltd.[1], of Pictou, Nova Scotia. Construction time is estimated at approximately 2 years. According to LeBlanc, the contract is expected to provide employment for an average of 150 shipyard workers over the length of the contract.

One of the new research trawlers will be a replacement for the 20-year-old *A.T. Cameron*, which conducts fisheries research out of St. John's, New Foundland. The other new research trawler will be based at Halifax, N.S.

The two new vessels will be used for research work extending from George's Bank to northern waters off Labrador, involving biological sampling, resource surveys, and stock assessments essential for the efficient management of fisheries in Canada's 200-mile zone. This will be in addition to the research work now being carried out under charter arrangements by the large ice-strengthened trawlers *Gadus Atlantica* and *Lady Hammond*.

Of steel construction, the new trawlers will be powered by a single diesel engine driving a controllable-pitch propeller to provide an operating speed of about 12.5 knots. The vessels will be fitted with the latest commercial-type fishing equipment and fully-equipped scientific laboratories to enable studies to be undertaken while at sea.

Canadian Fish Technology Program Cuts Reviewed

Canadian Fisheries Minister Roméo LeBlanc reports that he has completed his review of cutbacks in fisheries technology development programs, announced previously under the federal government's proposals to reduce spending.

The Minister made it clear that there was no intention to reduce essential fisheries research. In fact, since the 200-mile limit came into effect on 1 January 1977, the department has hired 125 additional researchers and research spending during the current year has gone up by $14 million. It is intended to further increase this research effort in 1979.

As regards to the technological programs, high priority will continue to be given to exploratory fishing and gear and vessel design and demonstrations, the Minister said. Neither will there be any reduction in effort on projects related to harvesting and processing of underutilized species and studies on preservation of fish quality and fish spoilage.

LeBlanc said the fisheries technological laboratories at Halifax and Vancouver would not be closed down. However there will be selected reductions in program and significant reductions in the level of technical and administrative support at these establishments.

Among the technological projects affected under the cutbacks and program reductions are those related to packaging and storage of fishery products, work on the utilization of marine oils, some studies on paralytic shellfish poisoning and reproductive biochemistry, and some associated technical support services.

LeBlanc said the projects being cut were those which largely benefit the secondary industry. It was felt that this development work should be the responsibility of the private sector.

"With the resurgence of the fishing industry in the past year or so, companies should now be in a position to meet these development costs themselves," the Minister added.

In those activities where a relationship exists with other programs being undertaken by the department, economies will be achieved by combining and restructuring operations wherever possible.

Every effort will be made to find alternative employment for those employees affected by the cuts, LeBlanc said. In order to facilitate this, affected personnel were to be maintained on strength until 31 May 1979.

PRC Shows Interest in Norwegian Fish Vessels

According to the head of marketing in the Norwegian company, Norcontrol, Egil Strupe, the People's Republic of China is showing considerable interest in the acquisition of Norwegian fishing vessels. It was expected that an official inquiry from the Chinese authorities would soon be forthcoming in respect of five such vessels, of between 150 and 300 t.

In addition to these, Strupe also reports that the Chinese are thought to be interested in buying up existing fishing tonnage from Norway, primarily vessels of between 3 and 4 years old. This interest is also thought to extend to fish-processing equipment, and there are indications that Norwegian expertise and assistance may well be called upon in connection with the development of Chinese fish offloading depots.

This information was brought back to Norway by Strupe following a 3-week visit to Peking late last year, where Norcontrol's Chinese agents requested him to establish contact with Norwegian yards and fishing companies with a view to assisting the present build-up of a modern Chinese fishing industry. The initial purpose of Strupe's Chinese visit was to negotiate the sale of his company's navigation and engine-room simulators to the People's Republic of China. These are to be installed at the fishing and shipping center of Talien. The simulators are primarily designed for the training of officers in the rapidly expanding Chinese merchant fleet. The programs may, however, be developed further in order to cater to the training needs of fishing-vessel crews with reference to actual work and navigational situations, according to the Norwegian Information Service.

The contract to the Horten-based

[1]Mention of trade names or commercial firms does not imply endorsement by the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

Norwegian company is estimated to be worth some $8 million NOK, with a training package in addition worth another million. Delivery is scheduled to take 14 months from placing the order, and a group of Chinese maritime personnel travelled to Horten early this year to undergo several months' introductory training. (Source: Norinform).

Soviet Aquaculture Will Stress Inland Fisheries

The Communist Party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union have adopted a resolution ("On Measures to Further Develop Fish Breeding and to Improve the Fish Catch in the Freshwater Ponds of the Country") outlining the basic direction of Soviet inland fishing to 1985. In this period the freshwater catch target is to be twice the 1977 level with the total catch increasing to 924,000 t.

In the 1981-85 period the yield per hectare is slated to increase by 1.8 times in ponds and twofold in commercial lakes. During the 1981-85 period capital investment for construction of fish breeding projects will be about twice that for the years 1976-80, creating 150,000 hectares of new ponds and 600,000 hectares of lakes for commercial use. Presently, state fisheries and collective fish farms alone control 25 million hectares of lakes, 6 million hectares of reservoirs, 200,000 hectares of breeding ponds, and 315,000 km of rivers. The Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Management, the Ministry of Food Industries, and other ministries have 11 million hectares of freshwater bodies under their jurisdiction.

In order to reach the 1981-85 targets, the Soviet fishing industry must change over from extensive to intensive inputs, emphasizing increased labor productivity and quality control. The production of stocking equipment will also be stepped up. The new resolution obliges a number of agencies and ministries to aid in automation and mechanization of commercial fishing operations as well as to provide better granulated mixed foods for fish.

A series of canals, nurseries, and reservoirs will be built and 1.8 million hectares of land will be drained for agricultural and aquacultural purposes in an area where 25 percent of the Soviet population is located. Such proximity to consumers will eliminate the need for many freezing, storage, and processing installations.

Though ocean fishing will be developed in a parallel manner, inland fishing is being emphasized in order to lessen the influence of foreign policy factors which may affect ocean fishing. (Source: LSD 79-3.)

Norwegian Longlining to Be Made More Effective

The Norwegian Fishery Technology Research Institute at Bergen has undertaken a study of the reactions of cod and other species to bait and hooked lines, with a view to improving the catches attributable to longline fishing activities. The researchers have made use of submersible TV cameras, which have shown that the fish are able to escape from the hooks with far too great ease, after adding insult to injury by making off with the bait.

As part of the tests which have been carried out, a new hook design has been introduced which has reportedly proved to be far more effective in retaining the fish after the initial bite. Use of the hook has already proved its value in the form of increased catch effectiveness in connection with longlining. However, the newly designed longline has yet to be put into production, following the necessity for carrying out further parts of the overall research program. The problem is that longlining is employed in vastly differing geographic areas, at depths of down to 1,000 m.

The studies which have been made to date have been centered on activities off the coast of Finnmark during the summer and autumn. It was felt that the conditions in that area cannot be considered representative for all the areas where this fishing technique is employed. Different times of the year may also provide varying results. One of the attendant problems with the research program is the need for improved lighting conditions at great depths for monitoring purposes. The Ocean Research Institute is cooperating in the program in order to help overcome these difficulties. (Source: Norinform.)

Kamentsev Is Soviet Fisheries Minister

According to Soviet press reports, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. has relieved Aleksandr Akimovich Ishkov from the duties of Minister of Fisheries owing to his retirement. Vladimir Mikhaelovich Kamentsev has been named to replace Ishkov as Minister of Fisheries. (Source: LSD 79-3.)

Japan's Purchases of Alaska King Crab Soar

Early reports pegged king crab shipments from Alaska to Japan at about 12,000 t last year, approximately triple the amount purchased by Japan in 1977. Late wholesale prices of the imported Alaska king crab being charged by importers in the Tokyo area were reportedly ¥1,750-1,850/kg (US$4.06-4.17/pound at ¥196=US$1) for boiled products, down from 1977. Production of king crab in Alaska during the past season was reported to be about 40,000-50,000 t. (Source: FFIR 78-15.)

Unless otherwise noted, material in this section is from the Foreign Fishery Information Releases (FFIR) compiled by Sunee C. Sonu, Foreign Reporting Branch, Fishery Development Division, Southwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Terminal Island, CA 90731, or the International Fishery Releases (IFR) or Language Services Daily (LSD) reports produced by the Office of International Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Washington, DC 20235.