

branch has taken over the setting up of a mechanism for industry-government consultation.

The Fishermen's Loan Board of New Brunswick, a provincial corporation established in 1946, now operates under the Fishermen's Loan Act of 1952 and the Regulations of November 1, 1963. The board consists of two major branches, the Loans Administration Branch and the Boat Building Branch. Each has three sections. The former includes the credit, accounting and field staff sections (which covers all the coastal regions of the province) and the latter consists of the vessel inspection, evaluation and contracts section. The board's main function is to make loans to the fishing industry for modernizing and developing the fishing fleet. It provides financial assistance at moderate interest to fishermen and processing firms and corporations to build modern fishing vessels, finance major repairs, and purchase engines and equipment.

The Loans Administration Branch investigates loan applications, secures loans with insurance, maintains accounts, and collects repayment. The Boat Building and Repairing Branch studies, inspects, modifies and approves plans and specifications of fishing vessels financed by the board.

Since the board's inception, it has granted 3,169 loans to New Brunswick fishermen for a total of over \$49.5 million. Outstanding loans amounted to \$23.2 million at the end of March 1975. Loans are repayable within five to eight years on most small inshore fishing vessels. Repayment schedules on large trawlers may extend to 15 years based on the gross proceeds of the catch. Others are on a 15-year annual instalment contract. Most of the new fishing vessels being built for fishermen and processing firms in the province are financed by the board.

Sport fishing contributes substantially to the economy of the province. Great Atlantic salmon rivers like the Miramichi, the Restigouche and the Saint John are known around the world for their prolific production of this majestic game fish and attract many thousands of tourists each year. Anglers catch as many as 50,000 salmon a year in the Miramichi system alone. Many other species are sought by both residents and non-residents in hundreds of streams, rivers and lakes.

Quebec. In 1975 Quebec fishermen landed 116 million lb. (53 million kg) of fish and shellfish in the vast reservoir formed by the St. Lawrence River, gulf and estuary. The landed value to the fishermen was \$14.5 million and the market value of the produce reached \$29 million.

The industry is of prime importance on a regional basis. It is the backbone of the economy of the Magdalen Islands and the lower North Shore and is a major activity in the Gaspé peninsula. Overall there are 5,700 commercial fishermen, including about 600 full-time coastal fishermen, 800 sea-going helpers and 600 officers and crew operating the seiners, long-liners and draggers. Some 30 processing plants employ about 1,400 workers (seasonally adjusted). In this sector, commercial fishing has a multiplier effect on employment and incomes. Fishermen and shipowners build and repair their fishing vessels within the region, thus giving employment to shipyards. Local labour is also used for building and maintaining the various marine installations necessary for docking, safety and discharge of cargo, for operating ice-making plants, and in freezer and storage operations.

In 1975 redfish (33.1%), cod (25.8%) and herring (17.7%) made up 76.6% of the total catch. In terms of value, the proportions were: cod 29.3%, lobster 20.9%, redfish 13.9% and shrimp 10.3%.

The Quebec sea-going fishing fleet includes 150 wooden or steel-hulled vessels of between 15 and 450 net registered tons (42 m³ and 1 274 m³); 3,487 craft of all types are engaged in the coastal fishery. The government has tried to modernize the ocean-going fleet through grants and construction loans for the building of a 132-ft (40 m) steel seiner and prototype 65-ft (20 m) container-seiner also steel-hulled, as well as seven wooden long-liners and draggers.

Government aid to the commercial fishery consists of loans for building or refitting of vessels, grants toward acquisition of coastal craft and fishing gear, and