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Northeast Fisheries Science Center

NEWS



SOFT CLAMS MAKE STRONG COMEBACK IN NAVESINK AND SHREWSBURY RIVERS

**For Immediate
Release**

April 12, 1995

Sandy Hook, N.J.---For fishermen wondering why soft clams have disappeared from the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers in recent years, there's good news and bad news. The bad news? Killifish are eating loads of young soft clams. The good news? The 1993 sets of the clams were so heavy that the killifish can eat all they need and there will still be plenty for clammers this year, if the shellfish survive into July.

By summer, the 1993 clams will be large enough for the fishery to harvest, and it should be a banner year according to Clyde L. MacKenzie, Jr., a researcher at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) James J. Howard Laboratory. He estimates there are about 300 acres of clams in the two rivers, and 4000 to 5000 bushels of clams per acre. "This is an extremely dense concentration and would provide great harvesting for the local fishermen in the next few years," he says.

MacKenzie has studied shellfish for more than 30 years. In a recent study, he's discovered that both the striped and common killifish prey heavily on juvenile soft clams, so heavily that light to moderate sets in the rivers are wiped out and few clams grow large enough for fishermen. In the past five years, the clams have been so scarce that there's been no fishery and local buyers have purchased soft clams from suppliers in Maryland and Maine. However, dense sets provide more than enough clams to go around, MacKenzie says.

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Soft clams

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To reach these conclusions, MacKenzie examined clam beds in, and the stomachs of killifish taken from, each river. In 1993, the set in each river was more than 20 times heavier than the 1994 sets. When he examined the stomachs of killifish from both rivers, MacKenzie found a high percentage of juvenile clams up to 10 millimeters (two fifths of an inch) long among the very young horseshoe crabs, snails, worms, barnacles, sea lettuce, and detritus also present in the fishes' guts. The killifish apparently could not eat clams larger than 10 millimeters.

While the heavy 1993 set is maturing into a large, healthy fishable population, the more modest 1994 set is virtually gone. MacKenzie reports that in June 1994, a bed in the Navesink River had about 160 clams per square yard, but by late July all the clams were gone. The story was the same in the Shrewsbury River, where the 1994 sample site yielded 537 clams per square yard in early July and none a month later.

"It looks as though killifish probably eliminate most of a set of soft clams every year when the fish are abundant," MacKenzie says. "However, they can only get a portion of heavy sets, such as the one in 1993, before the clams become too large for them to consume." He also points out that in some years there may also be other factors that influence survival of young clams including predation by blue crabs, water temperatures, dissolved oxygen levels, and severe weather.

MacKenzie is assigned to the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). He is the author of many scientific papers on shellfish and the book, "The Fisheries of Raritan Bay," a history of the local industry. The NMFS is the federal agency responsible for living marine resources, and is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Center is the research arm of NMFS in the Northeast region.

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NEWS



**For Immediate
Release**

October 2, 1995

MAINE REPLACES MASSACHUSETTS AS TOP SEAFOOD REVENUE-PRODUCING STATE IN NORTHEAST

Woods Hole, MA--In revenues produced, Maine replaced Massachusetts as the top commercial fisheries state in the Northeast. Maine accounted for \$245 million in dockside (*i.e.*, from wild harvests) and farmgate (*i.e.*, from aquaculture harvests) fisheries revenues, an increase of \$20 million over 1993. Massachusetts accounted for \$206 million in dockside and farmgate fisheries revenues, a decrease of \$32 million from 1993. Virginia was third among states in 1994 fisheries revenues at \$101 million. Regionwide, fisheries revenues increased from \$887 to \$911 million between 1993 and 1994.

In pounds landed, Virginia and Maine retained their first- and second-place rankings from 1993 to 1994. Both states showed significant decreases in pounds landed: Virginia at 581 million pounds, down by 77 million; and Maine at 234 million pounds, down by 18 million. Massachusetts landed 183 million pounds. Regionwide, fisheries landings decreased from 1.65 billion to 1.47 billion pounds. See Table 1.

These fisheries revenue and landings data come from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Mass. A small amount of data has not yet been collected and/or tabulated, so all data remain provisional. Annual landings figures are compiled from information collected both by the federal service and state governments. Annual figures are usually available by mid-summer of the following year, but were delayed for 1994 because several states reported later than in the past.

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1994 Landings

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Ports

In revenues produced, New Bedford, Mass., and Portland, Maine, retained their first- and second-place rankings from 1993 to 1994. Both ports showed significant decreases in revenues produced: New Bedford at \$82 million, down by \$25 million; and Portland at \$44 million, down by \$6 million. Pt. Judith, R.I., (\$37 million) replaced Cape May/Wildwood, N.J. (\$34 million) for the third spot among ports.

In pounds landed, Cape May/Wildwood retained its first-place ranking from 1993 to 1994. It showed a significant decrease, from 95 to 85 million pounds. New Bedford (66 million pounds) and Portland (64 million pounds) exchanged the second and third spots from 1993 to 1994. See Table 2.

Species

The American lobster fishery accounted for the most revenues in the Northeast in 1994 at \$200 million. It was followed by sea scallop (\$84 million) and blue crab (\$73 million).

The Atlantic menhaden fishery accounted for the most landings in the region last year at 550 million pounds. It was followed by Atlantic herring (100 million pounds) and blue crab (90 million pounds). Menhaden, a non-seafood species, is used primarily for production of meal, oil, and solubles, and secondarily for livestock feed and for bait by commercial and recreational fishermen.

Three species of special interest are the Northeast's "traditional" groundfishes: Atlantic cod, yellowtail flounder, and haddock. Atlantic cod landings (39 million pounds) decreased from 1993 to 1994 by 24%. Yellowtail flounder landings (6.8 million pounds) decreased by 15%. Haddock landings (1 million pounds) decreased by 63%. For a longer-term perspective, in the last 10 years (*i.e.*, since 1984), Atlantic cod landings have decreased by 60%, yellowtail flounder landings by 81%, and haddock landings by 97%.

See Tables 3 and 4.

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Table 1.

**Poundage^a and revenue of commercial fisheries landings by
state in the Northeast during 1993 and 1994**

State	1993		1994	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	225.3	251.7	245.4	233.9
Massachusetts	238.2	223.2	205.9	183.3
Virginia	65.9	657.9	101.4	581.3
New Jersey	96.3	196.1	99.8	201.4
Rhode Island	79.2	131.7	76.9	111.7
New York	61.2	58.2	59.4	53.5
Maryland	53.4	85.0	58.7	65.1
Connecticut	49.3	26.5	44.4	19.8
New Hampshire	12.9	11.3	12.7	12.1
Delaware	5.3	8.3	6.3	8.2
Total	887.0	1,649.9	910.8^b	1,470.3

^a Poundage of bivalve (*e.g.*, sea scallops) and gastropod (*e.g.*, conchs) mollusks computed as meat weight; all other poundage computed as live weight.

^b Regional value appears to differ from sum of state values due to rounding off of individual state values.

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Table 2.

Poundage^a and revenue of commercial fisheries landings by major port^b in the Northeast during 1993 and 1994

Port	1993		1994	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
New Bedford, MA	107.5	82.1	82.4	65.8
Portland, ME	49.1	86.1	43.6	63.9
Pt. Judith, RI	35.2	60.4	36.5	61.7
Cape May/Wildwood, NJ	36.2	95.0	33.8	85.2
Gloucester, MA	31.3	67.6	27.3	50.1
Atlantic City, NJ	17.8	41.6	20.9	42.8
Pt. Pleasant, NJ	12.2	21.9	15.3	37.0
Hampton, VA	9.9	5.6	15.1	6.8
Montauk, NY	11.7	12.3	14.7	10.5
Newport, RI	11.2	11.9	12.1	12.1
Provincetown/Chatham, MA	10.9	19.2	10.5	18.6

^a Poundage of bivalve (*e.g.*, sea scallops) and gastropod (*e.g.*, conchs) mollusks computed as meat weight; all other poundage computed as live weight.

^b Major ports arbitrarily defined as those yielding \$10 million or more in ex-vessel revenue.

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Table 3.

**Poundage^a and revenue of commercial fisheries landings
by major species^b in the Northeast during 1993 and 1994**

Species	1993		1994	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
American lobster	160.4	58.0	200.0	67.8
Sea scallop	97.9	16.2	84.0	16.8
Blue crab	47.8	80.8	73.0	89.8
Atlantic surfclam	33.4	72.5	43.9	72.6
Atlantic cod	45.0	50.6	36.2	38.7
Eastern oyster	35.9	9.2	35.8	9.3
Atlantic salmon ^c	42.6	14.9	35.6	13.5
Green sea urchin	27.2	42.4	33.4	38.9
Atlantic menhaden	41.9	698.9	33.4	549.8
Longfin squid	29.6	49.1	31.9	49.8
Northern quahog	31.6	6.7	30.6	5.9
Goosefish	21.7	44.8	26.1	42.0
Bluefin tuna	19.3	2.2	19.6	2.2
Ocean quahog	29.3	57.7	18.7	46.6
Summer flounder	15.3	9.7	18.3	11.0
Silver hake	14.0	38.2	13.7	35.4
American plaice	15.0	12.8	13.5	11.2
Softshell	20.5	4.6	12.5	2.6
Winter flounder	15.3	11.6	11.2	7.9
Northern shortfin squid	8.5	39.7	10.4	40.4
Witch flounder	9.0	5.7	9.3	5.9
Swordfish	9.9	3.4	8.5	2.8
Yellowtail flounder	10.4	8.0	8.1	6.8
Bigeye tuna	5.9	1.7	7.7	1.8
Pollock	8.4	12.5	6.8	8.3
Northern shrimp	5.2	5.1	6.5	8.2
Scup	5.7	9.7	5.8	8.8

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Table 3. Continued

Species	1993		1994	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Atlantic herring	6.5	109.1	5.8	99.7
White hake	7.2	16.5	5.7	10.4
Skates ^d	3.0	28.4	5.0	19.5
Spiny dogfish	4.6	34.9	4.3	29.4
Butterfish	6.8	9.8	4.1	8.0
Sea worms ^d	3.5	0.9	3.8	0.9
Tilefish	5.0	4.1	3.4	1.7
Striped bass	2.7	1.3	2.9	1.6
Atlantic mackerel	1.3	10.3	2.6	19.7
Atlantic croaker	0.2	0.7	2.5	6.1
American eel	1.3	0.9	2.3	1.5
Black sea bass	2.9	3.0	2.2	1.9
Yellowfin tuna	2.6	1.3	2.0	1.3
Blue mussel	2.7	6.6	1.9	5.4
Bluefish	1.9	6.2	1.9	6.7
Weakfish	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.4
Bay scallop	1.6	0.2	1.8	0.3
Spot	0.1	0.3	1.6	4.3
Cusk	1.7	3.1	1.4	2.4
Jonah crab	1.0	2.4	1.3	2.7
Sharks ^{d,e}	1.9	2.1	1.2	1.0
Conchs ^d	2.2	1.4	1.2	1.6
Rainbow trout ^c	1.2	0.7	1.1	0.6
Haddock	2.7	1.9	1.0	0.7
White perch	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.3
Catfishes ^d	0.4	1.2	1.0	2.9

^a Poundage of bivalve (e.g., sea scallops) and gastropod (e.g., conchs) mollusks computed as meat weight; all other poundage computed as live weight.

^b Major species arbitrarily defined as those yielding \$1 million or more in ex-vessel revenue.

^c Entire harvest from aquacultural operations.

^d Category comprises several species.

^e Category does not include spiny dogfish.

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Table 4.

**Poundage and revenue of commercial lobster landings
by state in the Northeast during 1993 and 1994**

State	1993		1994	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	73.9	29.9	100.9	38.9
Massachusetts	43.1	14.3	58.4	16.1
Rhode Island	18.8	6.2	21.0	6.5
Connecticut	6.5	2.2	6.2	2.3
New York	9.1	2.7	5.7	1.7
New Hampshire	5.6	1.7	5.6	1.7
New Jersey	3.2	0.9	2.1	0.6
Maryland	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Delaware	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Virginia	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Total	160.4	58.0	200.0	67.8

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News



**For Immediate
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February 28, 1996

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NR96-5

Northeast Commercial Fish Landings and Revenues Steady at Largest Ports for First Half of 1995

Gloucester, MA--Preliminary data on commercial fisheries landings and revenues for the Northeast's largest fishing ports are now available for the first six months of 1995. Data released today by the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS's) Northeast Region on the 11 largest ports show first-half (January-June) landings over the past three years (1993-95) decreased by 1%; ex-vessel (dockside) revenues decreased by 9%.

Changes in landings and revenues from one year to the next stem from many causes. Examples include consolidation of purchasing at particular ports, and changes in the populations of the sought-after species, fishing effort, markets, regulations, quotas, and so on.

Landings data provide some measure of the extraction of the various species from Northeast waters. However, such data by themselves do not indicate the health of the fish stocks, or the economic health or viability of the industry or specific ports.

Updates on Harvest Data

Data on commercial fisheries harvests in federal waters (generally from 3 to 200 miles offshore) in the Northeast, which are collected by NMFS, will be available for all of 1995 during late spring 1996.

Landings from state waters (generally 0 to 3 miles offshore) are collected by state agents and reported to the fisheries service on a variable schedule. By mid-fall 1996, enough data on commercial fisheries and aquacultural harvests in state

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NMFS Northeast Region

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1995 Fish Data

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waters will have been made available to NMFS by the states in the Northeast to permit a report of preliminary 1995 landings and revenues for all states, ports, and species in the region.

Ports and Species

Ports: First-half data reports for **landings** at large commercial fishing ports (Table 1) in the Northeast during 1993-95 show increases in four ports, no change in one port, and decreases at six ports. First-half data reports for ex-vessel **revenues** at large commercial fishing ports in the Northeast during 1993-95 show net increases at five ports, no change at one port, and net decreases at five ports.

Species: Twenty-one species contributed more than \$1 million each in ex-vessel revenues during the first-half of 1995 at the 11 aforementioned ports (Table 2). Data presented here on species primarily landed during the second half of the year (for example, long-finned squid, American lobster, and Atlantic herring) do not indicate annual landings. Other species that will eventually account for significant revenue (for example, bluefin tuna and blue crab) do not appear in the table because they too are primarily harvested in the second half of the year. Northern shrimp, scup, Atlantic mackerel, and butterfish are primarily landed in the first half of the year.

First-half data show net increases in first-half **landings** for seven species between 1993 and 1995, one showed no change, and 13 showed net decreases in landings. First-half data show net increases in first-half ex-vessel **revenues** during 1993-95 for 11 species, and net decreases for 10 species.

Data Notes

- Before mid-1994, almost all landings and revenue data were collected through voluntary reporting, and were known to be underreported.
- Since mid-1994, data have been collected through a combination of mandatory and voluntary reporting. It is too early to assess how this reporting change may influence comparisons between data collected before and after the change.
- NMFS is working to improve the timeliness of federal data collection, most notably by investigating systems for electronic reporting by dealers.
- Data on species primarily landed at smaller ports (such as American lobster or softshell clams), are reported later in the year than data for species primarily landed at larger ports (such as sea scallop or Atlantic cod).
- Data on aquacultural harvests are reported by state agencies annually, usually in the summer for the prior year.

Editor's Note

This release can also be downloaded from our web page:

<http://www.wh.who.edu/noaa.html>

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NMFS Northeast Region

1995 Fish Data

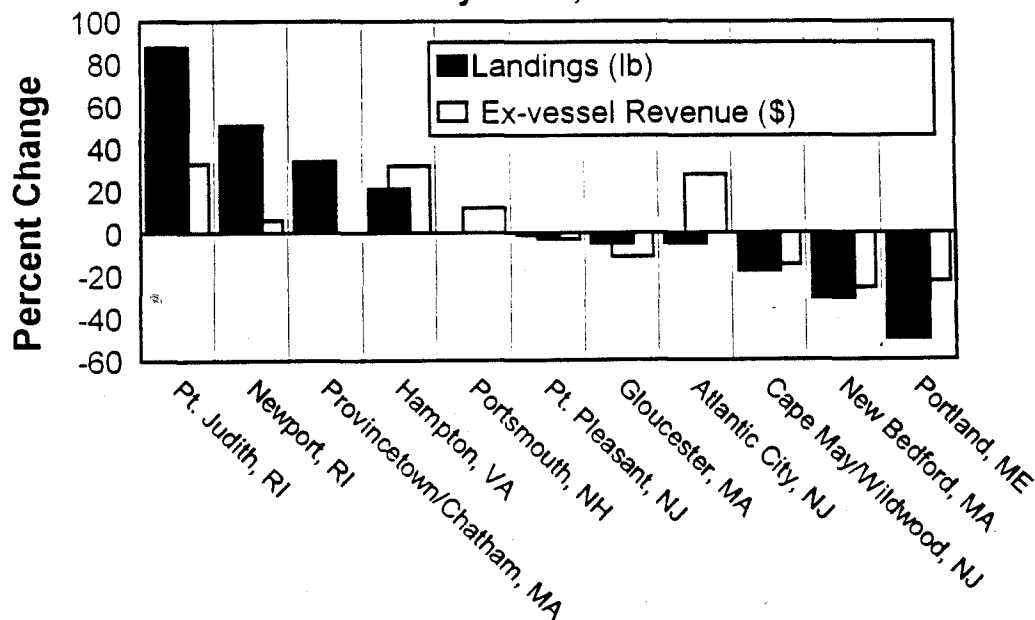
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Table 1. Ex-vessel revenue^a and landed poundage^b of commercial fisheries harvests for selected ports^c in the Northeast during the first six months of 1993, 1994, and 1995

Port Name	1993		1994		1995	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
New Bedford, MA	51.7	30.3	34.6	21.9	38.3	21.3
Pt. Judith, RI	14.4	28.7	14.6	29.4	19.2	54.1
Portland, ME	20.9	27.0	17.6	18.5	16.1	13.4
Cape May/Wildwood, NJ	17.7	39.2	15.3	36.4	15.1	32.0
Gloucester, MA	14.2	21.8	11.3	21.1	12.7	20.8
Atlantic City, NJ	8.6	21.2	10.5	20.1	11.0	20.1
Hampton, VA	5.3	3.3	6.6	3.7	7.0	4.0
Pt. Pleasant, NJ	6.3	11.9	7.3	14.8	6.1	11.8
Newport, RI	4.8	5.3	5.2	5.6	5.1	8.0
Provincetown/Chatham, MA	4.4	5.0	3.9	4.9	4.4	6.7
Portsmouth, NH	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.1
TOTAL	150.0	195.8	128.8	178.7	136.9	194.3

[a] Ex-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for the harvest prior to any on-shore handling, processing, or reselling. [b] Landed poundage generally consists of meat weight for bivalve (e.g., sea scallops) and gastropod (e.g., conchs) mollusks, and a combination of round weight (i.e., equivalent to live weight) and dressed weight (e.g., gilled and gutted weight) for all other species. [c] Ports selected were those which accounted for more than \$10 million in ex-vessel revenues for all of 1994, with two exceptions. First, Portsmouth, NH, was added to ensure some representation for the state of New Hampshire. Second, Montauk, NY, which usually appears as a major port in the annual landings report, was deleted here because data are not yet available for the first six months.

Percent Change, Landings & Revenue by Port January-June, 1993-1995



NMFS Northeast Region

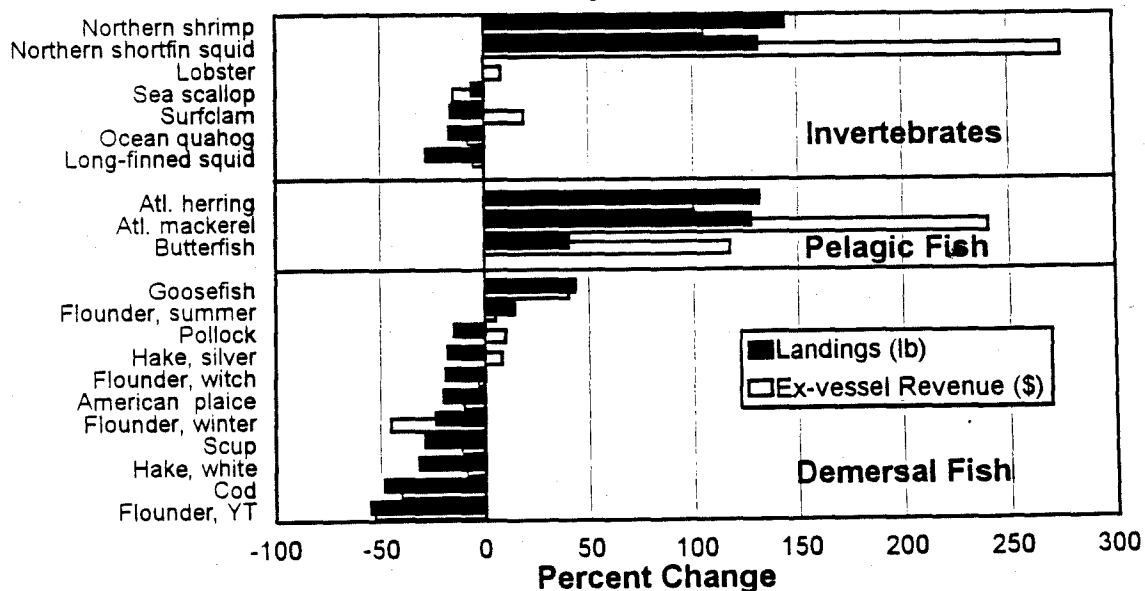
Table 2: Ex-vessel revenue^a and landed poundage^b of commercial fisheries harvests of selected species^c for selected ports^d in the Northeast during the first six months of 1993, 1994, and 1995

Species	1993		1994		1995	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Sea scallop	36.9	6.8	27.6	5.4	31.2	6.4
Atlantic surfclam	11.2	25.4	14.8	25.6	13.3	21.4
Atlantic cod	18.8	19.2	16.0	18.3	11.2	9.9
Goosefish	7.8	5.8	7.4	6.5	10.9	8.3
Longfin squid	8.8	20.0	6.6	9.9	8.4	14.4
Summer flounder	6.0	3.5	5.9	3.7	6.3	4.0
Ocean quahog	6.2	16.9	5.1	13.2	5.7	14.0
American lobster	5.1	1.3	5.5	1.5	5.5	1.3
American plaice	6.0	5.1	5.2	4.2	5.4	4.1
Northern shrimp	1.9	1.8	1.5	2.0	3.9	4.4
Witch flounder	3.9	2.7	3.7	2.5	3.8	2.2
Pollock	3.0	3.9	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.0
Winter flounder	5.3	3.8	3.3	2.2	2.9	2.1
Yellowtail flounder	5.5	4.0	2.1	1.6	2.6	1.8
Silver hake	2.4	8.0	2.8	7.9	2.6	6.6
Scup	2.8	5.1	2.5	5.0	2.5	3.6
White hake	2.3	3.1	2.1	2.6	2.1	2.0
Atlantic mackerel	0.5	6.4	1.2	12.9	1.7	14.5
Atlantic herring	0.8	13.0	0.8	15.7	1.6	30.0
Northern shortfin squid	0.4	2.9	1.4	8.5	1.5	6.7
Butterfish	0.6	1.5	1.2	2.6	1.3	2.1
TOTAL	134.8	160.2	119.5	155.0	127.7	162.8

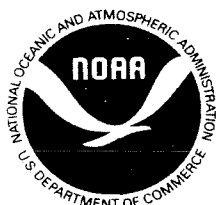
[a] Ex-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for the harvest prior to any on-shore handling, processing, or reselling. [b] Landed poundage generally consists of meat weight for bivalve (e.g., sea scallops) and gastropod (e.g., conchs) mollusks, and a combination of round weight (i.e., equivalent to live weight) and dressed weight (e.g., gilled and gutted weight) for all other species. [c] Species selected were those which accounted for more than \$1 million in ex-vessel revenues at the selected ports for the first six months of 1995. [d] Ports selected were the same as in Table 1. See Footnote C in Table 1 for details.

Percent Change, Landings & Revenue by Species at 11 Selected Ports

January-June 1993-1995



News



**For Immediate
Release**

June 12, 1996

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NR96-8

Semiannual Fish Stock Assessment Workshop Set for Woods Hole

Scientists to Report on Status of American Lobsters,
Summer Flounder, Surfclams, Ocean Quahogs,
Logbook Data

Woods Hole, Mass.--- The 22nd Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) will be held at the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Science Center June 17-21, in Woods Hole, Mass. The scientific advice generated through this process provides the basis for building sustainable fisheries in the Northeast region.

The workshop reviews the work of several subcommittees that include scientists from around the Northeast. This session's species subcommittees met in May to update reports on the status of American lobsters, summer flounder, Atlantic surfclams, and ocean quahogs. One subcommittee analyzed the data set resulting from information reported in the vessel logbooks that are now required in the multispecies and scallop fisheries.

The subcommittee reports are presented during the SAW to the Stock Assessment Review Committee for a rigorous review of the underlying data, analytic methods, and results. The SAWs are held twice a year, and focus on species, stocks, or scientific issues recommended by the regional fishery management councils and fishery managers.

The subcommittee investigating logbooks is providing the first analysis of these data. Scientists are looking for trends expressed in the information, investigating ways of comparing logbook effort and landings data with that from prior years, and will recommend improvements to the present logbooks.

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NMFS Northeast Region

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The Invertebrate Subcommittee will be conducting an assessment update for American lobsters in light of the findings of an independent panel of international experts convened in March to review some specific issues in lobster assessment. Although the panel's draft report supported work done to date, it also made some recommendations about the direction and nature of future research which will be considered by the SAW.

The Southern Demersal Subcommittee will update the present assessment of summer flounder with particular emphasis on changes in the spawning stock biomass of this depressed stock.

In addition to logbooks, the Invertebrate Subcommittee will also concentrate on new information about growth in surfclams and ocean quahogs and work to incorporate that information into an updated assessment.

The last SAW meeting produced updates on the status of squids, Atlantic herring, and winter flounder in the Northeast Region. The squids are holding steady, while Atlantic herring continue their spectacular rebound, and winter flounder show little improvement in their serious decline. A first-ever look at bottom-dwelling species as a unit revealed that the general decline in these fish is spreading into the least-sought of these species, and that in some species, changing historical distribution patterns may be a response to thinning numbers of individuals.

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September 17,
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Commercial Fisheries Revenues for Northeast Coastal States Hit \$980 Million in 1995

Gloucester, MA--Ex-vessel revenues from commercial fisheries and farmgate revenues from maricultural operations in Northeast coastal states during 1995 totaled \$983.1 million. Revenues increased by 8% over 1994 and by 11% over 1993.

These revenue values are preliminary data 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.

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

Summary of Harvest Data

States: In 1995, Maine retained its first place in ex-vessel revenues for the second year in a row. Prior to 1994, Massachusetts had always held first place. Maine's 1995 revenues of \$273.6 million were an 11% increase over 1994 and a 21% increase over 1993. Major reasons for Maine's emerging preeminence are the diversity of its fisheries and its access to high-value species. In 1995, Maine fishermen harvested 57 different species, with strong contributions by American lobster (\$101.9 million), aquacultured Atlantic salmon (\$56.7 million), green sea urchin (\$35.6 million), and northern shrimp (\$10.7 million). The eggs, or "roe," of the green sea urchin are considered a delicacy in the Far East export market.

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Every state in the region, with the exception of Rhode Island and New Jersey, showed increased ex-vessel revenues over the 1993-95 period. Virginia showed the most impressive revenue growth; its 1995 revenues of \$111.2 million were a 69% increase over the two-year period.

Ports: In 1995, New Bedford, Massachusetts, retained its first place in ex-vessel revenues. New Bedford's 1995 revenues of \$89.8 million were a 9% increase over 1994 and a 16% decrease over 1993. Two high-value species, sea scallop (\$37.3 million) and goosefish (\$12.7 million), accounted for 56% of the port's total revenues. Like green sea urchin roe, goosefish livers are considered a delicacy in the Far East export market.

In 1995, 13 Northeast fishing ports--the largest number ever--had ex-vessel revenues in excess of \$10 million. Over the 1993-95 period, seven of these ports showed increased revenues; six showed decreased revenues. Newport News, Virginia, showed the most impressive revenue growth; its 1995 revenues of \$14.5 million were a 113% increase over the two-year period.

Species: Three important species in the Northeast's commercial fisheries showed major changes in ex-vessel revenues over the 1993-95 period: American lobster, eastern oyster, and northern shrimp. American lobster, which accounted for about one-fifth of the region's 1995 total revenues, showed a modest 3% increase over 1994, but a robust 29% increase over 1993.

Eastern oyster showed an 84% decrease in revenues over the two-year period. Two oyster diseases, "MSX" and "Dermo," played a major role in the collapse of the oyster fishery.

Northern shrimp, which is caught in the Gulf of Maine, showed a 154% increase in revenues over the two-year period.

The Northeast's three "traditional" groundfish--Atlantic cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder--collectively accounted for ex-vessel revenues of \$35.8 million in 1995, a 38% decline from 1993. These traditional groundfish now account for less than 4% of the region's ex-vessel revenues.

Sources and Availability of Harvest 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. Finfish and shellfish purchasers ("dealers") who buy directly from fishing vessels operating under federal permits are required to report their purchases to NMFS monthly. These monthly dealer reports provide the bulk of the available harvest and revenue data. For those fisheries managed by federal quotas (summer flounder, Atlantic surfclam, etc.), the dealer reporting requirements are even more frequent.

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Before mid-1994, almost all harvest and revenue data were collected through voluntary reporting, and were known to be underreported. After mid-1994, data have been collected through a combination of mandatory and voluntary reporting. It is too early to assess how this reporting change may influence comparisons between data collected before and after the change.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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<http://www.wh.whoi.edu/noaa.html>

Table 1. Ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries by state in the Northeast during 1993, 1994, and 1995

State	1993		1994		1995	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	225.3	251.7	245.4	233.9	273.6	253.6
Massachusetts	238.2	223.2	205.9	183.3	216.3	208.8
Virginia	65.9	657.9	101.4	581.3	111.2	776.3
New Jersey	96.3	196.1	99.8	201.4	95.3	177.2
New York	61.2	58.2	59.4	53.5	81.5	58.2
Rhode Island	79.2	131.7	76.9	111.7	70.7	128.4
Maryland	53.4	85.0	58.7	65.1	59.7	66.9
Connecticut	49.3	26.5	44.4	19.8	50.7	-- ^c
New Hampshire	12.9	11.3	12.7	12.1	15.0	13.5
Delaware	5.3	8.3	6.3	8.2	9.0	10.3
Total	887.0	1,649.9	910.8^d	1,470.3	983.1^d	1,693.6^d

^a Ex-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for the harvest prior to any onshore handling, processing, or reselling.

^b Harvested poundage consists of meat weight for bivalve (e.g., sea scallops), gastropod (e.g., conchs), and octopod (e.g., octopi) mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

^c Poundage data for Connecticut--which were provided by the state--were provided as harvested weights without the market categories (e.g., goosfish "head on, gutted" versus "tails" versus "livers", etc.) needed to calculate live weights. Thus, Connecticut poundage data are not comparable with other states' poundage data and have not been included in this table.

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

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Table 2. Ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for major ports^c in the Northeast during 1993, 1994, and 1995

Port	1993		1994		1995	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
New Bedford, MA	107.5	82.1	82.4	65.8	89.8	70.9
Pt. Judith, RI	35.2	60.4	36.5	61.7	44.3	92.4
Portland, ME	49.1	86.1	43.6	63.9	40.0	66.8
Cape May/Wildwood, NJ	36.2	95.0	33.8	85.2	30.6	75.4
Gloucester, MA	31.3	67.6	27.3	50.1	26.0	65.3
Atlantic City, NJ	17.8	41.6	20.9	42.8	22.2	42.3
Montauk, NY	11.7	12.3	14.7	10.5	14.8	11.2
Newport News, VA	6.8	2.7	11.1	4.1	14.5	5.0
Newport, RI	11.2	11.9	12.1	12.1	11.9	13.4
Pt. Pleasant, NJ	12.2	21.9	15.3	37.0	11.8	22.7
Hampton, VA	9.9	5.6	15.1	6.8	11.4	5.7
Chatham/Provincetown, MA	10.9	19.2	10.5	18.6	11.0	18.5
Boston, MA	10.8	11.1	9.8	10.3	10.3	10.3

^a Ex-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for the harvest prior to any onshore handling, processing, or reselling.

^b Harvested poundage consists of meat weight for bivalve (e.g., sea scallops), gastropod (e.g., conchs), and octopod (e.g., octopi) mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

^c Major ports arbitrarily defined as those yielding \$10 million or more in ex-vessel revenue for 1995.

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Table 3. Ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for major species^c in the Northeast during 1993, 1994, and 1995^d

Species	1993		1994		1995	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
American lobster	160.4	58.0	200.0	67.8	206.6	66.1
Sea scallop	97.9	16.2	84.0	16.8	89.3	17.3
Blue crab	47.8	80.8	73.0	89.8	75.0	90.4
Atlantic salmon ^e	42.6	14.9	35.6	13.5	56.7	22.1
Atlantic menhaden	41.9	698.9	33.4	549.8	45.0	752.3
Atlantic surfclam	33.4	72.5	43.9	72.6	39.1	63.7
Northern quahog	31.6	6.7	30.6	5.9	36.6	6.4
Green sea urchin	27.2	42.4	33.4	38.9	35.7	34.4
Goosefish	21.7	44.8	26.1	42.0	34.2	57.1
Atlantic cod	45.0	50.6	36.2	38.7	28.6	30.1
Longfin squid	29.6	49.1	31.9	49.8	23.1	39.7
Ocean quahog	29.3	57.7	18.7	46.6	20.8	49.0
Bluefin tuna	19.3	2.2	19.6	2.2	20.4	1.9
Summer flounder	15.3	9.7	18.3	11.0	19.4	10.5
American plaice	15.0	12.8	13.5	11.2	13.2	10.2
Northern shrimp	5.2	5.1	6.5	8.2	13.2	15.1
Silver hake	14.0	38.2	13.7	35.4	12.7	29.0
Winter flounder	15.3	11.6	11.2	7.9	12.3	8.5
Softshell (clam)	20.5	4.6	12.5	2.6	10.7	2.4
Atlantic herring	6.5	109.1	5.8	99.7	8.8	151.6
Witch flounder	9.0	5.7	9.3	5.9	8.4	4.9
Northern shortfin squid	8.5	39.7	10.4	40.4	8.1	31.0
Swordfish	9.9	3.4	8.5	2.8	7.6	2.6
Spiny dogfish	4.6	34.9	4.3	29.4	7.1	35.7
Pollock	8.4	12.5	6.8	8.3	6.8	7.4
Bigeye tuna	5.9	1.7	7.7	1.8	6.7	1.8
White hake	7.2	16.5	5.7	10.4	6.2	9.5
Yellowtail flounder	10.4	8.0	8.1	6.8	6.0	4.2
Eastern oyster	35.9	9.2	35.8	9.3	5.8	1.8
American eel	1.3	0.9	2.3	1.5	5.4	0.9
Scup	5.7	9.7	5.8	8.8	5.3	6.2
Striped bass	2.7	1.3	2.9	1.6	4.5	2.5
Yellowfin tuna	2.6	1.3	2.0	1.3	3.6	2.3
Sea worms ^f	3.5	0.9	3.8	0.9	3.2	0.6
Skates ^f	3.0	28.4	5.0	19.5	3.1	14.9
Atlantic croaker	0.2	0.7	2.5	6.1	3.0	7.4
Black sea bass	2.9	3.0	2.2	1.9	2.9	1.9
Tilefish	5.0	4.1	3.4	1.7	2.9	1.5
Atlantic mackerel	1.3	10.3	2.6	19.7	2.7	18.6
Blue mussel	2.7	6.6	1.9	5.4	2.5	6.7
Butterfish	6.8	9.8	4.1	8.0	2.5	4.4
Spot	0.1	0.3	1.6	4.3	1.9	3.9
Weakfish	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.4	1.8	2.6
Bluefish	1.9	6.2	1.9	6.7	1.6	4.3
Catfishes ^f	0.4	1.2	1.0	2.9	1.5	2.1
Haddock	2.7	1.9	1.0	0.7	1.2	0.9
White perch	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.4
Jonah crab	1.0	2.4	1.3	2.7	1.1	1.9
Conchs ^f	2.2	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.4
Windowpane	2.3	3.7	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.7
Cusk	1.7	3.1	1.4	2.4	1.0	1.7

^a Ex-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for the harvest prior to any onshore handling, processing, or reselling.

^b Harvested poundage consists of meat weight for bivalve (e.g., sea scallops), gastropod (e.g., conchs), and octopod (e.g., octopi) mollusks, and live weight for all other species.

^c Major species arbitrarily defined as those yielding \$1 million or more in ex-vessel revenue for 1995.

^d Poundage data for Connecticut--which were provided by the state--were provided as harvested weights without the market categories (e.g., goosefish "head on, gutted" versus "tails" versus "livers", etc.) needed to calculate live weights. Thus, Connecticut poundage data are not comparable with other states' poundage data and have not been used in calculations for this table.

^e Entire harvest from aquacultural operations.

^f Category comprises several species.

Table 4. Ex-vessel revenue^a and harvested poundage^b of commercial fisheries for American lobster by state in the Northeast during 1993, 1994, and 1995

State	1993		1994		1995	
	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds	Millions of Dollars	Millions of Pounds
Maine	73.9	29.9	100.9	38.9	101.9	37.2
Massachusetts	43.1	14.3	58.4	16.1	55.8	15.8
New York	9.1	2.7	5.7	1.7	22.1	6.7
Rhode Island	18.8	6.2	21.0	6.5	17.8	5.4
Connecticut	6.5	2.2	6.2	2.3	8.0	2.5
New Hampshire	5.6	1.7	5.6	1.7	6.7	1.8
New Jersey	3.2	0.9	2.1	0.6	2.1	0.6
Maryland	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
Virginia	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Total^c	160.4	58.0	200.0	67.8	214.7	70.0

^a Ex-vessel revenue is based on prices paid for the harvest prior to any on-shore handling, processing, or reselling.

^b Harvested poundage represents live weight.

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

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