

# Fishery



**Capelin processing**

The fishing industry faced challenging conditions in 2006. Soft markets; the continued strength of the Canadian dollar; and higher input costs, particularly fuel, caused difficulties for all fishery sectors. Total landings are expected to fall to about 315,000 tonnes in 2006, a decline of 3.6% and the total value of landings is expected to decrease by 9.3% to \$418 million.

Groundfish landings are expected to decline by almost 30% this year, primarily as a result of lower landings of yellowtail flounder and American plaice. The value of groundfish landings is also expected to fall substantially.

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Pelagic landings in 2006 are expected to rise by about 3% primarily due to higher landings of capelin. An increased capelin quota resulted in a harvest of about 39,500 tonnes this year, up almost 5,000 tonnes over 2005.

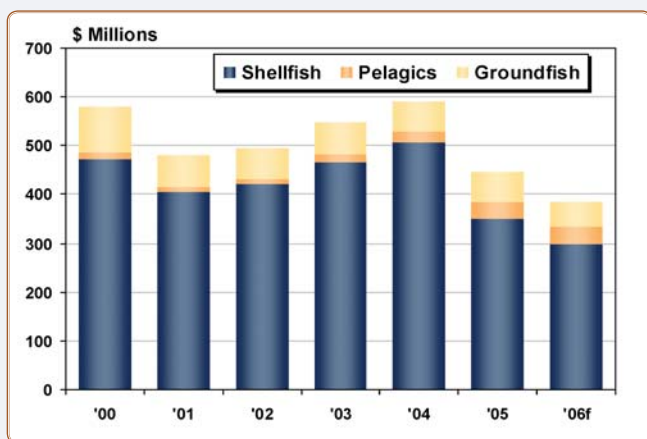
Shellfish landings are expected to increase by 1.4% this year as a result of higher catches of crab, shrimp and clams. However, the value of shellfish landings is expect-

ed to fall by over 14% because of lower prices for both crab and shrimp.

The entire crab quota was caught this year in comparison to only 90% last year. Landings were approximately 47,000 tonnes, about 7% higher than 2005 levels, however, crab prices were weak this year. The average Canadian price for five to eight ounce crab sections fell to \$3.51 per pound from \$4.31 in 2005 and \$5.85 in 2004. As a result of lower market prices, average harvesting prices declined by almost 34% to \$0.96 per pound. Consequently, the value of crab landings fell to about \$100 million compared to \$140 million last year.

Shrimp landings are expected to rise by almost 3% this year as the entire quota is expected to be taken. Soft markets and high input costs have been negatively affecting fleet economics, however, high catch rates and sharing arrangements between harvesters to reduce costs are allowing harvesters to remain viable. On a positive note, the Autonomous Tariff Rate Quota, which allows shrimp to be sold to the European Union under a 6% tariff instead of the usual 20%, is expected to increase by 3,000 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes for the 2006 season, which will improve returns to shrimp producers.

## Value of Fish Landings



Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture; f: forecast

The seal market remained strong in 2006 with about 300,000 seals taken. Prices to harvesters rose to a record \$105 per pelt this year from about \$56 in 2005, resulting in a substantial increase in landed value. Landed value rose to \$33 million from \$15.7 million last year.

Aquaculture production is expected to increase to 9,500 tonnes from 8,100 in 2005. Higher production is due to increased salmon and mussel production. The province has experienced renewed interest in aquaculture in 2006 with the arrival of a new enterprise, Cooke Aquaculture Inc., and the expansion of existing companies.