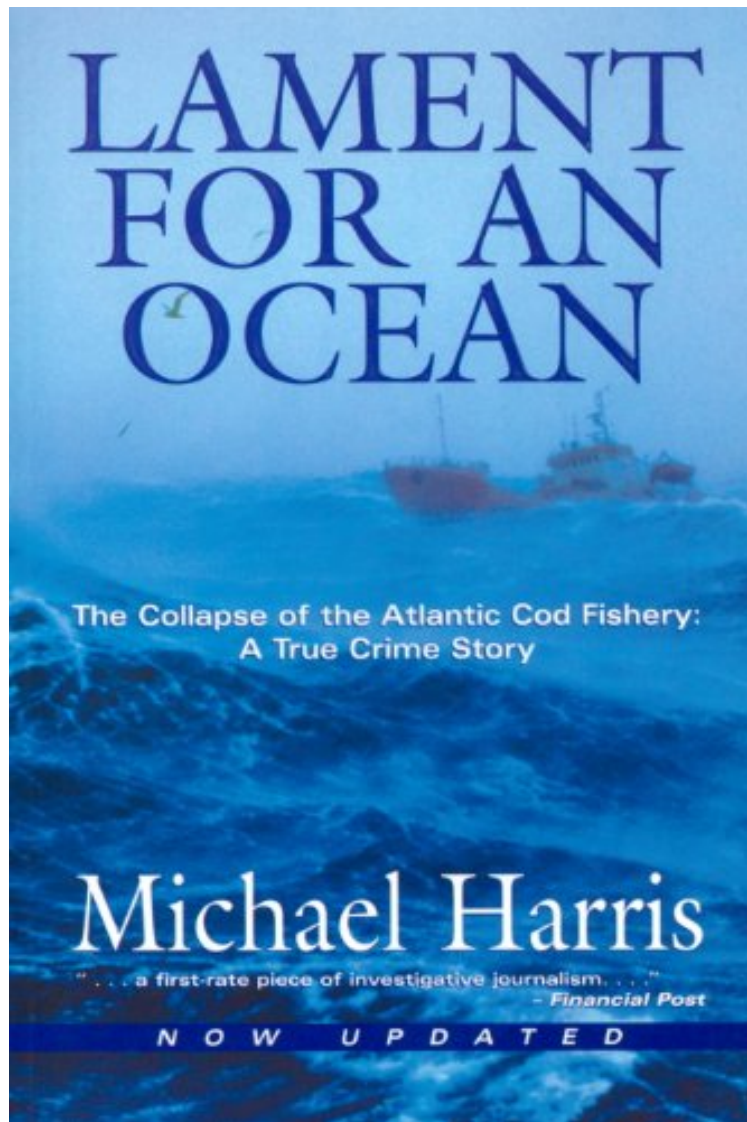


Lament for an Ocean: The Collapse of the Atlantic Cod Fishery

Michael Harris

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Michael Harris : Lament for an Ocean: The Collapse of the Atlantic Cod Fishery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lament for an Ocean: The Collapse of the Atlantic Cod Fishery:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. an interesting read with a slightly "pop" toneBy John AndersonThis is certainly a book to make one wonder at the relationship between scientists, politicians, and government administrators. Harris presents the story with a (to this Southerner) refreshing Canadian focus, and he reminds us of both the difficulties and the advantages that the Confederation faces in managing natural resources. My only quibble is with the author's periodic descent into hyperbole the somewhat sloppy repetition of phrases and analogies -

occasionally within the same paragraph. The horrifying facts of the case speak eloquently for themselves and don't really need a journalistic "push" to raise the reader's ire. Apart from that this book would be a good read for anyone concerned with natural resource exploitation and the complexities of international environmental policies.

The northern cod have been almost wiped out. Once the most plentiful fish on the Grand Banks off the coast of Newfoundland, the cod is now on the brink of extinction, and tens of thousands of people in Atlantic Canada have been left without work by a 1992 moratorium on fishing the stock. Today, the Pacific salmon stocks are in similar trouble; victims of the same blind, stupid greed. Angry, accusatory fingers have been pointed at various possible culprits for the collapse of the cod; at the Spanish and Portuguese, who for hundreds of years sent ever-bigger fleets to the Grand Banks; at the factory-freezer trawlers, which "vacuumed" the ocean floor for the prized fish; at those inshore fishermen who circumvented the rules governing the fishery; at the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which is responsible for managing the fishery; at the harp seal, the cod's competitor for food, whose numbers have exploded in recent years; even at Nature, for lowering the temperature of the ocean. In *Lament for an Ocean*, the award-winning true-crime writer Michael Harris investigates the real causes of the most wanton destruction of a natural resource in North American history since the buffalo were wiped off the face of the prairies. The story he carefully unfolds is the sorry tale of how, despite the repeated and urgent warnings of ocean scientists, the northern cod was ruthlessly exploited. From the Hardcover edition.

"The definitive book on the cod catastrophe. After reading this book, you wouldn't trust the Department of Fisheries and Oceans with your aquarium."—Elizabeth May, Executive Director, Sierra Club of Canada
"[This] isn't the first book about the collapse of Canada's East Coast fishery. It won't be the last. But it is the one you must read to understand how this tragic and tragically unnecessary political, social, environmental, and ecological disaster actually happened."—Halifax Daily News
From the Inside Flap
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About the Author
One of Canada's top investigative writers, Michael Harris was winner of the 1995 Arthur Ellis Award for best true crime book for *The Prodigal Husband: The Tragedy of Helmuth and Hannah Buxbaum*. Formerly the publisher of the *Sunday Express* in St. John's and later the Executive Director of News and Current Affairs for the Newfoundland Broadcasting Corporation, Harris has also been Queen's Park correspondent for the *National Post*, and a national affairs columnist for the *Sun News Service*. Today, he hosts his own radio program, "Michael Harris Live," on CFRA in Ottawa.
Harris's previous books consist of the award-winners *Justice Denied: The Law versus Donald Marshall* (1986), *Unholy Orders: Tragedy at Mount Cashel* (1990), *Rare Ambition: The Crosbies of Newfoundland* (1992), *The Prodigal Husband* (1994), *The Judas Kiss: The Undercover Life of Patrick Kelly* (1995), was made into a television movie starring Paul Gross, and *Lament for an Ocean: The Collapse of the Atlantic Cod Fishery* (1998) was a national bestseller. To date, his work has sparked four royal commissions of inquiry. He lives in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, with his wife and daughter. From the Hardcover edition.