

long-term planning. The fisheries department has a highly qualified staff grouped into six branches: administration, inspection and marketing, planning, development, training and fishermen's loan board. Close liaison is maintained with other federal and provincial departments and agencies concerned with the fishing industry.

The administrative branch is responsible for budgeting, accounting and personnel administrations within the department. It provides highly qualified staff for departmental duties and services.

An inspection and marketing branch administers the New Brunswick Fish Inspection Act and regulations. To avoid duplication of personnel, arrangements have been made with the federal fisheries and environment department for inspection duties. The branch promotes expansion and modernization of existing fish processing plants and establishment of new plants. It carries out a program of product development to increase the added value of the catch. Another program is aimed at promoting fish consumption within the province. The inspection branch studies existing and potential markets in collaboration with other government agencies. Other services for the fishing industry include grants to provide ice facilities and bait sheds.

The research and development branch carries out programs in co-operation with the federal fisheries and environment department. Technical and financial assistance is given the provincial department for projects undertaken toward modernizing fishing methods, experimenting with new types of fish-catching equipment and demonstrating its operation to fishermen, and exploring and developing unexploited or under-exploited species of molluscs, crustaceans, fishes and seaweeds. This work has resulted in the establishment of snow crab, shrimp, Irish moss, tuna, sea urchin and eel fisheries.

The fisheries training branch provides technical training to fishermen and plant personnel; training is also provided for managers and supervisors. The branch operates a school of fisheries at Caraquet in northeastern New Brunswick where, in the 1976-77 academic year, 162 fishermen received training. The marine emergency duty centre is a step forward in the field of technical training in the fisheries sector. This facility includes a two-storey mock-up of a fishing vessel used for fire fighting and a separate building with classroom facilities to improve training.

A planning and co-ordination branch strives to formalize planning of government efforts in fisheries, aquatic resources and fisheries development. To improve programming, the 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. The former includes the credit section which investigates and secures loans with insurance, while the accounting section collects repayments. 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 rates to fishermen and processing firms and corporations to build modern fishing vessels, finance major repairs, and purchase engines and equipment.

Since the board's inception, it has granted 3,736 loans to New Brunswick fishermen for a total of over \$60.8 million. Outstanding loans amounted to \$29.6 million as of March 1977. 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 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. Tuna sport fishing has become an interesting venture for tourists in northeastern New Brunswick.