

THIRD ANNUAL MEETINGCanadian Fishery in Sub-area 2 in 1952

In 1952 approximately 17,276 metric tons of round fresh cod were landed in Canadian ports from sub-area 2 (Labrador.) Except for a small amount eaten fresh locally by residents, the entire production was salted. Of the total, 574 metric tons were landed from draggers that spend a short time salt fishing in the area, the remainder is made up by landings from the Newfoundland fishermen fishing inshore on the Labrador coast.

Estimated Landings of Cod 1949-1952 (metric tons round fresh)

1949	36,713
1950	30,193
1951	28,597
1952	17,276

Landings of cod, the only groundfish as yet fished commercially by Canadian ships and fishermen from sub-area 2, have been declining over the past few years. Difficulties are experienced in marketing the small heavily salted cod produced in this area, and this coupled with rising costs of fisheries supplies have deterred many fishermen from prosecuting the Labrador fishery. As a result there has been a progressive decrease in the number of men and ships engaged in this fishery and the decline in landings may be attributed mainly to a decrease in fishing effort rather than a lack of abundance of fish.

Canadian Fishery in Sub-area 3 in 1952Landings from Sub-area 3 in Canadian Ports

Sub-area 3 includes a wide area taking in the eastern and southern coasts of Newfoundland and the inshore fisheries associated with them as well as the fishery on the offshore grounds of Grand and St. Pierre Banks and vicinity. Of the 250,950 metric tons of round fresh groundfish landed from this sub-area, cod made up by far the largest amount, amounting to 83.4% of the total landings. The next highest but far below cod was flounder landings, amounting to 6.7% of the total, redfish 5.9%, haddock 3.0% with the remaining groundfish taken (halibut, pollock, hake, cusk and catfish) amounting to about 1% of the landings.

Though the fresh fish industry is increasing in importance, 79.5% of the cod landings were salted, the bulk of this being landed by small inshore boats in Newfoundland. Smaller amounts of haddock and halibut were salted also.

Canadian landings of principal species of groundfish
from Sub-area 3, 1949 - 1952
(Metric tons round fresh)

YEAR	COD	HADDOCK	REDFISH	HALIBUT	FLOUNDERS
1949	248,716	14,853	7,468	252	3,266
1950	219,738	12,182	11,975	2,300	6,352
1951	230,947	4,153	17,304	2,579	13,886
1952	209,354	7,644	14,697	811	16,745

The total landing of cod for 1952 is somewhat below that for the previous year. In 1951, however, there was an unusual abundance of cod in the Newfoundland inshore areas and the difference between the two years may be attributed mainly to a decrease in the landings from the inshore fishery. Good catches of cod were obtained from most inshore areas in 1952 as well up till autumn, when, due to almost continuous stormy weather, little fishing was carried on. Good catches of cod were obtained from April to June offshore by otter trawlers near the north-western fringe of the Grand Bank.

Haddock landings, though still below those of 1949 and 1950, are much higher than the low of 1951. There was some concentration of haddock in February and March on the south-western part of Grand Bank but because of high favourable bottom temperature extending northward in the Grand Bank area, there was a spreading out of haddock schools with no concentrations sufficient for successful fishing by otter trawl after April.

A drop in redfish landings occurred in 1952 below 1951, but the amount landed was above any year previous to 1951. The reason for the decrease in 1952 was apparently a shifting of fishing effort by otter trawlers from February to May toward catching cod and haddock. The low U.S. market prices for redfish relative to cod and haddock produced this shift.

The flounder landings continue to increase. Large catches of plaice were made, particularly on the eastern edge of the Grand Bank and on the northwestern section. The offshore landings of witch flounder were down somewhat, but the total landings of witch were brought near to the 1951 total by the beginning of an inshore Danish seiner fishery near the Newfoundland south coast in which good catches of witch were made.

Halibut landings were considerably below both the 1950 and 1951 landings. Fewer dory schooners were fishing for halibut and much of the otter trawler effort was concentrated in areas and depths not expected to be very productive of halibut.

Ships and men engaged in the fishery, sub-area 3

Small shore boats	Many, number unknown.
Long-liners & Danish seiners	A small number, number increasing
Dory schooners	
Up to 150 gr. tons (salt fishing)	9
Up to 150 gr. tons (fresh fishing)	8
Over 150 gr. tons (salt fishing)	21
Over 150 gr. tons (fresh fishing)	8
Total	46
<u>Otter trawlers</u>	
Up to 50 gr. tons	1
51 - 150 gr. tons	7
151 - 500 gr. tons	40
Over 500 gr. tons	1
Total	49

Fishing in sub-area 3 is carried on by many types of boats but there is a trend of development in the inshore fishery to an "inshore-offshore" boat, larger than the 20 to 30 ft. boats now in use. In the offshore fishery the number of dory schooners is decreasing yearly because of difficulty in obtaining crews. On the other hand, the otter trawlers are increasing in numbers, with seven added to the fleet in 1952, while two others were scrapped. Most of the fishing by Newfoundland ships was carried on in sub-area 3. All Canadian dory-schooner salt fishing took place in this area, with an increased number of fresh fishing trips by schooners and draggers being made there as well.

There is as yet no precise information on the number of fishermen employed in 1952, but it is fairly certain that there was a continuation of the movement out of the fisheries into other occupations.

The inshore fishery for cod from Newfoundland's east coast begins around June and continues through until autumn storms cause fishermen to stop fishing. On the south coast of the inshore fishery continues throughout the year, but is more intense in the western portion of the south coast in late winter and early spring. The offshore fishery continues throughout the year with effort being shifted from one species to another depending upon availability and market demand.

Economic factors affecting fisheries

The year 1952 was perhaps as favourable from the standpoint of fishermen as any on record, with prices generally high enough to act as an incentive toward maximum effort throughout the whole of the fishing period. Throughout most of the year generally favourable marketing conditions for fresh, frozen and salted products existed and prices paid fishermen were somewhat higher than in 1951.

A substantial growth has taken place in the production of frozen groundfish fillets in the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland since the war. Much of this has been due to plant modernization and addition to existing facilities, but new plant capacity is being added from time to time. In 1952 four new plants, two in Newfoundland and two in Nova Scotia, commenced operations.

Although the groundfish industry in 1952 continued to find a large and profitable market for its products both at home and in the United States, greatly increased importation into the United States of groundfish fillets from European sources contributed to a decline in imports of some groundfish species from Canada.

Canadian exporters of salt and dried cod and related species in 1952 had little difficulty in marketing available supplies at favourable prices. Production was limited in part, however, due to difficulties encountered in previous years, such as foreign exchange problems and locating markets abroad.

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