

The New Brunswick Department of Fisheries, established in 1963, has three Branches—General Administration, Boatbuilding and Maintenance, and Exploratory Fishing and Education. The Fishermen's Loan Board of New Brunswick, created in 1946, is under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Fisheries.

The General Administration Branch is responsible for personnel, accounting, field staff and administration of the New Brunswick Fish Inspection Act and Regulations; it operates three regional offices covering the three main fishing areas of the province. It is very active in promoting the establishment of additional fish processing plants in the province and in developing new markets for fishery products at home and abroad. It also maintains close liaison with various government departments and agencies, both federal and provincial, to assist the fishing industry in the province.

The functions of the Boatbuilding and Maintenance Branch, which is staffed with marine engineers, boat inspectors and a naval architect, include the study, modification and approval of plans and specifications of fishing vessels to be financed by the Fishermen's Loan Board; the inspection of the 100 to 125 vessels of various types and sizes being built every year in the province's 15 shipyards; and the training of fishermen in the proper methods of maintaining hulls and machinery. Continuous efforts are made by the Branch to improve construction standards of inshore fishing vessels. Boats of sturdier construction and equipped with more powerful propulsion engines are enabling inshore fishermen to diversify their operations from the traditional lobster fishery. New designs are being introduced in the fleet of 128 large offshore and 3,200 small inshore fishing vessels which make up the present fishing fleet, the trend being toward larger and more automated vessels. Combination types capable of dragging for groundfish and purse seining for pelagic species are becoming more popular among the younger well-trained fishermen. The West Coast-designed combination trawler-seiner of hard chine construction introduced to the fleet in 1966 has proved successful. One 79-foot unit and one 100-foot unit have been added to the fleet and two additional 100-foot vessels were completed in 1967. Two 87-foot wooden-side trawlers have been added to the existing fleet of ten operating in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Three 65-foot combination dragger-seiners of wooden construction were built in 1967 as well as one 72-foot dragger, one 54-foot seiner, one 58-foot combination dragger-seiner and one 126-foot stern trawler of steel construction.

The Exploratory Fishing and Education Branch continues the experimental and exploratory fishing and fish processing projects that have been carried on for many years in co-operation with the federal Department of Fisheries. Results of this extensive experimental work and research studies include the establishment of crab fisheries on the east and north coasts of the province; the establishment of a tuna fishery in the Bay of Fundy, on the shores of which a \$4,500,000 canning plant is now in operation. This firm will operate five large tuna seiners fishing the rich tuna grounds off the coast of Chile, as well as the Gulf of Guinea and the Western Atlantic seaboard. In the search for unexploited species of fish and shellfish, in addition to cancer crabs and tuna, commercial quantities of spider crabs and shrimps were located in the deep waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in the Bay of Fundy. During 1967-68, 12 fisheries development projects were undertaken on a shared-cost basis with the federal Department of Fisheries. Offshore exploration for herring in the Gulf of St. Lawrence conducted in 1966 with a B.C. herring seiner was so successful that a fleet of six seiners, five of them from British Columbia, are now harvesting the rich fishing grounds of the area to supply three new fish meal and oil plants of a combined capacity of 900 tons of raw fish per day. The Branch operates a modern school of fisheries at Caraquet where, in 1966-67, 142 fishermen took training in the various phases of their trade. The regular program of the school includes navigation, rules of the road, motor mechanics, electronic devices, fishing-gear technology, business administration, marine biology, oceanography (restricted), radio-telephone, metal and wood working, arithmetic and languages (up-grading) and other related subjects. Arrangements are being made to extend the regular course from five to nine months of the year and to conduct extension courses.