

Renewable Resource: Fish

Facts...

- Fishing is the oldest industry in Canada.
- Since the 1500's, ships from Great Britain, France, Spain and Portugal came to Canada every summer to fish off the coast of Newfoundland.
- Canada is one of the world's leaders in the export of fish – more than 50% of the catch is exported, worth \$3 billion
- The average Canadian eats about 20 pounds a fish a year

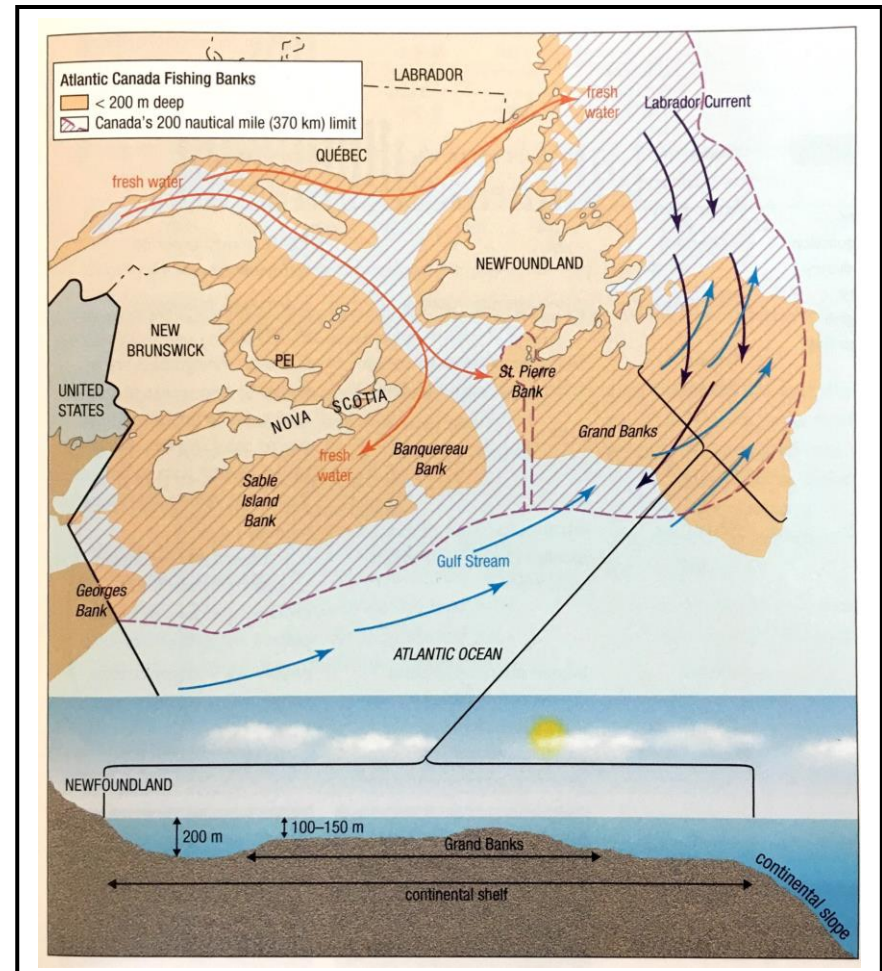
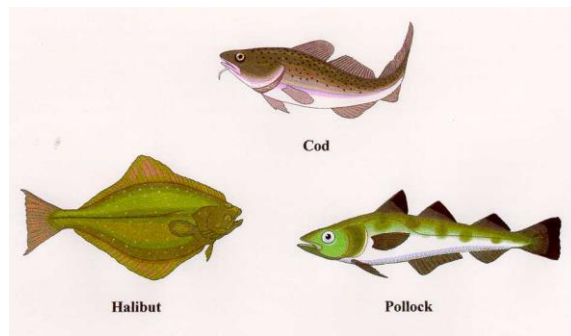
The East Coast Fishery

- The **Grand Banks of Newfoundland**, with an area of 282 500km², are one of the world's greatest fishing grounds.
- There are two key reasons why the waters off the coast of Newfoundland are suitable for fish:
 1. **The Continental Shelf** – at a depth of only 150m-200m, allows sunlight to penetrate to the bottom, causing a lush growth of plankton that attracts large numbers of fish.
 2. **Ocean Currents** – the mixing of the cold Labrador Current and the warm Gulf Stream churn up nutrients from the bottom that are necessary for the growth of plankton.
- These two factors attract various species of fish, particularly **groundfish** (bottom feeders)

Crisis the East Coast Fishery

- In the 1980's, up to 1991, people in the east coast fishery noticed that they were catching fewer and smaller fish. In particular, the northern cod off Newfoundland and Southern Labrador seemed to be disappearing.
- In 1992, the Canadian Government declared a **moratorium** on fishing in the Grand Banks – a stoppage of all fishing for cod and major cuts in the catches allowed for other species.
- Scientist thought they fish stocks would recover in 5 to 7 years – however, this never happened
- Many theories have been suggested to explain the serious decline of the numbers of ground fish, but no single cause is responsible. Scientists, governments and especially those who work in the industry are trying to discover what went wrong so they can be managed better in the future.

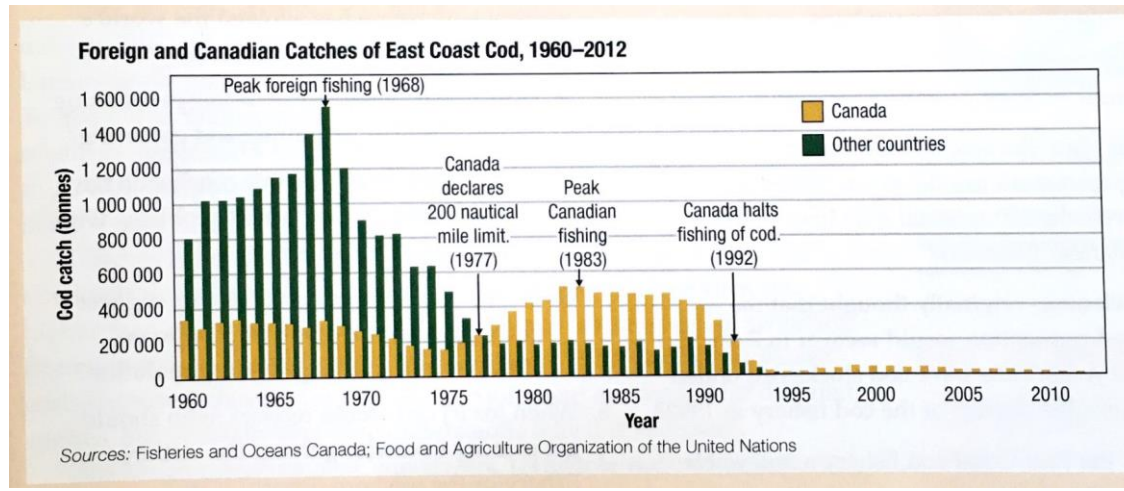
Groundfish



Why the East Coast Fishery Collapsed

The attempts to manage the fishery, to maintain a sufficient number of breeding fish in Eastern Canada have obviously failed. Fish can only be harvested *if* the number caught each year does not exceed the number of fish reaching maturity in that year – this is **sustained yield management**.

The Decline of the East Coast Cod Fishery



Instructions: Read Why the East Coast Fishery Collapsed. As you read, summarize the 5 reasons why the East Coast fishery collapsed.

1. Overfishing

4. Destructive Fishing Practices

2. Improved Fishing Technology

5. Changes in Natural Conditions

3. Uncontrolled Foreign Fishing

