Canadian Geography 1202

Unit 1 – Lesson 17 Atlantic Marine

Landscape

- This ecozone only touches land at the southern coast of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and the eastern coast of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.
- Winds from land to the west meets the warm Gulf stream, making the ecozone more temperate than it would otherwise be.
- Dense fog forms when the warm gulf stream meet the cold Labrador current.
- The Bay of Fundy features the largest tide in the world.
- The difference between high and low tide can go as far as 15 metres in the difference.

Vegetation

- Phytoplankton : microscopic plant like organisms. They are the base of the marine food web.
- Seaweed and kelp are also found throughout the region
- Tidal Marshes
    - Extensive salt marshes occur particularly in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island but less frequently in Newfoundland. Examples of vegetation in this area are:
        - Saltmarsh Cord grass
        - Wild Barley
        - Sea lavender
- The Grand Banks are among the most biologically productive marine areas in the world
    - Labrador Current + Gulf Stream
    - Shallows of the continental shelf prepare ideal feeding grounds and spawning conditions.
    - Animals and fish such as the northern cod, herring, grey seals, harbour porpoises, puffins and gulls live in this ecozone.
    - There are also a number of bottom dwellers in the Atlantic:

    - Barnacles, sea stars, lobsters

People

The people of Atlantic Marine significantly depend on the ecozone for their livelihood.

- Fishing
    - Lobster, shrimp, crab
- Aquaculture
    - Experiments in scallop, salmon and cod farming
    - Mussel farming
- Offshore Oil and Gas
    - Hibernia, Terra Nova oil and gas fields, reserves in Nova Scotia

Threats

- Overfishing
    - Canadian and foreign fishing have driven down commercial cod populations to a serious level.