



NFB FILM

STUDY GUIDE

FISHERMEN

(Social Geography Series)

Black & White — 22 minutes

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, 1959.

Suggested Uses: Social Studies classes in intermediate, junior and senior high schools.

SYNOPSIS AND BACKGROUND

Set against the background of the rocky Atlantic sea coast, **FISHERMEN** describes two typical fishing communities of Nova Scotia and examines the impact which the changing techniques of commercial fishing are having on the lives of fishermen.

Several choices confront these men of the sea: whether to persist in the traditional, individualistic trade of the inshore fisherman, or to join the crews of trawlers harvesting the rich fishing grounds of the Grand Banks, or to work on the assembly line of a modern fish-packing plant. **FISHERMEN** explores the advantages and disadvantages of each choice and describes the techniques of this industry in transition.

The Grand Banks of the Atlantic have been traditional fishing grounds for centuries but it is only recently that modern technological advances have revolutionized commercial fishing in the Maritimes. This has brought greater prosperity to the larger ports, but a more uncertain future to the small fishing village.

For the new generation there will be a difficult choice to make. The inshore fisherman, whose frugal income is dependent on weather and luck, is deeply attached to his trade and prizes his self-reliance and close family ties. The dragger fisherman shares the rewards of a more profitable catch, yet, by accepting the sea as his home, is denied a stable family life. The industrialized worker in the fish-packing plant has financial security and social stability in his village, but must face the repetitive aspects of his new employment.

SUGGESTED METHODS OF USE

It is very important that this film be previewed prior to the showing, as it can most profitably be used as follows:

- a) As an introduction to the techniques used in a significant Canadian industry, and the relationship of climate and geography to its development.
- b) To instil an understanding of the geographical conditions and problems of the industry and their relation to the persons concerned in maintaining it.

OVER



SUGGESTED CLASS PREPARATION

a) Introduction:

The teacher should find many ways to focus the attention of the class on the fishing industry. Nature Study classes could be combined with those of Social Studies in the study of many fish off the Atlantic coast such as cod, mackerel, herring and lobster. A display of stuffed fish, a fishing net, etc., could be prominently displayed. Attention of the class could possibly be drawn to a map of the Maritimes and specifically to the location of the Grand Banks. It is suggested that the distinction between inshore and commercial fishing be clearly established prior to the showing, because the film centres on this aspect of the industry.

b) Words Which May Cause Difficulty:

Inshore fishing

Otter trawl

Grand Banks

DIRECTIVE QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE FILM

1. Do you believe that modern technological methods have improved the fisherman's lot? Discuss.
2. What is the relationship between climate, geography, tradition, economic welfare and family life in each of the occupations described?
3. Describe the operation of both types of fishing, noting the degree of specialization and training required.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

1. Given the choice of becoming an inshore or a commercial fisherman, which would you be? Why? Discuss.
2. Discuss the effects of industrialization on the traditional way of life in fishing communities, and relate these to individual self-reliance and initiative.
3. Prepare: a) A map illustrating the geographical location of the Grand Banks, noting the distances from the inshore fishing areas.
b) A drawing illustrating the operations of a modern trawler.

RELATED VISUAL AIDS

Films:

THE ATLANTIC REGION (NFB — 23 minutes)
RAILROADERS (NFB — 20 minutes)
TREASURE OF THE FOREST (NFB — 13 minutes)

Filmstrips:

THE ATLANTIC REGION (6 filmstrips) (NFB — B&W)
OUR LAND Series — Part II: THE MARITIMES (NFB — B&W)
OUR RESOURCES Series — FISHERIES (Parts 1, 2 & 3) (NFB — B&W)

