

NMFS Northeast Region

News



For Immediate
Release

August 3, 2001

Contact:

Teri Frady
Chief,

Research Communications

PH: (508)495-2239
FAX: (508)495-2049

NR01-18

Commercial Fisheries and Mariculture Revenues for Northeast Coastal States Surpass \$1.1 Billion in 2000

Gloucester, Mass.- Commercial fishing and marine aquaculture operations from Virginia to Maine posted a record \$1.106 billion from combined sales of fish and shellfish in 2000. Maine retained its first place rating among northeastern states for total revenue. New Bedford is still the top revenue-generating port. American lobster retains its top spot as most valuable species.

These preliminary numbers were released today by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Regionally, the 2000 revenues were 4% higher than those in 1999, and 15% higher than those in 1998. Adjusted for inflation, the 2000 revenues were 2% higher than those in 1999, and 12% higher than those in 1998. Changes in harvests and revenues from one year to the next stem from various causes, including changes in the populations of species sought or raised, prices, demand, supply, costs of doing business, and factors influencing how much and how often harvest occurs.

Summary of Revenue (in nominal dollars, price at first sale) and Harvest Data

States (Table 1)

In 2000, Maine retained first place in revenues for the seventh straight year. Maine's 2000 revenues of \$354.1 million were a 9% increase over 1999, and a 28% increase over 1998. The top five revenue-producing species landed or raised in Maine in 2000 were American lobster (\$187.7 million), Atlantic salmon (\$78.9 million), green sea urchin (\$17.7 million), softshell clam (\$9.6 million), and goosfish (\$8.9 million). The eggs, or "roe," of the green sea urchin are considered a delicacy in the Far East export market.

New Hampshire (+12%), Massachusetts (+11%), New Jersey (+10%), Virginia (+9%), and Maine (+9%) showed increased revenues from 1999 to 2000. Delaware (-3%), Rhode Island (-9%), Maryland (-16%), Connecticut (-18%), and New York (-22%) showed decreased revenues from 1999 to 2000.

--More--

NMFS Northeast Region



2000 Revenues/Landings

Page 2

Ports (Table 2)

In 2000, New Bedford, Massachusetts, retained its first place among ports in revenues. New Bedford's 2000 revenues of \$146.3 million were a 13% increase over 1999, and a 56% increase over 1998. The top five revenue-producing species landed in New Bedford in 2000 were sea scallop (\$83.0 million), goosefish (\$13.3 million), yellowtail flounder (\$9.2 million), winter flounder (\$7.5 million), and Atlantic cod (\$6.5 million). Goosefish (also called monkfish or angler) is not only harvested for its flesh, but also for its liver which is considered a delicacy in the Far East export market.

In 2000, 17 Northeast fishing ports had ex-vessel revenues in excess of \$10 million, thus qualifying them for "major" port status. From 1999 to 2000, 14 of these 17 major ports showed increased revenues. In 2000, two ports joined the major ports list for the first time (Southwest Harbor, Maine, and Seaford, Virginia), three ports rejoined the list after being absent for several years (Stonington and Vinalhaven, Maine, and Hampton, Virginia), and one port dropped off the list from 1999 (Friendship, Maine).

Species (Tables 3 and 4)

In 2000, the fishery for American lobster retained its first place in revenue generated from first sale. The \$301.3 million of revenue from the 2000 lobster harvest was a 7% decrease over 1999, but a 19% increase over 1998. Maine accounted for 62%, and Massachusetts for 22%, of revenues from the 2000 lobster harvest. New York (-56%), Connecticut (-43%), and Rhode Island (-20%) showed significant decreases in revenue from lobster harvests between 1999 and 2000.

Of the 50 species or species groups which each provided more than \$1 million in ex-vessel or farmgate revenues during 2000, 24 showed an increase over 1999. Among the top-10 species in 2000 revenue, Atlantic salmon (+36%), sea scallop (+31%), Atlantic surfclam (+25%), goosefish (+15%), northern quahog (+11%), and Atlantic cod (+10%) showed increased revenues over 1999; American lobster (-7%), Atlantic menhaden (-10%), blue crab (-13%), and longfin inshore squid (-25%) showed decreased revenues. Atlantic surfclam is a typical ingredient in fried clam strips. Northern quahog (also called hard clam) is a major item in the U.S. fresh seafood market. Atlantic menhaden (also called poggy) is a small, oily, nonseafood fish species which is used primarily for production of meal, oil, and solubles, and secondarily for livestock feed and for bait by commercial and recreational fishermen. Longfin inshore squid (also called loligo) is a major export item, especially to Mediterranean markets.

Two low-value species, Atlantic menhaden and Atlantic herring, dominated the harvested poundage. Almost 404 million pounds of menhaden were harvested in 2000, a 3% decrease from 1999, and a 22% decrease from 1998. Almost 165 million pounds of herring were harvested in 2000, a 6% decrease from 1999, and an 8% decrease from 1998. Herring is not only a seafood species, but also a bait species; it is used extensively in the trap fisheries for American lobster.

Although seafood harvests are usually referred to as "fisheries" harvests, fish species make up less than half of the value of those harvests. In 2000, among the top 15 revenue-producing species, crustaceans (i.e., American lobster and blue crab) accounted for 40% of the value, mollusks (i.e., sea scallop, northern quahog, Atlantic surfclam, longfin inshore squid, ocean quahog, and eastern oyster) for 33%, and echinoderms (i.e., green sea urchin) for 2%. Ocean quahog, a large bivalve mollusk, is most often used in prepared seafoods such as clam chowder.

SOURCES AND AVAILABILITY OF HARVEST AND REVENUE DATA

Harvest and revenue data on Northeast fisheries are collected throughout the year by both the NMFS and the various state marine fisheries agencies in the region. Most finfish and shellfish purchasers ("dealers") who hold a federal permit in the Northeast are required to report their purchases from fishing vessels to NMFS. Although the reports from these federally permitted dealers provide the bulk of the available harvest and revenue data, other data come from non-federally permitted dealers and from other sources as well.

--More--

NMFS Northeast Region

Table 1. Preliminary ex-vessel^a and farmgate^b revenue and harvested poundage^c of commercial fisheries and mariculture operations by state in the Northeast during 1998-2000

State	1998		1999		2000	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	277.4	213.1	323.8	256.8	354.1	262.9
Massachusetts	204.4	252.5	260.2	198.3	288.3	187.9
Virginia	110.7	563.0	108.3	460.0	118.3	443.2
New Jersey	90.9	195.9	97.7	168.7	107.2	171.8
Rhode Island	71.1	131.4	79.3	126.2	72.5	119.3
New York	84.3	57.5	76.0	48.2	59.4	41.2
Maryland	67.2	61.5	63.8	67.1	53.9	48.9
Connecticut	34.4	17.6	38.1	18.4	31.2	19.6
New Hampshire	11.2	10.1	12.5	11.3	14.0	17.2
Delaware	5.6	7.8	6.9	8.4	6.7	6.7
Total^d	957.2	1,510.4	1,066.6	1,363.4	1,105.5	1,318.6

^aEx-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for wild-caught resources prior to any onshore handling, processing, or reselling.

^bFarmgate revenue is based on prices paid for mariculture-produced resources prior to transport from the mariculture site.

^cHarvested poundage consists of meat weight for bivalve and univalve mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

^dTotal may differ from sum of components due to rounding error of components.

Table 2. Preliminary ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for major ports^c in the Northeast during 1998-2000

State	1998		1999		2000	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
New Bedford, MA	93.5	87.4	129.9	86.1	146.3	89.0
Portland, ME	35.2	46.5	42.4	55.6	45.4	62.8
Pt. Judith, RI	41.8	75.2	51.2	72.5	41.4	59.3
Gloucester, MA	28.4	107.1	25.5	49.7	30.0	40.1
Cape May/Wildwood, NJ	29.3	94.0	36.5	64.0	28.7	58.9
Newport News, VA	15.9	6.7	19.2	6.4	26.5	8.5
Atlantic City, NJ	17.8	37.3	20.0	41.2	26.1	50.4
Stonington, ME	9.7	4.6	9.1	3.2	18.0	15.9
Pt. Pleasant, NJ	16.7	32.9	17.3	35.0	17.8	38.2
Long Beach/Barnegat Light, NJ	10.2	12.6	12.4	9.9	14.6	9.1
Southwest Harbor, ME	4.0	1.0	4.3	1.0	13.8	4.4
Provincetown/Chatham, MA	10.2	17.8	12.9	20.0	13.6	17.6
Montauk, NY	12.1	12.7	11.5	12.0	12.7	11.7
Vinalhaven, ME	7.3	3.6	9.3	4.3	12.4	8.4
Hampton, VA	8.2	8.3	8.7	7.5	11.0	6.5
Sprucehead, ME	8.5	3.8	11.8	3.9	10.8	3.7
Seaford, VA	5.1	1.5	6.9	1.6	10.5	2.3

^aEx-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for wild-caught resources prior to any onshore handling, processing, or reselling.

^bHarvested poundage consists of meat weight for uni- and bi-valved mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

^cMajor ports arbitrarily defined as those yielding \$10 million or more in ex-vessel revenue for 2000.

NMFS Northeast Region

Table 3. Preliminary ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for American lobster by state in the Northeast during 1998-2000

State	1998		1999		2000	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	137.2	47.0	184.6	53.5	187.7	57.2
Massachusetts	48.6	13.3	66.8	15.5	67.5	14.6
Rhode Island	19.1	5.4	24.8	6.4	19.7	4.9
New York	29.9	8.5	27.3	7.1	12.0	3.0
Connecticut	12.1	3.7	9.6	2.6	5.5	1.4
New Hampshire	4.7	1.2	5.9	1.4	4.9	1.2
New Jersey	2.5	0.7	3.6	0.9	3.7	0.9
Maryland	<0.1	<0.1	0.2	<0.1	0.3	0.1
Virginia	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Delaware	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Total^c	254.1	79.8	323.0	87.5	301.3	83.2

^aEx-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for wild-caught resources prior to any onshore handling, processing, or reselling.

^bHarvested poundage represents live weight.

^cTotal may differ from sums of components due to rounding error of components.

Table 4. Preliminary ex-vessel^a and farmgate^b revenue and harvested poundage^c of commercial fisheries and mariculture operations for major species^d in the Northeast during 1998-2000

State	1998		1999		2000	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
American lobster	254.1	79.8	323.0	87.5	301.3	83.2
Sea scallop	75.6	12.2	123.0	22.4	161.2	32.2
Atlantic salmon ^e	60.4	29.0	58.2	27.0	78.9	36.0
Blue crab	81.1	77.2	75.0	77.5	65.6	60.9
Goosefish (monkfish, angler)	33.2	57.4	45.9	54.6	52.7	45.1
Northern quahog (hard clam)	34.2	6.2	40.5	7.7	45.1	10.0
Atlantic surfclam	29.2	54.0	30.4	58.8	38.0	68.5
Atlantic menhaden (pogy)	41.8	517.1	33.2	415.9	30.0	403.7
Atlantic cod	25.5	24.5	23.9	21.4	26.4	25.1
Longfin inshore squid (loligo)	32.1	41.6	32.2	41.3	24.1	37.4
Green sea urchin	17.4	15.5	20.6	15.7	18.2	13.2
Bluefin tuna	12.0	2.3	14.3	2.3	17.4	2.3
Ocean quahog	18.4	39.9	18.5	38.7	17.0	32.8
Eastern oyster	22.0	5.2	22.1	4.8	15.5	3.6
Yellowtail flounder	10.9	8.1	11.4	9.8	15.4	15.3
Summer flounder (fluke)	14.4	8.2	14.4	7.9	14.1	7.9
Winter flounder						
(blackback, lemon sole)	15.1	11.2	13.0	10.3	12.7	12.8
Striped bass	9.2	6.3	10.3	6.0	11.8	6.5
Softshell (soft clam)	12.2	2.8	12.4	2.7	11.6	13.1
Haddock	7.9	6.3	9.1	6.9	11.6	8.8
Silver hake (whiting)	13.4	33.0	14.3	31.0	11.4	26.8
Atlantic herring	10.8	179.1	11.0	175.0	10.1	164.8
American plaice (dab)	10.3	8.1	8.5	6.9	9.5	9.3
Pollock	8.1	12.3	8.4	10.1	7.0	8.9
Witch flounder (gray sole)	6.5	4.1	6.6	4.7	7.0	5.4
Atlantic croaker	4.8	14.4	4.4	16.6	6.8	16.5
Swordfish	4.7	2.2	4.8	1.9	6.1	2.4
Red deepsea crab	1.8	3.5	2.0	4.1	5.0	6.9
Black sea bass	4.0	2.4	4.8	2.9	4.4	2.5
Northern shrimp	7.6	8.1	3.5	3.8	4.2	5.3
White hake	3.8	5.2	4.3	5.8	3.8	6.6
Northern shortfin squid (illex)	9.1	49.3	3.8	16.1	3.7	19.8
Spiny dogfish (Cape shark)	6.8	40.5	4.8	30.0	3.7	17.4
Skates ^f	4.1	30.7	3.2	27.8	3.7	27.1
Scup (porgy)	6.1	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.3	2.7
Conchs ^f	1.5	0.9	2.4	2.1	2.9	1.4
Weakfish (squeteague)	2.3	5.1	2.9	4.3	2.6	3.5
Tilefish	4.8	2.9	2.6	1.1	2.4	1.1
Spot	1.8	4.7	1.2	3.3	2.4	4.0
Sea worms ^f	3.4	0.7	4.0	0.8	2.1	0.4
Bigeye tuna	2.4	0.9	3.7	1.3	2.1	0.6
Atlantic mackerel	4.7	27.5	3.6	26.4	2.0	12.4
Hagfish	0.9	3.2	1.4	5.0	1.9	6.8
Bluefish	1.8	5.0	1.8	4.0	1.6	4.5
Atlantic rock crab	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.9	1.6	4.1
Yellowfin tuna	1.3	0.6	1.2	0.7	1.6	0.8
Jonah crab	1.4	2.8	1.7	3.4	1.5	2.5
Butterfish	2.4	4.2	2.6	4.6	1.4	3.1
White perch	1.1	1.7	1.0	1.8	1.2	2.4
Blue mussels	1.1	2.8	0.7	1.9	1.0	2.8

^aEx-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for wild-caught resources prior to any onshore handling, processing, or reselling.

^bFarmgate revenue is based on prices paid for mariculture-produced resources prior to transport from the mariculture site.

^cHarvested poundage consists of meat weight for bivalve and univalve mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

^dMajor species arbitrarily defined as those yielding \$1 million or more in ex-vessel or farmgate revenue for 2000.

^eEntire harvest from mariculture operations.

^fCategory comprises several species.