

The commercial fisheries sector is a vital component of the social and economic fabric of the province, particularly in many rural, coastal and indigenous communities. In 2020, the fishing fleet of 2,349 vessels harvested 73,839 tonnes of fish and seafood for a value of \$301.6 million. In terms of fish and seafood species, lobster and snow crab account for 85 per cent of the value of commercial landings in New Brunswick. The province is the processing hub for many seafood products. New Brunswick is the second largest exporter of fish and seafood products in the country valued at \$1.38 billion in 2020. The main export destination is the United States with 84 per cent of the export value. In terms of employment, the fisheries sector generated about 2,185 and 4,610 full-year equivalent jobs in harvesting and processing activities, respectively.

Industry at a Glance

Number of fishing vessels	2,349
Number of active processing plants	101
Value of commercial landings	\$301.6 million
Value of processed seafood shipments	\$1.42 billion
Value of exports	\$1.38 billion
GDP (direct)	\$415.7 million
Employment-Primary ¹	2,185
Employment-Processing ²	4,610

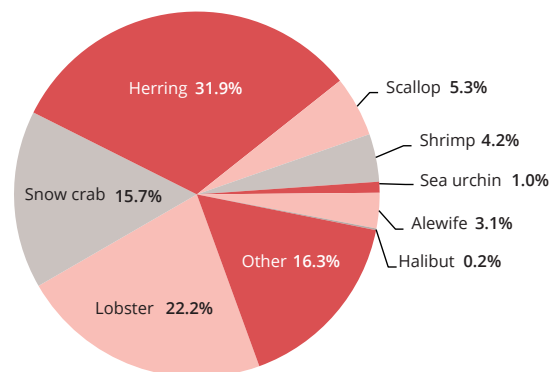
^{1,2} Full-year equivalent jobs.

Exports by Country

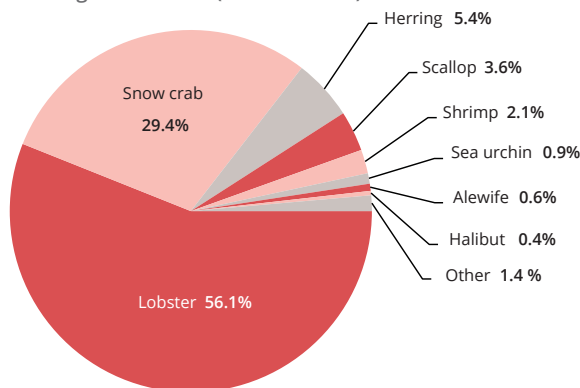
Country	Value (\$ Million)	
	2019	2020
United States	1,459.8	1,168.2
Japan	64.1	48.4
Dominican Republic	31.1	37.9
China	39.9	25.9
South Korea	23.7	13.2
Belgium	15.8	11.5
Hong Kong	18.2	11.5
Haiti	11.8	11.5
Jamaica	0.8	7.6
Taiwan	13.8	6.1
Trinidad and Tobago	3.0	4.0
Indonesia	4.1	3.6
Vietnam	9.5	3.5
France	6.4	3.4
Spain	3.6	3.4
Other	33.5	24.2
Total	1,739.2	1,383.8

Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics (March 2022).

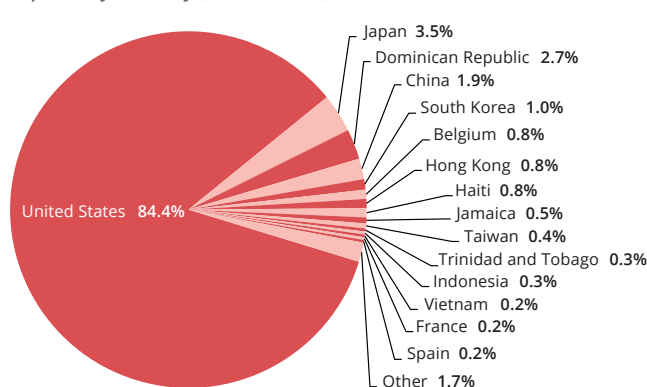
Landings Total Volume (73,839 Tonnes)



Landings Total Value (\$301.6 Million)



Exports by Country (\$1.38 Billion)



2020 Highlights

- Compared to 2019, the total value of New Brunswick's commercial fisheries landings decreased by \$206.8 million (41 per cent) to \$301.6 million in 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in fishing delays and market disruptions.
- Lobster landings were valued at \$169.1 million in 2020, down by \$130.8 million (44 per cent) compared to 2019, due to lower prices and landed volume. The average price fell by 30 per cent (\$4.39/kg) to \$10.31/kg, while the landed volume dropped by 20 per cent (3,999 tonnes) to 16,403 tonnes, largely due to a two-week delay in the opening of the spring fishing season.
- Snow crab landings decreased in value by \$65.1 million (42 per cent), from \$153.9 million in 2019 to \$88.8 million in 2020. This resulted from a 38-per-cent drop in price, from \$12.22/kg to \$7.64/kg, coupled with an eight-per-cent decline in landed volume, from 12,589 tonnes to 11,621 tonnes.
- The value of herring landings fell by 24 per cent (\$5.1 million) to \$16.4 million in 2020, as a result of lower prices and volume. The average price dropped by \$0.18/kg (21 per cent) to \$0.69/kg, while the landed volume fell by 994 tonnes (four per cent) to 23,574 tonnes.
- Scallop landings rose in value by three per cent (\$0.3 million) to reach \$10.9 million in 2020, due to a rise in price outweighing a drop in landed volume. Note, Fisheries and Oceans Canada converts all landings into live weight, which includes the shell for scallops. In 2020, the average price of muscle meat increased by \$2.43/kg (12 per cent) to \$22.90/kg, while the volume fell by 40 tonnes (eight per cent) to 475 tonnes.
- Shrimp landings totaled \$6.4 million in 2020, about 29 per cent (\$2.6 million) lower than the previous year. This decline resulted from a 25-per-cent (\$0.69/kg) reduction in price to \$2.05/kg, combined with a five-per-cent (178-tonne) decline in volume to 3,123 tonnes.
- New Brunswick's seafood exports (including aquaculture) decreased in value by one-fifth (\$355.4 million), from \$1.74 billion in 2019 to \$1.38 billion in 2020, largely due to global market disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The greatest declines were seen in sales of lobster, salmon, and crab.
- Lobster exports fell by \$269.0 million (28 per cent) to \$693.1 million in 2020; while salmon sales decreased by \$71.8 million (23 per cent) to \$242.1 million; and crab exports dropped by \$40.2 million (14 per cent) to \$254.5 million. On the other hand, herring exports grew by \$13.1 million (18 per cent) to reach \$83.8 million in 2020.
- The United States was the top market for New Brunswick's seafood products, valued at \$1.17 billion in 2020. Compared to 2019, exports to the United States were down by \$291.6 million (20 per cent). Other important markets that declined in value include Japan, by \$15.8 million (25 per cent), China, by \$14.0 million (35 per cent), and South Korea, by \$10.5 million (44 per cent).
- On the contrary, sales to the Dominican Republic rose by \$6.8 million (22 per cent).

Landings

Species	Volume (Tonnes, Live Weight)		Value (\$ Million)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Lobster	20,402	16,403	299.8	169.1
Snow crab	12,589	11,621	153.9	88.8
Herring	24,568	23,574	21.5	16.4
Scallop	4,272	3,942	10.5	10.9
Shrimp	3,301	3,123	9.0	6.4
Sea urchin	x	715	x	2.8
Alewife	1,192	2,311	1.4	1.9
Halibut	137	112	1.2	1.2
Other	..	12,040	..	4.2
Total	82,566	73,839	508.5	301.6

x Data are suppressed.

.. Data are missing.

Source: Department of Fisheries and Oceans (2020). Zonal Interchange File [database]. Ottawa.

Exports by Species

Species	Value (\$ Million)	
	2019	2020
Lobster	962.1	693.1
Crab	294.7	254.5
Salmon	313.9	242.1
Herring	70.7	83.8
Sardine	15.9	31.6
Eel	15.6	14.6
Scallop	13.0	11.6
Seaweed and algae	9.0	11.0
Shrimp and prawn	7.2	7.3
Oyster	7.6	5.2
Sea urchin	3.6	3.2
Clam, cockle and ark shell	3.9	2.9
Other	21.9	23.1
Total	1,739.2	1,383.8

Note: Salmon and oyster refer to aquaculture salmon and oyster. Other statistics on New Brunswick's aquaculture industry are provided in the Aquaculture Sector Review. Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics (March 2022).

Exports by Species (\$1.38 Billion)

