

# Fast Facts

## Fisheries and Oceans Canada

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) plays a leading role in managing and safeguarding oceans and inland waters and their resources for Canadians. The Department is committed to ensuring safe, healthy, productive waters and aquatic ecosystems, for the benefit of present and future generations. It advances these goals by maintaining the highest possible standards of sustainable development, environmental stewardship and public safety. DFO has an extensive network of regional offices, research facilities, laboratories and Canadian Coast Guard bases throughout Canada.

### DFO CORE ACTIVITIES:

- Marine safety
- Scientific research
- Conservation and sustainable resource use
- Protection of oceans environment and fish habitat
- Maritime trade, commerce and ocean development

[www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)



## Coastal and Water Statistics

Surrounded by the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and home to the Great Lakes, Canada is one of the foremost maritime nations on the planet. Canada boasts the world's:

- **longest coastline** (243,792 km) - stretched out as a continuous line, it would circle the equator more than six times (25% of world's coastline);
- **largest offshore economic zone** (200 nautical miles) - 3.7 million square km, equivalent to 37% of Canada's total landmass;

### CANADA'S FISHERIES AND OCEANS INDUSTRIES

#### Oceans Industries (1998)

Value of Output: \$19 billion  
Employment: 145,000 jobs

#### Commercial Catches (2001)

Quantity: 1,071,000 tonnes  
Value: \$2.14 billion

#### Aquaculture production (2001)

Quantity: 152,523 tonnes  
Value: \$597.1 million

- **largest freshwater system** - Canada's two million lakes and rivers cover 7.6% of our landmass (755,000 square km);
- **longest inland waterway** (3,700 km) - from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Lake Superior;
- **largest archipelago** - Canada's Arctic islands, including six of the world's 30 largest islands, cover 1.4 million square km;
- **world's greatest tidal range** - 16 metres in the Bay of Fundy.

## Marine Safety

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) works to save lives and protect the marine environment. Each year, CCG helps more than 4,500 small fishing vessels or recreational boaters in distress. On an average day, CCG employees:

- save eight lives
- assist 55 people in 19 Search and Rescue cases;
- service 55 aids to navigation
- manage 2,436 commercial ship movements
- handle 1,127 radio contacts
- initiate 14 Boating Safety education activities
- process nine Navigable Water Protection applications;

- respond to five reported cases of environmental pollution incidents;
- carry out five fisheries patrols
- escort four commercial ships through ice; and
- support three hydrographic missions and three scientific surveys.

## Canadian Waters

The growing number of diverse users of Canada's oceans has created a need for a unified vision and an integrated approach to oceans management – one that effectively considers the impact of individual sector activities on each other, and on the oceans as a whole. Canada's Oceans Strategy represents the Government of Canada's vision and direction for modern oceans management based on the principles of sustainable development, integrated management and the precautionary approach. Recognizing the importance of involving all Canadian oceans interests in oceans management, DFO is collaborating with others to improve its scientific understanding and protection of the marine environment, ensure the sustainable development of ocean resources, and reinforce its international reputation as a world leader in oceans management.

## Scientific Excellence

For over 100 years, DFO's scientists and engineers have made significant contributions to the research, development and understanding of Canada's three oceans, freshwaters and coastlines. Canada enjoys a strong international reputation in fisheries research, hydrography, oceanography and aquatic environmental science. DFO operates 13 research facilities across the country and employs more than 2,000 scientists, engineers and technicians.

There are five core areas of scientific research at DFO:

- **Aquaculture Science** conducts research and transfers the latest technologies to the rapidly growing aquaculture industry.

### RECREATIONAL FISHERY

Fishing is a major national pastime. More than 3.6 million adults fished in Canada in 2000. Recreational fishers spent more than 48 million days fishing in Canada, catching almost 233 million fish. However, the number of fish being taken home is declining – in 1995, anglers kept 113 million fish, while in 2000 that number was reduced to 85 million.

- **Environmental Science** involves research programs related to the conservation and protection of aquatic habitats – in particular, monitoring chemical, physical and biological conditions that affect the aquatic environment.
- **Hydrography** provides nautical charts for commercial shipping, recreational boating, and the fishing industry. It also provides vital information on water levels and tides.
- **Fisheries Research** provides the scientific basis for conservation and sustainable economic use of Canadian fishery resources.
- Scientists in **Ocean Science** conduct research on the physical and biological characteristics of the oceans along Canada's coastlines. The program includes activities in physical and biological oceanographic research, and in ocean-climate studies necessary to better understand the oceans' ecosystems.

## Aquaculture

Aquaculture is the farming of fish and shellfish for food. Canada's aquaculture industry provides more than 14,000 direct and indirect jobs and generates close to \$1 billion each year in Canadian economic activity. The latest figures show that the Canadian aquaculture industry produced more than 152,000 tonnes of product in 2001, valued at \$597.1 million – about 22% of the total value of Canadian fish and seafood production. As the demand for seafood products

increases, the aquaculture industry will continue to provide important economic opportunities in rural and coastal communities.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- Roughly seven million Canadians live in coastal areas, where many people depend on the oceans' resources and tourism to make a living.
- There were 23,360 commercial fishing vessels registered in Canada in 2001.
- The value of Canada's fisheries landings in 2001 remained steady at \$2.14 billion.
- Canada's fishery exports (547,936 tonnes) were valued at \$4.2 billion in 2001, up 3.4% from 2000.
- Canada's fishery imports were \$2.2 billion in 2001, leaving a trade surplus of \$2 billion. In 1998, there were approximately 11,000 businesses in the ocean sector, including fish processing, aquaculture, offshore oil and gas, transportation, coastal tourism, construction, technologies, ocean services, hydrography and engineering

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