

Importance of Canada's fish and seafood industry

...naturally abundant

- Surrounded by the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and home to the Great Lakes, Canada boasts one of the world's most diverse fisheries in the world. Canada offers a wide variety of sustainably harvested species from many different areas of the country. In 2011, Atlantic Canada and Quebec commercial fishing landings were valued at \$1.8 billion. Top Atlantic species in terms of value were lobster, snow crab, shrimp, scallops and Greenland turbot. Pacific commercial fishing landings were valued at \$279 million. Top Pacific commercial species in terms of value were wild salmon, halibut, geoduck clams, spot prawns and Dungeness crab. Freshwater fish commercial landings were valued at \$58 million. Top freshwater commercial species in terms of value were yellow pickerel, perch, whitefish, white bass and smelt.
- Canada's coastlines and clean environment allow for some of the best aquaculture growing conditions in the world. Canada's aquaculture sector continues to produce world renowned responsibly produced fish and seafood. Canada's aquaculture production was valued at \$846 million in 2011. Top species produced were salmon (Atlantic, coho and chinook), mussels, rainbow trout, oysters, and clams.
- The Grand Banks off Newfoundland is an important area in Canada's fishing industry

...economically important

- Canada's commercial fishing and aquaculture sectors provide more than 80,000 direct jobs to Canadians. They are the economic mainstay of many rural and coastal communities across Canada.
- Canada was the world's fifth largest fish and seafood exporter in 2011, with exports to more than 130 countries. In 2012, Canada's fish and seafood exports were valued at \$4.1 billion. The United States is Canada's largest export market (representing roughly 62% of seafood trade) followed by China (11%), the European Union (8%), Japan (6%) and Hong Kong (3%). Canada's fish and seafood imports were \$2.8 billion in 2012, resulting in a significant annual trade surplus.
- Approximately 85 percent of our wild capture fish and seafood products are exported around the world and are a significant driver of our nation's economy, generating \$3.6 billion in export revenues in 2012.

...sustainably managed

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada is the federal government department that regulates and manages the Canadian fishery. Fisheries and Oceans Canada works to secure the future of Canada's wild fisheries by initiating conservative management practices that focus on sustainable development and responsible fishing.
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture means the harvesting and farming of fish stocks in a manner that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Canada's Wild Fisheries

- Fish and seafood is one of the largest single food commodities exported by Canada and we are committed to the sustainability of this valuable natural resource.
- In order to remain a world leader in the production of high-quality, safe, nutritious and sustainable fish, seafood and marine products, Canada strongly supports governments, the industry, Aboriginal peoples and science working together.

...independently inspected and controlled

- Canada has one of the world's most respected fish inspection and control systems. The [Canadian Food Inspection Agency \(CFIA\)](http://www.inspection.gc.ca) (www.inspection.gc.ca) sets the policies, requirements and inspection standards for fish products, federally registered fish and seafood processing establishments, importers, fishing vessels, and equipment used for handling, transporting and storing fish. All establishments which process fish and seafood for export or inter-provincial trade must be federally registered and must develop and implement a HACCP-based Quality Management Program (QMP) plan.

...officially certified for export

- The export certification program of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency provides exporters with official documentation that Canadian fish and seafood products sold on the international market will be acceptable to importing countries. Buyers can be assured that seafood from Canada will continue to meet the increasingly rigorous safety and wholesomeness standards required by the world's major seafood markets.
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is responsible for marketing and trade development.

<http://www.ats-sea.agr.gc.ca/sea-mer/ind-eng.htm> Date modified: 2013-06-10

Activity

1. Read the information and highlight the information that tells you why the fishing industry is a natural resource that is so important to Canada.
2. Complete the chart with point form explanation.

Canada's Fishing Industry is important due to:	Explanation
Natural abundance	
Economic contribution	
Sustainable management	
Inspection and Control	
Exports certified	

Aquaculture

Aquaculture in Canada emerged onto the scene in the 1970's in response to a global demand for fish and seafood. In the last 30 years, this relatively new commercial activity has grown into an important economic activity for Canada. In 2006 alone, the economic contribution by the industry to the economy (or "gross value added") reached \$395.8 million, up 58.4% from 2005.

Aquaculture operations in Canada vary depending upon the species being farmed, the environment being used (e.g., marine, freshwater), and the culture technologies being applied (e.g., land based, water based). Atlantic salmon, chinook salmon, trout, Arctic char, blue mussel, oyster and clam are well established aquaculture industries, while the farming of several other species are at various stages of development.

Economic Contribution to Canada

Aquaculture represents 34% of Canada's total marine value and 14% of total seafood production. The value of aquaculture production has increased by 52% over the last ten years, to \$927 million in 2010 from \$609 million in 2000. In fact, Canadian production has increased four-fold over the past 20 years.

Atlantic salmon is Canada's top aquaculture export, accounting for a farm-gate value of \$690.9 million in 2010, while blue mussel is the top shellfish export, accounting for \$36.2 million in 2010.

National aquaculture production output is divided about equally between the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. In 2010, British Columbia accounted for about 51% of total production volume, followed by New Brunswick at 17%, Prince Edward Island at 13%, Newfoundland and Labrador at 10% and Nova Scotia at 5%.

Employment Contribution to Canada

According to a 2009 study, aquaculture employs about 14,500 people in full-time, well paying jobs that are primarily located in smaller coastal and rural communities. Canada's farmed-salmon industry provides more than 10,000 jobs alone, the majority of which are in coastal areas of British Columbia and New Brunswick.

The aquaculture industry also generates a little more than half a billion dollars in labour income.

The future of Canada's aquaculture industry is directly linked to its economic viability, success in creating stable jobs, and increasing access to domestic and international markets. These objectives apply to the many facets of the aquaculture sector, including businesses associated with hatcheries, grow-out, and processing, as well as the supply of aquaculture goods and services.

Activity

1. Explain what aquaculture is.
2. Why is it important to Canada?