

Quebec. In 1975 Quebec fishermen landed 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 was \$29.0 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 6,460 commercial fishermen, including full-time coastal fishermen, sea-going helpers and officers and crew operating the seiners, long-liners and draggers. Some 30 processing plants employ about 1,300 workers. 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 wooden or steel-hulled vessels of between 15 and 450 net registered tons; 3,728 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 40 m steel seiner and prototype 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 a wide range of technical assistance. The commercial fisheries branch allocated \$1.1 million during the year in grants for boat-building, the purchase of fishing gear, collection of catch from coastal fishermen, land-based teams, marketing assistance and marine insurance. Interest-free loans amounting to \$700,000 were approved for construction and repair of fishing vessels.

The main objectives of the commercial fisheries branch under the Canada-Quebec Agreement of 1968 (renegotiated in 1971) were a more efficient use of funds from the private as well as government sectors and concentration of fisheries in centres with well-equipped port facilities. Under the terms of the initial agreement, \$4.8 million was budgeted for facilities related to ocean-going fisheries, and this amount was increased to \$10 million in the agreement as renewed. The program had been expected to reach its peak in 1975 but due to increased costs it became necessary to make a supplementary agreement in the amount of \$14 million to be spread over the 1974-78 period to continue work already begun. These facilities will eventually be completed under a new agreement, and talks are already under way.

In the Gaspé region, five production centres have been set aside, three to be developed as industrial fisheries complexes at Rivière-au-Renard, Paspébiac and Grande-Rivière for specialized production, with secondary production centres at Newport and Sandy Beach. In the Magdalen Islands, two centres have been set aside — an industrial complex at Cap-aux-Meules and a secondary production centre at Havre-Aubert. Landing points will supplement these centres, providing coastal fishermen with unloading and storage facilities. They will not have processing plants on site but will be linked by a fish transportation system to the nearest production centres. The commercial fisheries branch hopes to have landing points completed at Gascons and Les Méchins in the Gaspé region and Millerand and Étang-du-Nord in the Magdalen Islands before the present agreement expires.

Fishing in Quebec's inland waters falls under the jurisdiction of the tourism, fish and game department. To maintain the high standard of the sport in Quebec, the department carries out various development projects as well as wildlife research. Through its fisheries service, the department also rears several species of fish for restocking Quebec's lakes, rivers and streams to protect aquatic life.

Excellent fishing may be found in all provincial parks and reserves. Gaspé and Laurentide parks are renowned for trout fishing and the waters of Chibougamau Reserve and La Vérendrye Park abound in pickerel, pike and lake trout. Fifteen salmon rivers are open to anglers — the Petit Saguenay, Cap Chat, Ste-Anne, St. Jean,