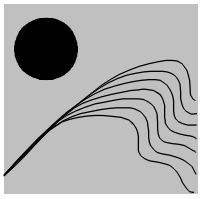
INQUIRIES For a Sustainable Future

A Decision-making Approach
to the Study of Selected Canadian Issues

THE DISAPPEARANCE of the NORTHERN COD



Learning for a
Sustainable Future

A QUESTION OF RESOURCES

Human life depends on the renewable resources of nature, soil, water, forests and the resources found in rivers and oceans. Today these resources face many threats, from pollution to mismanagement and exploitation. One of these resources is the world's ocean fisheries.

Rising populations, increasing consumption of fish and expanding markets have made the fisheries a target for ever-growing numbers of nations. New technologies that allow the fish to be vacuumed out of the sea have brought hundreds of fish species close to exhaustion. As fish stocks decline around the world, competition and conflict increase. International efforts to provide solutions, such as the Law of the Sea Treaty and *Agenda 21*, set the framework for negotiation and cooperation but, so far, few nations have responded by limiting their fishing industries.

Without international action, the millions of people whose prime source of protein is fish or who depend on the fisheries for their livelihood, face a bleak future.

In Canada, the collapse of the Northern Cod and other species off the East Coast, in one of the greatest fish ecosystems in the world, is a compelling example of the urgency of this global problem.

If the cod stocks ever return, it will be a slow process. The question that arises is what Canadians and the global community can learn from this disaster that will help to ensure the future preservation of this crucial resource?

A Resource of Learning for a Sustainable Future
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THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE NORTHERN COD

INQUIRY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure the future of the Northern Cod and other East Coast species, we must ask:

- What happened and why is it important?
- What were the causes?
- Who were the chief groups involved and how were they affected?
- If the Northern Cod stocks revive, what changes must take place in:
    - government policies;
    - science;
    - business practices;
    - the attitudes and behaviours of fishing communities;
    - international negotiations and enforcement?

Prepare a set of recommendations for the future sustainability of the East Coast fisheries.

Prepare a set of recommendations for the future sustainability of the East Coast communities.

BACKGROUND FOR THIS INQUIRY

Readings:

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THE COD FISHERY

FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO . . .

In 1497, an explorer from England, John Cabot, discovered a New Found Land. Off-shore, he found the sea "swarming with fish — which can be taken not only with nets, but in baskets let down with a stone".

Before long, he was followed to the "Grand Banks" by other fishermen from Europe. The English began to dry their catch on the land, and so began the unique settlement of Newfoundland.

A WAY OF LIFE (1)

The term "Northern Cod" refers to the assemblage of codfish found off eastern Newfoundland and southern Labrador and which has been exploited by Europeans and Newfoundlanders for five hundred years. It comprises the single most important fishery in Newfoundland and has been the very source and only possible reason for human settlement along the adjacent coastlines. Indeed, virtually nothing has changed in the primary economy of those settlements since John Cabot reported in 1497 that the masses of cod "stayed his ships". Even on a province-wide basis, Northern Cod has historically comprised almost three-quarters of all fish landed in Newfoundland and employed sixty to seventy per cent of all fishermen and plant workers.

From an historical perspective, the Northern Cod stock has always been exploited by two fisheries. From the sixteenth century forward, European ships joined the natural migrations of other marine predators to exploit the great concentrations of cod swarming over the shallow water banks along and off Newfoundland's coast. Although most nations returned with their catch heavily salted to be later dried by their own means, the English ventured to dry their catches on the Newfoundland beaches, necessitating the primitive onshore infrastructures of wharves and flakes, etc., which in turn necessitated a tenuous but ultimately tenacious pattern of human settlement. Eventually, there would develop a fishery dependent not on the fish offshore, but on the seasonal inshore migration of the stock. This small boat fishery was ultimately to define the very nature of Newfoundland society and, with its primitive technology of hand lines and fixed nets, to provide a four-hundred-year demonstration of ecologically sound harvesting. The society that emerged was to demonstrate both the harmony and hardship associated with living close to nature.

Northern Cod,
by Shane P. Mahoney,
LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE, 1994

Shane Mahoney, Chief of Wildlife Research, Department of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, is a writer and speaker on issues of sustainable development.

A WAY OF LIFE (2)

The Northern Cod has given Newfoundland its communities, often deliberately sited on the most exposed headland, and almost every aspect of Newfoundland culture, including the language, music and humour. For the people, these harsh and barren places are an ecological necessity culminating in a powerful, self-directing sense of home.

Shane P. Mahoney

A WAY OF LIFE (3)

For centuries the small-boat fisheries of the East Coast provided a sustainable approach, a way of life that ensured the fish would continue in plentiful supply. Simple technology — long-lines of baited hooks, inshore traps and small nets — limited the catch and resulted in little waste.

Working Paper 22, *Media, Fish and Sustainability*,
by Michael Keating,
NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY, February 1994

THE ECOSYSTEM (1)

The Grand Banks

The Grand Banks of Newfoundland is a large area of relatively shallow water — generally less than 100 metres — extending east and south from the coast of Newfoundland. One part of the Grand Banks extends out to 250 nautical-miles; this is commonly known as the Nose of the Banks. Another part extends out to 260 nautical-miles; this is known as the Tail of the Banks. The Grand Banks total over 100 000 square nautical-miles, of which the Nose and Tail total only 12 000 square nautical-miles. Although migratory patterns differ from species to species, one element is common to the cod, flounder and redfish stocks that straddle the 200 nautical-mile limit: while they live primarily inside 200 nautical-miles, many fish migrate for part of the year outside 200 nautical-miles to deeper water on the edge of the shelf. There they are subject to intensive over-harvesting that has led to stock depletion.

Hon. John C. Crosbie, former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

THE ECOSYSTEM (2)

Cod and the Fight for Survival

The Northern Cod stock is poorly understood — obviously so. We believe this large aggregation of fish is composed of sub-groups which spawn in the winter, mostly on the offshore banks at depths of 300 metres or more and temperatures around 3ºC, but with some using the deeper near-shore channels. In the summer, large but unknown proportions of the total stock migrate inshore to feed upon the abundant bait fishes, such as capelin, which historically have spawned on the Newfoundland beaches in untold millions. Codfish, in these northern waters, grow slowly and most do not reach sexual maturity until six years of age. Furthermore, although fecundity is high — a female codfish may produce one million eggs — survival is very low and probably only one of these progeny will survive to reach maturity and spawn.

The movements, survival and distribution of Northern Cod, both in time and within the three-dimensional ocean space, is, we believe, strongly influenced by water temperature. Specifically, cod are thought to avoid water with a temperature of less than -0.5ºC and it is considered plausible that large expanses of such water might act as a thermal barrier to cod inshore-offshore migrations. Little is known of the conditions conducive to survival of larval cod but the preferences of spawning fish suggest that temperature is an important factor. It is, of course, true that fish abundance has never been consistent in the Northern Cod zone but has always fluctuated around certain limits. These lows and highs have probably been strongly influenced by the thermal environment and by other physical and biotic factors.

Certainly, we have to consider the importance of predator/prey relationships and the complex interspecies linkages that affect codfish and which, in turn, affect many other species. In a marine system, organisms eat their way up the food chain as they grow; thus one of the principal predators of juvenile cod are mature cod, and juvenile cod feed upon shrimp which are an important prey of capelin which, in turn, are an important prey of codfish and seals. Seals have been labelled important predators of cod, although all research findings to date show them to be highly opportunistic foragers, living primarily on crustaceans and capelin and seldom on codfish. Regardless of the direct relationship between these species, it is clear that cod and seals are interrelated in the food web and that under recent harvesting regimes, the former has been pursued to the last refuge while the latter has been undergoing a period of relatively unrestricted growth. The lesson of these points is clear: it is the entire ecosystem with which we must be concerned, . . .

Northern Cod,
by S.P. Mahoney,
LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE, 1994

Shane Mahoney, Chief of Wildlife Research, Department of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, is a writer and speaker on issues of sustainable development.

THE DECLINE OF THE FISHERY (1)

The Killing Machine

For the past 500 years, the seas off Atlantic Canada have supported one of the world's richest commercial fisheries. The Grand Banks are part of the nation's history and culture. The fishery was sustained for centuries because people were, in effect, skimming off the excess of what nature could produce. The very technology — long lines of baited hooks, inshore traps and small nets — limited the catch and resulted in little waste.

That began to change in the 1950s, when modern fishing technology and expanding markets for seafood combined to start increasing the catch. Powerful new boats equipped with radar, electronic navigation systems and sonar allowed crews to follow the fish right to their spawning grounds. At first the big trawlers came mainly from Europe, but Canadians, often with government subsidies, adopted the new technologies. Boats could now fish year round, day and night, even in ice and at great depths. There was no place the fish could hide. Along with the desirable species, such as cod and haddock, the nets also swept up many non-commercial species, or commercial fish so young they should be left in the ocean to reproduce. In Atlantic Canada, the trawler fleet was reported to have dragged its nets over 30 000 square kilometres, or 15 per cent, of Canada's Continental Shelf each year. Leslie Harris, of St. John's, said that less than one-third of the fish caught was actually landed and the rest was dumped. Dr. Harris, head of the Northern Cod Review Panel, called the modern fishing technology, "the greatest killing machine ever invented".

Not only was the fishing pressure being increased by Canadians, but more boats kept arriving from Europe, the United States, Latin America and Asia to scoop up the riches of the sea. Within about 20 years the highly efficient fleets decimated a resource that had been sustainable for centuries. The fishery was no longer being harvested on a renewable basis; it was being mined and, like a mine, the ore played out. The new harvesting systems were supposed to bring wealth to this poor region of Canada. For a while they did, but once the resource was gone, the economic, social and ecological picture was bleaker than ever.

Reports of the annual catches show how quickly the Northern Cod disappeared when the new fishing equipment was used. Between 1850 and 1950, the Northern Cod catch only grew from about 200 000 to about 300 000 tonnes a year. With the introduction of the new trawlers, the annual catch shot up in a few years to a peak of 800 000 tonnes [per year] by the late 1960s, There was a sudden drop to about 200 000 tonnes a year by the mid-1970s, followed by a slight recovery, and the crash of the late 1980s. Dr. Harris, then president of Memorial University, wrote in the 1990 report that: "in the case of the Northern Cod, the madness in which we indulged in the decade 1964–1974 ought to stand as a great warning beacon that we should never forget".

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Similar stories are being played out along the Atlantic coast. The Scotia-Fundy Groundfish Task Force said that the region's ground-fish fleet had four times the fishing power necessary to take the permissible catch. (Off the Atlantic coast, there are more than 40 species of ground-fish, including cod, haddock and pollock, that feed at or near the ocean bottom.)

According to Dr. Harris, "we have brought four or five species currently to a state where they are facing the possibility of complete extinction" in parts of the Atlantic. These include Northern Cod, American plaice, yellow-tail flounder, redfish and possibly, the turbot.* In recent years, fishing has been stopped or drastically curtailed for a number of species, including cod, haddock, salmon, capelin and silver hake. The haddock has almost disappeared and the Northern Cod reduced to a remnant. No one knows for certain when or even if the cod stock will recover to normal levels because in some years young fish do not survive in the cold and hostile environment of the North Atlantic.

Working Paper 22, *Media, Fish and Sustainability*,
by Michael Keating,
NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY, February 1994

* Note the recent conflict between Canada and the European Community concerning Spain's overfishing of turbot.

THE DECLINE OF THE FISHERY (2)

The Impact of Foreign Fishing

Foreign overfishing is another important factor in the depletion of the fish stocks. Foreign vessels are allowed to catch "surplus" fish within Canada's 200 nautical-mile (370 kilometre) exclusive economic zone. Beyond that border there are no controls at all and many boats have been landing as many fish as they can. No one really knows how many fish have been hauled from the sea. Canada's 1991 *Report on the Environment* says that 1.5 million tonnes of fish a year are reported caught in Canada's oceans, but this is below the true figure. Statistics are based on what is reported, and only some of that is confirmed by fisheries inspectors on vessels. In addition, large quantities of unmarketable fish are accidentally caught in the nets, forming what is known as the by-catch. These fish die in the process and are simply dumped at sea.

Working Paper 22, *Media, Fish and Sustainability*,
by Michael Keating,
NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY, February 1994

THE DECLINE OF THE FISHERY (3)

The Effects on the People

By the late 1980s, more than 120 000 people had jobs catching, handling or processing fish in Atlantic Canada. They worked on 20 000 boats and in 900 fish processing plants and helped to support 1 300 communities. The catch included more than 1.1 million tonnes of fish and shellfish. Commercial fishing was worth two billion dollars to the Atlantic Coast economy, according to the 1991 report on Canada's environment. Cod alone accounted for only about ten per cent of the weight but about 28 per cent of the value of the total catch.

Since 1989, the federal fisheries department has been announcing dramatic reductions in fish quotas and, in July 1992, a two-year moratorium was imposed on fishing the remaining Northern Cod. Closing the Northern Cod fishery made idle about 25 000 workers and virtually stopped the economy in 400 or 700 fishing communities in Newfoundland. In August 1993, most of the rest of Canada's East Coast cod fishery and a number of other fisheries were closed, throwing about another 12 000 people out of work and onto government compensation. . .

There are some comparisons between the plight of the Atlantic fishers and many Canadian farmers. In both cases, there was the promise of high profits for people who invested in technologies that promised high productivity, at least in the short term, so both farmers and fishers bought expensive equipment. The fisher tried to pay for this equipment by catching more fish, and some people made a lot of money for a few years. In order to catch more fish, a number of people simply ignored quotas. One fisherman told the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries that, "there is no shame in getting caught and paying a $400 fine. It is almost a badge of honour."

Working Paper 22, *Media, Fish and Sustainability*,
by Michael Keating,
NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY, February 1994

THE DECLINE OF THE FISHERY (4)

An Example of a Global Crisis

There is no single explanation for why one of the world's great natural resources was allowed to disappear right under our noses. An article in the prestigious *Science* magazine in April 1993, says that governments in many parts of the world have failed to protect fish stocks. It says that the possibility of high profits to be made from exploiting fisheries leads to a gold rush mentality and governments "ally themselves with special interest groups in order to facilitate the exploitation". Fishing quotas are often set too high, based on the catches of good years. When overfishing, natural fluctuations in productivity, or a combination of the two, causes the catch to drop, governments typically prop up the fishery, assuring that over-harvesting will continue into the future.

Around the world the situation is the same. Whether on the Grand Banks, the Mediterranean or the Andaman Sea, whether the fisher is Canadian, European or Thai, the pressure grows to catch more fish. The global commercial catch of fish and shellfish is close to 100 million tonnes per year, a fivefold increase during the past 40 years. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization says this is about the maximum amount it thinks the oceans can sustainably produce at a global level, but the demand keeps growing. There are now about 5.5 billion people in the world, and the population will grow to 6.25 billion by the year 2000 and eight billion by the year 2020.

Working Paper 22, *Media, Fish and Sustainability*,
by Michael Keating,
NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY, February 1994

PROTECTING THE COD

Canada Takes Action Against Illegal Foreign Fishing

Canada has delivered its first broadside in the battle to protect rapidly dwindling fish stocks, seizing a Panamanian-registered fishing trawler in the north Atlantic Ocean. It is the first ship seized under a new international agreement banning cod fishing in international waters. Canada's Northern Cod fishery has been closed since July, 1992, to protect dwindling stocks. Despite the dramatic arrest on the high seas, Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin said there were at least 60 other vessels fishing just outside Canada's 200 nautical-mile limit yesterday, ten of which were fishing stocks under the international moratorium.

Yesterday's seizure of the Kristina Logos is a warning that Canada will not tolerate over-fishing by foreign or domestic ships, Tobin said. It is also a step toward ending foreign over-fishing by "flag-of-convenience" vessels, he added. "These are the ones I have called the pirates," he said. "They fish without quotas. Their motive is greed. They must be stopped to protect the resource. We intend to target their efforts and we intend to take away their profit by seizing their vessels. We have the means and we have the will to do it — that is the message to the true pirates, the blue suits who own these flag-of-convenience vessels." The Kristina Logos, sailing under a Panamanian flag, was stopped and boarded by fisheries officers on the tail of the Grand Banks just outside the 200 nautical-mile limit. Canadian officials seized about 100 tonnes of processed fish. The ship's crew of 22 Portuguese sailors will be sent home, said Tobin.

. . . the Kristina Logos was an unusual case because it never let its original registration lapse before flying the Panamanian flag. The Kristina Logos is registered under Ulybel Enterprises of Port Bedway, Nova Scotia, and owned by José Pratas, a Canadian citizen. Pratas faces charges under the Fisheries Act and the Canada Shipping Act. Tobin said charges could include fishing without a licence, which can result in a maximum fine of $100 000. Yesterday's seizure came three days after a Nova Scotia tuna-fishing boat was boarded in international waters and towed to Halifax.

Canada Seizes "Foreign" Trawler,
TORONTO STAR, April 3, 1994
The Canadian Press

FROM THE LAW OF THE SEA TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

From States' Rights to Global Responsibility

Many have said international law would be violated by Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin's bill to allow Canadian fisheries, police and military vessels to board and seize foreign fishing boats outside areas where this is traditionally permitted by international law. A variety of reasons for this illegality are offered. These include its extension of sovereignty in breach of the freedom of the high seas provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS), the breadth of the legislation and its unilateral nature in the midst of international negotiations to address the over-fishing problem. Each of these criticisms reflects a traditional 1970s rights-and-freedoms view of international law and the high seas. Not a word is to be found here on the legal obligations imposed by the concept of sustainable development, even though these obligations, too, are included in the provisions of UNCLOS as a counter-balance to the freedoms it protects.

Since the extended negotiations of the Convention through the 1970s to their conclusion in 1982, the world has begun a broadly based process of moving from a political and legal system focusing primarily on states' rights, to one that highlights global responsibilities to ensure the sustainable development of the Earth's resources. This shift in international law includes new requirements for national and international actions to ensure sustainable levels of resource harvesting. These requirements should be seen as the central element in defining a regime for international high seas fisheries management. Yet, even the analysis put forward by the federal government lacks any direct reference to, or appreciation of, these developments.

The fisheries legislation provides an opportunity to re-evaluate the appropriate starting point for the interpretation and application of the living marine resource provisions of UNCLOS. Should it not be the need to ensure a sustainable resource for future generations, a concept whose political and legal force has increased significantly since 1982? The approach taken will directly affect the balance between the rights and duties specified in UNCLOS, and thus the perceived legality of the new legislation.

The 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED] established the concept of sustainable development as the fundamental principle for managing development and resource harvesting. *Agenda 21* calls for effective actions to be taken by all states to ensure that fisheries stocks, whose survival is now threatened — straddling and highly migratory stocks — be preserved. It also calls for negotiations on the issue to be convened under the auspices of UNCLOS.

Almost two years after the final gavel fell in Rio, where do we stand? Some progress has been made by the regional Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). Most of its members have begun to enforce the no-fishing ban NAFO finally approved. The United States, not a part of NAFO, is making efforts to ensure its boats abide by the international moratorium. Other states

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have not supported this limited international process, and rogue vessels continue to flourish. Negotiations under UNCLOS continue this summer [1994] but the likelihood of clear harvesting rules emerging is small. Indeed, some key countries privately continue to question the appropriateness of the Law of the Sea forum for defining such rules.

Agenda 21 also recognizes that new approaches for the protection and sustainable development of living marine resources, including at the national level, are required as a priority matter. More broadly, *Agenda 21* also challenges those responsible for the development of internal laws to respond to the imperatives of globally sustainable development.

Considering the continued failure of the freedom-based approach to support either of these objectives effectively, the 1992 statement of global requirements appears to be a more appropriate basis for analyzing the legality of Canada's actions, rather than the historical freedom to fish that has generated the problem in the first place. Therefore, surely the limited action anticipated from the still-to-be-published regulations would meet any reasonable test of legitimate actions by the most threatened coastal state.

The unfolding tragedies of the loss of high seas fisheries in many parts of the world represent one of the great sustainable development problems confronting all states today. It is, therefore, particularly unfortunate that a country as respected as Canada for its contributions to the development of international law has not seen fit to justify its present actions with the forward thinking required for the law to respond to the demands of sustainable development.

Canada Should Support Trend to Consider Sustainable Development,
by Howard Mann,
THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, June 8, 1994

WHAT OF THE FUTURE (1)

Newfoundland Diversifies its Economy

Five years after the federal government closed the cod fishery, the Tors Cove plant outside St. John's clings to life, processing some crab, capelin and other fish species — and selling truckloads of ice to get by. It employs about 50 seasonal workers, down from 250 before the moratorium. The boosterish poster hanging in the office is a little hard to swallow: "Newfoundland and Labrador seafood is just not the same," it reads, "It's better than ever".

The situation here and at scores of plants like it along the Newfoundland coast points to one of the greatest challenges facing the province. Economic analysts predict the Hibernia and Terra Nova offshore oil developments and the Voisey Bay nickel mine and smelter will propel a gradual economic turnaround in the province, beginning as early as next year. However, federal scientists recently confirmed that the cod resource on which the province was built shows no sign of recovery. The $1.9 billion federal support program for the more than 40 000 Atlantic Canadians thrown out of work by the cod collapse — about 70 per cent of them Newfoundlanders — ends next year.

The federal government has pledged some kind of follow-up to the largely unsuccessful Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS), but it is unclear how much money will be available and how many people will benefit. "The real truth is that the cod fishery had become the means of entry to the social safety net and was absorbing thousands of people that should never be absorbed," said Arthur May, president of Memorial University of St. John's and a former federal deputy minister of fisheries. Many outports that depended on the fishery are simply not viable any more, Mr. May said. A way of life is gone. He is distressed by the lack of debate in the province about the profound changes thousands of people and hundreds of communities will have to undergo. "This is such an emotional issue in Newfoundland that hardly anybody will stick their head up," he said. "It's a very emotional issue because you've got centuries of attachment to coastal villages, you've got a culture and folk-lore built around it."

John Crosbie, the former federal Tory cabinet minister who has never hesitated much about sticking out his neck, shares Mr. May's concern. Mr. Crosbie says an analysis should be made of which fish-processing plants can survive and communities should be told, "It's better for them to know, so they don't just wait around expecting the old life is going to return when it's not," he said. "They're going to have to start looking around at what else they can do. It's tough, but there are other kinds of work they can do or other places where they might go where jobs are more freely available."

For many young Newfoundlanders that message has already sunk in. Newfoundland is the only province whose population is shrinking down to 570 711 last year from 584 203 in 1993. "I'm pretty sure that at the university, one-third to one-half the graduates in business, engineering and

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some other disciplines are on a plane the day after they get their diploma," Mr. May said. "That's very sad, but what are the alternatives?" Unemployment is hovering around 19 per cent.

Premier Brian Tobin insists there are options, and people should stick around for an economic renaissance he says is "just around the corner". The economy is diversifying, he says, led by the fishery. With the closing of the cod fishery, fishermen have turned to crab, shrimp and other fish species. In fact, soaring crab prices pushed the total value of fish landings to an all-time high of $230 million in 1995. But the new fisheries employ far fewer people than the cod did.

Inroads are also being made in the advanced technology sector, and Mr. Tobin is hoping that tourism will come to provide coastal Newfoundland with a new economic base. Forecasters with the major banks share Mr. Tobin's optimism. Buoyed by the beginning of oil production at Hibernia and expected construction of the $1.5 billion Voisey Bay project is expected to grow between three and five per cent in 1998. This will also mean more money in government coffers.

Fred McMillan, senior policy analyst for the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, a conservative think-tank, is nervous at the notion of government "reinventing" the economy. The past 25 years are littered with examples of ill-conceived government economic development schemes in Atlantic Canada, he said from the Bricklin sports car in New Brunswick to the Spring hydroponic cucumber venture in Newfoundland. He fears the gush of royalties from Hibernia and Voisey's Bay will tempt the government to take one more stab at it. "Voisey's Bay and Hibernia will only be a blessing if the money is used correctly," he said, in his view, to lower business taxes and train more young people.

Few in Newfoundland Seem Willing to Face World Without Cod
by Graham Hamilton
THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, September 17, 1997

WHAT OF THE FUTURE (2)

Are the Fish Coming Back?

No matter what Fisheries Department specialists say, the cod stock has largely recovered off the east coast of Newfoundland and it's time to carefully reopen the cod fishery. That message was delivered to the House of Commons fisheries committee by speakers at a meeting in this community south of Cape Bonavista, halfway up Newfoundland's east coast. "We inshore fishermen are telling scientists and fishery officials that cod are abounding in our waters," fisherman Garland Bailey told the committee Monday evening.

The meeting in Catalina was the final stop in the fisheries committee's ten-day tour of Atlantic Canada. Committee members have heard from fishermen and fish-plant workers on fishery policies and on social-support programs for people unemployed since the 1992 cod moratorium. The Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS), which has offered financial support for thousands of fishermen and plant workers, ends in May.

Annie Jerrett of Catalina said fishermen can keep food on the table in May, simply by returning to the cod fishery. "There are thousands of codfish out there — good, thick codfish." She said her husband, a fisherman, laid out nets for flounder overnight last summer and by morning had caught l 260 kilograms of cod. "We can't have the kind of fishery we used to have, but we can have a limited fishery, definitely," Mrs. Jerrett said. . .

The federal government must put some support program in place when the TAGS program ends in May, said Winston Childs of the Outer Bay of Islands Round Table. "The official say, 'organize or die, get on with it, look after yourselves.' But without assistance, there will be hurt, hunger and frustration." The numbers of active fishermen will have to be reduced even when the fishery is reopened, Mr. Childs said. That's why he argues that the federal government must buy back licences and provide early retirement for many fishermen. "We know now that we can't all make a living from the sea. But the federal government should support and fishers and communities as we readjust from a Third World economy and attitude to First World entrepreneurs," Mr. Childs said.

Newfoundlanders tell MPs to Reopen Cod Fishery
by Charles Enman
THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, December 3, 1997