

8.2.2 Provincial activities

In the early 1980s, the fishing industry experienced a severe cost-price squeeze as a result of a weak Canadian economy, higher fuel costs, lower consumer demand and stiffer competition in the major export markets. However, in 1984, the industry started to experience an upswing and, in the last two years, there has been a dramatic improvement due to increased catches, higher-quality fish and improved demand for Canadian products abroad.

Commercial fish landings in 1985 reached 1.4 million tonnes, 11% higher than in 1984 and equal to the previous record set in 1981.

Although Newfoundland was the province with the highest number of fishermen in 1985, just over 26,560, it had only the third highest landed value of fish at about \$164.1 million. British Columbia was second in the number of fishermen, 18,580, but ranked first in the landed value of fish at \$376.7 million. Although Nova Scotia had only 13,960 fishermen, they produced the second highest landed value of fish at \$312.7 million.

Newfoundland had the highest number of workers in fish processing plants with 8,637 employees in 1984; Nova Scotia was second with 5,793.

There is a close liaison between the provincial departments responsible for fisheries and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. In Ontario, fisheries are managed by the provincial government. In Quebec, the provincial government administers fisheries for freshwater and diadromous species (fish that migrate between salt and fresh water), while marine fisheries are managed by the federal government. Fisheries management in Alberta is broken down into the following areas: sportfish, commercial fish, domestic fisheries, and fish culture and stocking. In British Columbia, the fisheries for marine species and anadromous salmon (salmon that migrate between the sea and fresh water) are managed by the federal department, but the provincial government manages freshwater fisheries.

Recreational fishing is gradually becoming more significant. Licences for sport fishing are usually distributed by the provincial or territorial governments which retain revenues collected.

In British Columbia, the annual stocking of lakes is a major function of the six provincial hatcheries. In 1985, 545 lakes and streams were stocked with 8.1 million rainbow, cutthroat, steelhead, brook trout and kokanee.

The New Brunswick commercial fishery employs over 6,000 fishermen. In 1986, preliminary landings by the 2,814 vessels amounted to 121 514 tonnes valued at \$88.4 million, representing

approximately 10% of the Atlantic catch. Approximately 14,000 workers are employed in 150 fish-processing companies in the province. The 1986 processing industry figures are expected to reach over \$350 million. About 125 various products are exported to 50 countries. In 1985, export figures amounted to \$260 million, a 22% increase over the previous year. Exports of fish products from New Brunswick represent 14% of the Canadian fish product exports. Sport fishing of salmon and tuna is also popular.

The provincial fisheries department in Prince Edward Island is focusing programs on enhanced quality groundfish production, taking advantage of fresh market outlets for their day boat fishery. Emphasis is also placed on value added production in fish processing and highly successful culture techniques for blue mussels and oysters. In cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, sport fishing opportunities for trout and salmon are provided through selected stocking initiatives and habitat protection and restoration.

Quebec's inshore and deep-sea fisheries provide seasonal employment for approximately 6,700 commercial fishermen and 4,000 workers. Production centres and landing points of these fisheries have been modernized with essential unloading and storage facilities. Inland sport and commercial fishing are being improved by fish culture programs. Many species are being reared for the restocking of lakes and rivers.

Ontario conducts studies on the improvement of stocking strategies in terms of species, size, rate and time of year to increase the survival of fish and returns to the angler. Research programs are directed toward specific fisheries management problems in the Great Lakes and smaller inland waters. Quantities of hatchery-reared coho and chinook salmon are released each year into the western basin of Lake Ontario. This provides good fishing during the late summer and fall.

In Saskatchewan, a portion of angling licence revenue is allocated to a special fund for fishery projects including rearing ponds, fishways and lake rehabilitation.

The inland provinces especially make use of hatcheries to restock the lakes and rivers.

British Columbia conducts research on shellfish, principally oysters, on salmonids and on marine plants.

8.3 The fur industry

The value of the 1984-85 Canadian production of raw furs amounted to \$105.5 million, made up of \$49 million (47%) from wildlife pelts and \$56 million (53%) from farm pelts. The value of pelts was up 15.2% from the 1983-84 level of \$91 million