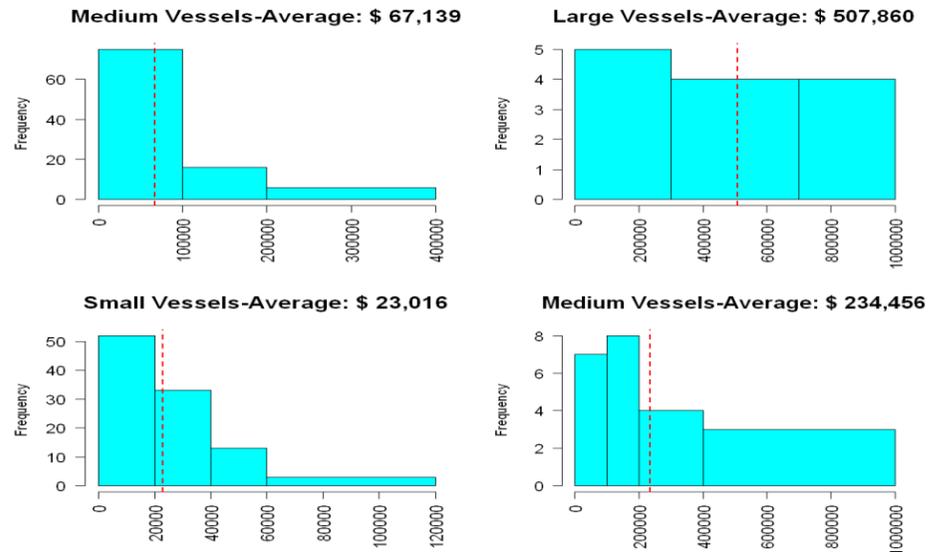


Crew Payment Data

Owner Operated Vessels

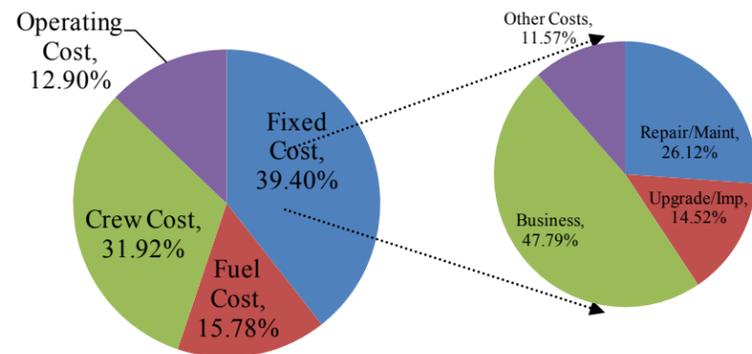
Hired Captain Operated Vessels



There were 315 vessels who reported information on the status of the captain (hired or owner operated). Of the 39 vessels operated by hired captains, 36 of them reported their crew costs. Of the 276 vessels operated by owners, 199 reported crew costs. On average, owner operated vessels hired 1 crew, whereas vessels operated by hired captains employed 4 crew members. Owner operated vessels are mostly small, while vessels operated by hired captains are mostly large. The average crew cost is much higher for vessels with hired captains (\$327,000) than for owner operated vessels (\$45,915).

Aggregate Cost Data

Total annual fishing cost consists of repair/maintenance costs, upgrade/improvements costs, business costs, crew costs, and operating costs. A major part of operating costs is the cost of fuel. The following diagram shows percentage shares of major costs components.



Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments, please contact our researchers.

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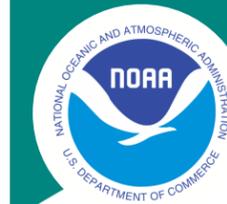
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Science, Service, Stewardship



Social Sciences Branch
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey 2011

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Purpose of Study

The Social Sciences Branch (SSB) of the NEFSC recently conducted a survey of vessel owners about their annual fishing costs for calendar year 2011. This cost information, along with the trip cost data collected by the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, helps SSB improve its analyses. Improved analyses help fisheries managers to:

- Better understand the economic and social impacts of fisheries management regulations and incorporate this information in the decision making process.
- Recognize differential impacts of the regulations on different fishing industries, ports, fishing groups, and fishing communities.
- Evaluate management measures based on impacts on net benefits.

Study Methods

This survey effort began in early August, 2012 and was completed in early January, 2013. The survey was offered via mail and on the web. Surveys were sent to 1,703 fishing vessels in the Northeast (Maine to Virginia), who were selected randomly from a population stratified by primary gear group and vessel length. Preliminary results from this study are included in this document. Collection of cost information for calendar year 2012 is currently underway.

Survey Structure

- I. Vessel Information*
- II. Repair/Maintenance/Upgrade/Improvement Costs*
- III. Fishing Business Costs*
- IV. Operating Costs*
- V. Crew Payments System*
- VI. Other Costs*

We are on the web

<http://nefsc.noaa.gov/read/socialsci/>

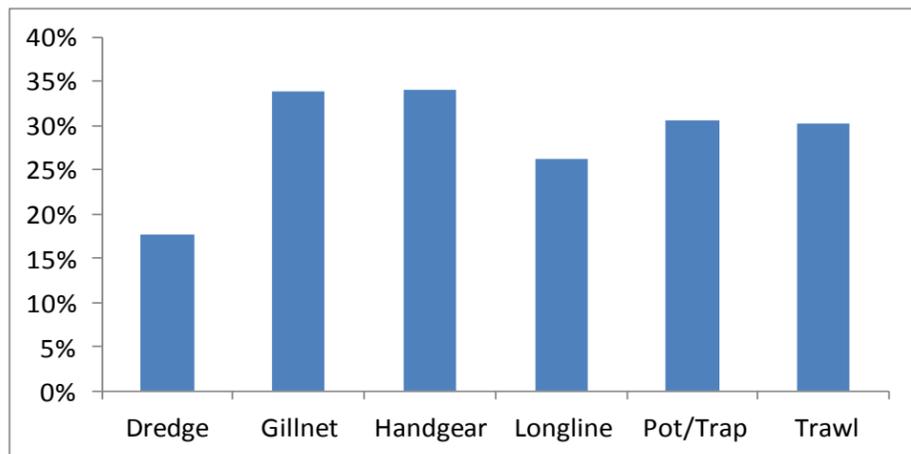
PLEASE NOTE: These results are preliminary and **SUBJECT TO CHANGE** until the final release. **Additional results, including cost and revenue breakdowns by gear type and vessel size, will be available on our website. Results will be updated as they are finalized.**

Survey Administration and Participation Data

- The cost analyses presented here are only for commercial vessels. Responses from charter/party boats are not included.
- The number of commercial fishing vessels that received the survey was: **1,290**.
- The number of complete and partially complete surveys was: **375 (29%)**.
Mail submissions: 307 (82%); Online submissions: 68 (18%).

Response Frequencies by Primary Gear Groups

Most of the vessels (44%) in the sample used Pot/Trap as their primary gear. The response rate for this gear group is 31%. The response rates for the remaining gear groups vary from 18% to 34%.



Vessel Information

Average Market Value of the Vessel

(Including gear, permits, and history): \$528,369

Average Vessel:

Length (feet): 46
Gross Tons: 41
Horse Power: 444
Year built: 1987

% of Vessels With:

Sole Proprietorship: 60%; Corporation: 37%
Owner operated: 83%; Hired captain: 16%
Loan on vessels: 49%
Insurance Coverage (Hull and P& I): 85%

Data Analysis Notes

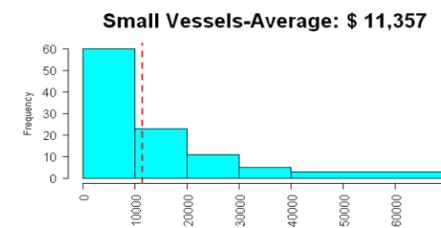
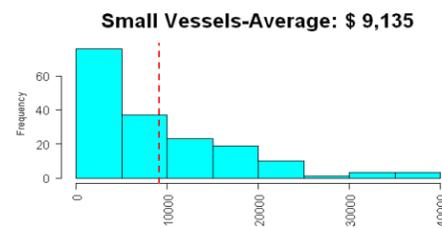
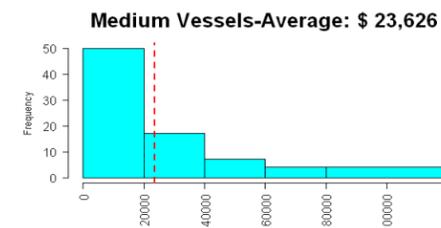
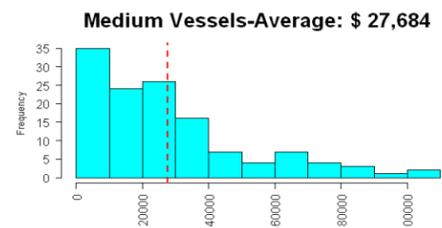
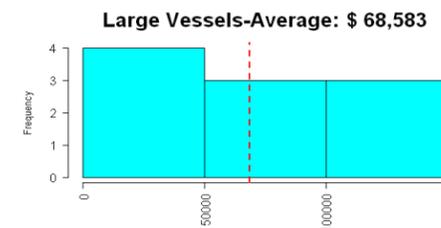
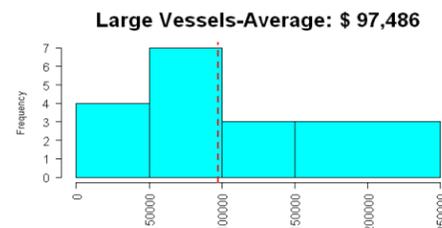
Results are summarized for:

- Total of 331 vessels after removing outliers.
- Only non-zero values are considered for calculating averages and cost distributions.
- Summaries with less than 3 vessels are not reported.

Repair, Maintenance, Upgrade and Improvement Costs

Survey respondents were asked to report these costs by seven different categories: engine, deck equipment, hull, gear, wheel house/gear electronics, processing/refrigeration, and safety equipment.

Repair/Maintenance Costs by Length Category Upgrade/Improvement Costs by Length Category



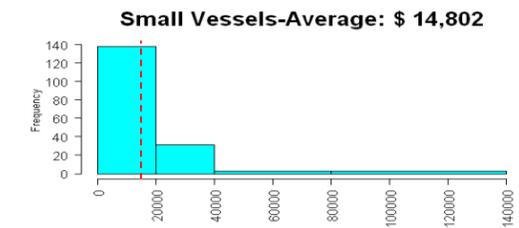
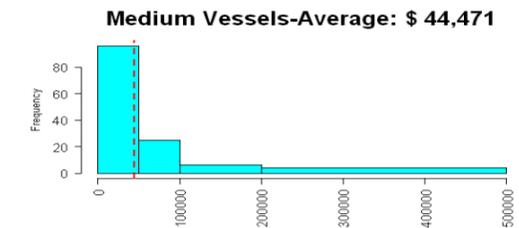
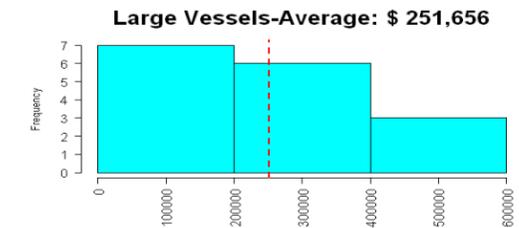
Of the 331 responses used for this analysis, 319 reported repair/maintenance costs and 195 reported upgrade/improvement costs. The average cost for repair/maintenance is \$21,322, slightly higher than the average expense for upgrade/improvement (\$19,394).

As the figures show, the average repair/maintenance cost exceeds the average upgrade/improvement cost for large and medium vessels. For small vessels, however, the average expense on upgrade/improvement exceeds the average repair/maintenance cost.

Please Note:

- The continuous vessel lengths were categorized into three length groups for reporting cost summaries.
Large: greater than 80 ft; Medium: between 40 and 80 ft; Small: less than 40 ft.
- The red dotted line in each graph indicates the average cost.

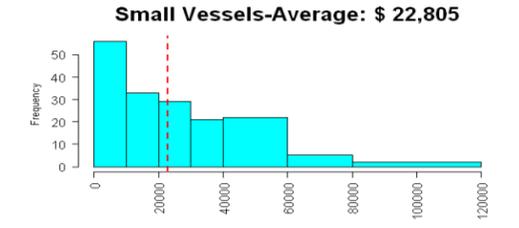
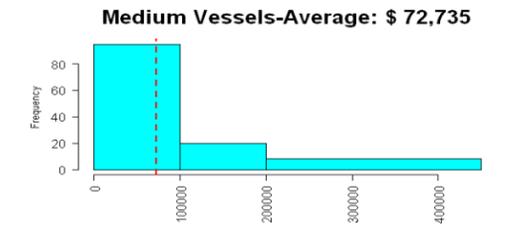
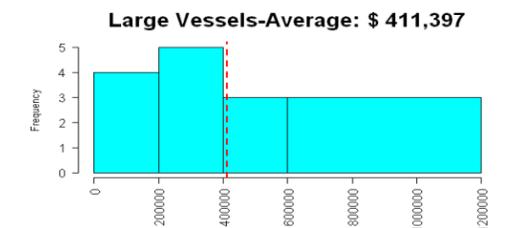
Fishing Business Costs by Length Category



Fishing business costs include mooring fees, office expenses, permit fees, business travel costs, interest paid on loans, etc.

Of the 331 responses, 323 reported their business costs. On average, the business costs for large vessels are about 5 times higher than those for medium size vessels and about 15 times greater than those for small vessels. The overall average business cost is \$38,531.

Operating Costs by Length Category



There were 306 vessel owners who reported their operating costs, which include expenses for items such as fuel, food, bait, ice, fishing supplies, and communication.

Average operating costs for large vessels substantially exceed the average operating costs of medium and small vessels. The overall average operating cost is \$61,754.

Fuel accounts for about 70% of the operating costs for large vessels, 56% for medium vessels, and about 44% for small vessels.