



Fisheries.—The first of Canada's resources to be exploited by Europeans was the fishing banks of the Atlantic coast. It is believed that, for many years before the actual discovery and settlement of North America, the cod banks southeast of Newfoundland and east of Nova Scotia had attracted French fishermen by their abundance of fish. These fishing grounds alone extend along a coast line of more than 5,000 miles, comprising an area of not less than 200,000 square miles, and are in the course of the cold Arctic current, a fact which tends greatly to improve the quality of the fish. The most important fishes of the off-shore fisheries are the cod, halibut, haddock, herring and mackerel, while the inshore and inland fisheries number the lobster, oyster, salmon, gaspereau, smelt, trout and maskinonge among their catches. Other fishing grounds include the inshore expanses of the St. Lawrence river; the Great Lakes, where whitefish and herring form perhaps