

# Introduction to Fisheries and Marine Resources

Fish and seafood is one of the largest food groups exported by Canada; Fisheries and Oceans Canada is committed to the sustainability of this valuable natural resource. **Definition:** Sustainability means the ability to continue without running out.

About **100 communities on the Pacific Coast and more than 1000 in Atlantic Canada depend on the commercial fishery.**

Inland -away from the coasts - fishing communities range from small lakeside settlements on the northern prairies to substantial centres on the Great Lakes.

First Nations communities on both coasts and inland pursue commercial fisheries, and Inuit have traditionally depended on fish or marine mammals for food and income.

## History of Fisheries

For centuries prior to the arrival of European and Asian immigrants, the First Peoples of Canada's West Coast benefited from the region's abundant supply of salmon and other fish. Coastal people became excellent fishermen because their survival depended on it. They created settlements where the fish resources were abundant.



# Fisheries and Immigration

European fisherman, including French, began cod fishing off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland in the 16th Century. They typically came in the spring and went home in early fall, but eventually many chose to settle in the new territory.

Pictured below: Early Europeans fishing in small boats called "dories".



As technology improved, larger boats were used and catches were increased. The ship below is called the Bluenose; it is featured on the Canadian dime. It is an example of the "new" fishing boats, although it became quite famous as a racing schooner.



Answer the questions below.

1. Terms to Define:

Sustainability –

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Groundfish –

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Aquaculture –

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2. How does fishing contribute to Canada's economy?

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3. How has the fishing industry contributed to settlement in Canada?

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**Extension: Explore the live cams from the Vancouver Aquarium.**

<https://www.vanaqua.org/live-cams>