2018 Commercial Fisheries Sector Review



The commercial fisheries sector is a vital component of the social and economic fabric of the province, particularly in many rural coastal communities. In 2018, the fishing fleet of 2,637 vessels harvested 87,039 tonnes of fish and seafood for a value of \$441 million. In terms of fish and seafood species, lobster and snow crab account for 88 per cent of the value of commercial landings in New Brunswick. The province is a processing hub for most seafood products, with the exception of live lobsters, oysters, eels and sea urchins. New Brunswick is the second largest exporter of fish and seafood products in the country estimated at \$1.7 billion in 2018. The main export destination is the United States with 83 per cent of the export value. In terms of employment, the fisheries sector generated about 1,870 and 4,930 full-time equivalent jobs in harvesting and processing activities, respectively.

Industry at a Glance

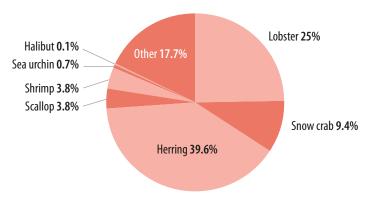
Number of fishing vessels	2,637
Number of active processing plants	106
Value of commercial landings	\$441 million
Value of processed seafood shipments ¹	Over \$1 billion
Value of exports	\$1.7 billion
GDP (direct)	\$371 million
Employment-Primary (FTEs) ²	1,870
Employment-Processing (FTEs) ³	4,930

¹ Estimate

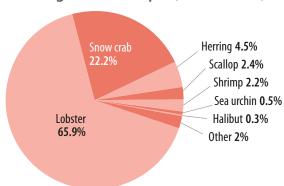
Exports by Country

Country	Valu	Value (\$ Million)		
	2017	2018		
United States	1,353.7	1,378.2		
China	75.0	54.5		
Japan	93.1	47.9		
Hong Kong	12.0	31.3		
Dominican Republic	22.4	26.4		
South Korea	10.2	21.1		
Haiti	14.2	15.7		
Taiwan	9.1	15.7		
Belgium	23.0	15.1		
United Kingdom	4.3	8.4		
Vietnam	17.1	8.2		
Indonesia	3.8	7.8		
France	7.6	7.0		
Spain	10.2	5.4		
Netherlands	4.1	3.8		
Other	26.4	22.3		
Total	1,686.2	1,668.9		

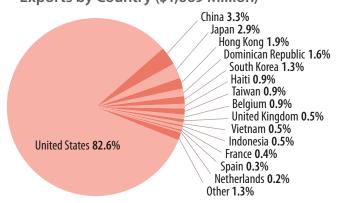
Landings Total Volume (87,039 Tonnes)



Landings Total Receipts (\$441 Million)



Exports by Country (\$1,669 Million)

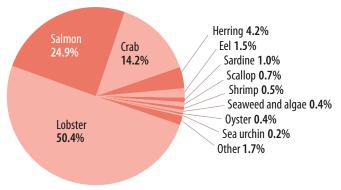


^{2,3} Employment statistics should not be compared to previous years since a different data source was used (Statistics Canada, Table: 36-10-0489-01).

2018 Highlights

- New Brunswick's fish and seafood landings were valued at \$441 million in 2018, down by \$105 million (19 per cent) from 2017. Nonetheless, this marks the second highest value on record. The decrease seen in 2018 was largely attributed to a decline in snow crab landings.
- Lobster landings rose slightly in value by \$3.8 million (one per cent) to total \$291 million in 2018. Although harvested volume rose three per cent (666 tonnes) to 21,722 tonnes, average price dropped by two per cent (\$0.24/kg) to \$13.38/kg. Landed volume and value both reached record high levels in 2018.
- Snow crab landings decreased significantly in value by \$112 million (53 per cent) to \$98 million in 2018. Particularly, a 57-per-cent decline in harvested volume (from 19,017 tonnes in 2017 to 8,173 tonnes in 2018) outweighed a nine-per-cent rise in average price (from \$11.02/kg to \$11.98/kg). This largely resulted from quota cutbacks in 2018 following a record high Total Allowable Catch (TAC) the previous year. The 2018 snow crab TAC was comparable to the 10-year average.
- The value of herring landings increased notably by 28 per cent (\$4.3 million) to reach an all-time high of \$20 million in 2018, due to higher landed volume and average price. Specifically, harvested volume was up by 16 per cent to 34,441 tonnes, while price rose 10 per cent to \$0.57/kg.
- Scallop landings were valued at \$11 million in 2018, about 13 per cent (\$1.6 million) lower than the previous year. This decline resulted from decreases in both landed volume (by 11 per cent) and average price (by two per cent).
- The value of shrimp landings remained relatively stable at \$9.8 million in 2018, as a considerable rise in price offset a drop in volume. Particularly, average price rose by \$0.89/kg to \$2.98/kg, while harvested volume dropped a notable 1,379 tonnes to 3,281 tonnes, the lowest reported in over two decades. This decline in volume mainly resulted from lower quota.
- Total New Brunswick seafood exports decreased slightly in value by one per cent (\$17 million) to \$1.7 billion in 2018. Key species such as lobster, salmon and eel increased notably by \$50 million (six per cent), \$24 million (six per cent) and \$21 million (594 per cent), respectively. Crab exports on the other hand declined considerably by \$105 million (31 per cent), largely due to lower quota.
- Seafood exports to the United States, Hong Kong and South Korea increased the most, with sales up by \$24 million (two per cent), \$19 million (161 per cent) and \$11 million (107 per cent), respectively. On the other hand, the most notable declines were seen in Japan, by \$45 million (49 per cent), and China, by \$20 million (27 per cent).

Exports by Species (\$1,669 Million)



Landings

Species		Volume		Value
	((Tonnes)	(\$ 1	Million)
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Lobster	21,056	21,722	286.8	290.7
Snow crab	19,017	8,173	209.6	97.9
Herring	29,635	34,441	15.5	19.8
Scallop	3,759	3,332	12.1	10.5
Shrimp	4,660	3,281	9.7	9.8
Sea urchin	832	580	2.6	2.3
Halibut	135	125	1.6	1.4
Other	17,223	15,385	8.3	9.0
Total	96,316	87,039	546.2	441.3

Exports by Species

Species	Valu	Value (\$ Million)		
	2017	2018		
Lobster	790.5	840.6		
Salmon ⁴	391.8	415.5		
Crab	342.1	236.7		
Herring	65.1	69.3		
Eel	3.6	24.8		
Sardine	21.5	16.9		
Scallop	16.8	11.8		
Shrimp	8.6	9.0		
Seaweed and algae	9.0	7.4		
Oyster ⁵	5.7	6.1		
Sea urchin	4.3	3.0		
Other	27.2	27.8		
Total	1,686.2	1,668.9		

⁴ This refers to aquaculture salmon. Other statistics on New Brunswick's salmon aquaculture industry are provided in the Aquaculture Sector Review.
⁵ This refers to aquaculture oysters. Other statistics on New Brunswick's oyster aquaculture industry are provided in the Aquaculture Sector Review. Note: Due to rounding, numbers in the above tables may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Total Commercial Landings (1998–2018)

