

NMFS Northeast Region News

Commercial Fisheries and Mariculture Revenues for Northeast Coastal States More than \$1.05 Billion in 2001



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Gloucester, MA -- Ex-vessel (dockside) revenue from commercial fisheries and farmgate revenue from mariculture (marine-based aquaculture) operations in Northeast coastal states during 2001 totaled \$1.053 billion. These revenue values are preliminary information prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS's) Northeast Region. The region's 10 coastal states are Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Data used to prepare this information were collected by NMFS and in partnership with these states.

In nominal (i.e. not adjusted for inflation) dollars, the 2001 revenues were 4.7 % lower than those in 2000, and 1.2% lower than those in 1999.

Changes in harvests and revenues from one year to the next stem from several causes, including changes in the underlying populations of sought-after fisheries species and in the effort of fishermen/mariculturists to catch/raise various species as determined by market demand, government regulations, etc.

Summary of Revenue (in nominal dollars) and Harvest Data

States: In 2001, Maine retained its first place in ex-vessel and farmgate revenues for the eighth year in a row. Maine's 2001 revenues of \$309.7 million were a 12.5% decrease from 2000, and a 4.4% decrease from 1999. The top five revenue-producing species landed or raised in Maine in 2001 were American lobster (\$161.1 million), Atlantic salmon (\$58.2 million), softshell clam (\$17.8 million), green sea urchin (\$12.7 million), and seaworms (\$9.3 million). The eggs, or "roe," of the green sea urchin are considered a delicacy in the Far East export market. Seaworms -- which encompass several species such as sandworms and bloodworms -- are highly sought as bait by marine recreational fishermen.

Six of the other nine states in the region showed increased ex-vessel and/or farmgate revenues from 2000 to 2001: New Hampshire (+27.9%), Delaware (+14.9%), Maryland (+3.2%), New Jersey (+2.4%), Connecticut (+2.2%), and Virginia (+0.9%). Only three states other than Maine showed decreased ex-vessel and/or farmgate revenues

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from 2000 to 2001: Massachusetts (-2.5%), New York (-7.4%), and Rhode Island (-9.7%).

Refer to Table 1.

Ports: In 2001, New Bedford, Massachusetts, retained its first place in ex-vessel revenues. New Bedford's 2001 revenues of \$150.5 million were a 2.9% increase over 2000, and a 15.9% increase over 1999. The top five revenue-producing species landed in New Bedford in 2001 were sea scallop (\$81.9 million), yellowtail flounder (\$10.8 million), goosefish (\$10.1 million), Atlantic cod (\$9.3 million), and winter flounder (\$8.8 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 2001, 17 Northeast fishing ports had ex-vessel revenues in excess of \$10 million, thus qualifying them for "major" port status. From 2000 to 2001, 10 of these 17 major ports showed increased revenues. In 2001, two ports joined the major ports list for the first time (Jonesport, Maine, and Stonington, Connecticut), and two ports dropped off the list from 2000 (Southwest Harbor and Sprucehead, Maine).

Refer to Table 2.

Species: In 2001, the fishery for American lobster retained its first place in ex-vessel revenue. The \$254.8 million of revenue from the 2001 lobster harvest was a 15.4% decrease over 2000, and a 21.1% decrease over 1999. Maine accounted for 63.2%, Massachusetts for 21.4%, and Rhode Island for 6.1% of revenues from the 2001 lobster harvest; all three states showed significant decreases (-14.2%, -19.3%, and -20.8%, respectively) in revenue from lobster harvests between 2000 and 2001.

Refer to Table 3.

In 2001, the fishery for sea scallop retained its second place in ex-vessel revenue. The \$172.6 million of revenue from the 2001 sea scallop harvest was a 7.1% increase over 2000, and a 40.3% increase over 1999. Massachusetts accounted for 51.3%, Virginia for 25.8%, and New Jersey for 17.4% of revenues from the 2001 sea scallop harvest; all three states showed increases (+3.8%, +6.7%, and +24.5%, respectively) in revenue from sea scallop harvests between 2000 and 2001.

Refer to Table 4.

Of the 50 species or species groups which each provided more than \$1 million in ex-vessel or farmgate revenues during 2001, 25 showed an increase over 2000. Among the top 10 species in 2001 revenue, ocean quahog (+40.6%), Atlantic cod (+21.6%), blue crab (+8.1%), sea scallop (+7.1%), and Atlantic surfclam (+4.2%) showed increased revenues over 2000; Atlantic menhaden (-7.3%), northern quahog (-12.0%), American lobster (-15.4%), goosefish (-16.7%), and Atlantic salmon (-26.2%) showed decreased revenues. Ocean quahog, a large bivalve mollusk, is most often used in prepared seafoods such as clam chowder. 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 pogey) 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.

Two low-value species, Atlantic menhaden and Atlantic herring, dominated the harvested poundage. Over 519 million pounds of menhaden were harvested in 2001, a 28.7% increase from 2000, and a 24.9% increase from 1999. Over 213 million pounds of herring were harvested in 2001, a 29.6% increase from 2000, and a 22.1% increase from 1999. 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 2001, among the top dozen revenue-producing

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species, six were mollusk species (i.e., sea scallop, northern quahog, Atlantic surfclam, ocean quahog, longfin inshore squid, and softshell) and two were crustacean species (i.e., American lobster and blue crab).

Refer to Table 5.

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.

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 1999-2001

State	1999		2000		2001	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	323.8	256.8	354.1	262.9	309.7	269.0
Massachusetts	260.2	198.3	288.3	187.9	281.1	242.1
Virginia	108.3	460.0	118.3	443.2	119.4	561.7
New Jersey	97.7	168.7	107.2	171.8	109.8	168.4
Rhode Island	79.3	126.2	72.5	119.3	65.5	116.0
Maryland	63.8	67.1	53.9	48.9	55.6	55.5
New York	76.0	48.2	59.4	41.2	55.0	42.4
Connecticut	38.1	18.4	31.2	19.6	31.9	19.3
New Hampshire	12.5	11.3	14.0	17.2	17.9	18.6
Delaware	6.9	8.4	6.7	6.7	7.7	7.1
Total^d	1,066.6	1,363.4	1,105.5	1,318.6	1,053.7^e	1,505.1^e

^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 (e.g., sea scallop) and univalve (e.g., conchs) mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

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

^eTotal includes 4.9 million pounds collectively of Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel, worth \$0.2 million, which were not landed in any state, but transferred to foreign buyers at sea.

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Table 2. Preliminary ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for major ports^c in the Northeast during 1999-2001 Page 4 of 6

Port	1999		2000		2001	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
New Bedford, MA	129.9	86.1	146.3	89.0	150.5	106.9
Portland, ME	42.4	55.6	45.4	62.8	33.7	86.4
Pt. Judith, RI	51.2	72.5	41.4	59.3	33.6	48.5
Cape May/Wildwood, NJ	36.5	64.0	28.7	58.9	33.0	66.4
Newport News, VA	19.2	6.4	26.5	8.5	29.7	11.3
Gloucester, MA	25.5	49.7	30.0	40.1	29.4	75.3
Atlantic City, NJ	20.0	41.2	26.1	50.4	25.2	45.5
Vinalhaven, ME	9.3	4.3	12.4	8.4	19.0	12.2
Pt. Pleasant, NJ	17.3	35.0	17.8	38.2	18.7	32.1
Chatham/Provincetown, MA	12.9	20.0	13.6	17.6	15.9	16.6
Long Beach/Barnegat Light, NJ	12.4	9.9	14.6	9.1	14.4	10.4
Stonington, ME	9.1	3.2	18.0	15.9	13.3	22.3
Montauk, NY	11.5	12.0	12.7	11.7	13.1	14.3
Hampton, VA	8.7	7.5	11.0	6.5	12.3	8.2
Jonesport, ME	7.0	2.5	9.1	3.2	10.5	4.1
Seaford, VA	6.9	1.6	10.5	2.3	10.3	3.1
Stonington, CT	8.7	7.6	9.7	9.5	10.0	8.9

^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 bivalve (e.g., sea scallop) and univalve (e.g., conchs) mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

^cMajor ports arbitrarily defined as those yielding \$10 million or more in ex-vessel revenue for 2001.

Table 3. Preliminary ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for American lobster by state in the Northeast during 1999-2001

State	1999		2000		2001	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	184.6	53.5	187.7	57.2	161.1	50.7
Massachusetts	66.8	15.5	67.5	14.6	54.5	13.3
Rhode Island	24.8	6.4	19.7	4.9	15.6	3.7
New Hampshire	5.9	1.4	4.9	1.2	8.1	2.0
New York	27.3	7.1	12.0	3.0	7.4	2.1
Connecticut	9.6	2.6	5.5	1.4	5.9	1.4
New Jersey	3.6	0.9	3.7	0.9	2.1	0.5
Maryland	0.2	<0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	<0.1
Delaware	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Virginia	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Total^c	323.0	87.5	301.3	83.2	254.8	73.7

^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.

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Table 4. Preliminary ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for sea scallop by state in the Northeast during 1999-2001

State	1999		2000		2001	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Massachusetts	70.3	12.3	85.3	16.2	88.5	22.9
Virginia	27.5	5.6	41.7	9.2	44.5	12.7
New Jersey	14.7	2.8	24.1	4.9	30.0	8.2
Connecticut	4.2	0.8	4.0	0.8	6.3	1.7
Maine	4.4	0.6	3.9	0.7	1.2	0.2
New York	<0.1	<0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3
New Hampshire	0.5	<0.1	0.5	<0.1	0.7	0.2
Rhode Island	1.3	0.2	1.4	0.2	0.7	0.2
Maryland	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1
Delaware	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total^c	123.0	22.4	161.2	32.2	172.6	46.3

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

^bHarvested poundage represents meat weight.

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

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Table 5. 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 1999-2001

Species	1999		2000		2001	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
American lobster	323.0	87.5	301.3	83.2	254.8	73.7
Sea scallop	123.0	22.4	161.2	32.2	172.6	46.3
Blue crab	75.0	77.5	65.6	60.9	70.9	61.0
Atlantic salmon ^e	58.2	27.0	78.9	36.0	58.2	29.1
Goosefish (monkfish, angler)	45.9	54.6	52.7	45.1	43.9	51.2
Northern quahog (hard clam)	40.5	7.7	45.1	10.0	39.7	8.5
Atlantic surfclam	30.4	58.8	38.0	68.5	39.6	68.9
Atlantic cod	23.9	21.4	26.4	25.1	32.1	33.2
Atlantic menhaden (pogy)	33.2	415.9	30.0	403.7	27.8	519.4
Ocean quahog	18.5	38.7	17.0	32.8	23.9	38.0
Longfin inshore squid (loligo)	32.2	41.3	24.1	37.4	20.7	31.3
Softshell (soft clam)	12.4	2.7	11.6	2.7	19.0	3.5
Bluefin tuna	14.3	2.3	17.4	2.3	17.2	2.6
Yellowtail flounder	11.4	9.8	15.4	15.3	15.3	16.1
Haddock	9.1	6.9	11.6	8.8	14.5	12.8
Winter flounder (blackback, lemon sole)	13.0	10.3	12.7	12.8	13.8	15.3
Summer flounder (fluke)	14.4	7.9	14.1	7.9	13.3	8.2
Silver hake (whiting)	14.3	31.0	11.4	26.8	13.3	28.6
Atlantic herring	11.0	175.0	10.1	164.8	12.9	213.6
Green sea urchin	20.6	15.7	18.2	13.2	12.7	9.9
Eastern oyster	22.1	4.8	15.5	3.6	12.6	2.7
Striped bass	10.3	6.0	11.8	6.5	10.8	5.9
American plaice (dab)	8.5	6.9	9.5	9.3	9.5	9.8
Sea worms ^f	4.0	0.8	2.1	0.4	9.3	1.4
Red deepsea crab	2.0	4.1	5.0	6.9	8.1	8.8
Witch flounder (gray sole)	6.6	4.7	7.0	5.4	7.9	6.7
Pollock	8.4	10.1	7.0	8.9	6.2	9.1
Swordfish	4.8	1.9	6.1	2.4	4.5	1.8
Atlantic croaker	4.4	16.6	6.8	16.5	4.2	16.6
Black sea bass	4.8	2.9	4.4	2.5	4.0	2.6
White hake	4.3	5.8	3.8	6.6	3.9	7.7
Scup (pogy)	4.2	3.3	3.3	2.7	3.4	4.1
Skates ^f	3.2	27.8	3.7	27.1	3.4	28.9
Tilefishes ^f	2.6	1.1	2.4	1.1	3.3	1.9
Butterfish	2.6	4.6	1.4	3.1	3.2	9.7
Northern shrimp	3.5	3.8	4.2	5.3	2.4	2.7
Bigeye tuna	3.7	1.3	2.1	0.6	2.3	0.7
Atlantic mackerel	3.6	26.4	2.0	12.4	2.2	27.2
Conchs ^f	2.4	2.1	2.9	1.4	2.2	1.2
Blue mussels	0.7	1.9	1.0	2.8	2.1	3.1
Weakfish (squeteague)	2.9	4.3	2.6	3.5	2.0	3.0
Northern shortfin squid (illex)	3.8	16.1	3.7	19.8	1.9	8.8
Bluefish	1.8	4.0	1.6	4.5	1.7	4.5
Jonah crab	1.7	3.4	1.5	2.5	1.7	2.7
Channeled whelk	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.6	0.6
Spot	1.2	3.3	2.4	4.0	1.5	3.6
Catfishes ^f	1.1	3.6	0.9	3.0	1.5	3.5
Yellowfin tuna	1.2	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.3	0.6
Spiny dogfish (Cape shark)	4.8	30.0	3.7	17.4	1.1	4.9
White perch	1.0	1.8	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.3

^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 (e.g., sea scallop) and univalve (e.g., conchs) 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 2001.

^eEntire harvest from mariculture operations.

^fCategory comprises several species.

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