2017 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 2017, the fishing fleet of 2,433 vessels harvested 96,316 tonnes of fish and seafood for a value of \$546 million. In terms of fish and seafood species, lobster and snow crab account for 91 per cent of the value of commercial landings in New Brunswick. Virtually all landings, with the exception of live lobster, oysters and sea urchins, undergo some processing in the province. New Brunswick is the second largest exporter of fish and seafood products in the country estimated at \$1.7 billion in 2017. The main export destination is the United States with 80 per cent of the export value. In terms of employment, the fisheries sector generated about 1,700 and 4,400 full-time equivalent jobs in harvesting and processing, respectively.

Industry at a Glance

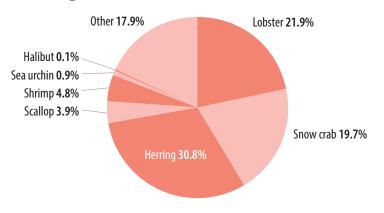
Number of fishing vessels	2,433
Number of active processing plants	110
Value of commercial landings	\$546 million
Value of processed seafood shipments ¹	Over \$1 billion
Value of exports	\$1.7 billion
GDP (direct)	\$415 million
Employment-Primary (FTEs)	1,700
Employment-Processing (FTEs)	4,400

¹This is an estimate since monthly data for April, May and June 2017 are suppressed.

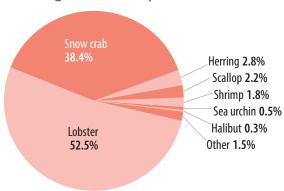
Exports by Country

Country	Valu	Value (\$ Million)		
	2016	2017		
United States	1,307.3	1,353.7		
Japan	71.9	93.1		
China	46.0	75.0		
Belgium	13.1	23.0		
Dominican Republic	20.0	22.4		
Vietnam	5.4	17.1		
Haiti	14.5	14.2		
Hong Kong	16.8	12.0		
Spain	8.3	10.2		
South Korea	6.9	10.2		
Taiwan	5.6	9.1		
France	8.8	7.6		
United Kingdom	11.0	4.3		
Netherlands	6.4	4.1		
Israel	0.1	3.9		
Other	24.1	26.4		
Total	1,566.1	1,686.2		

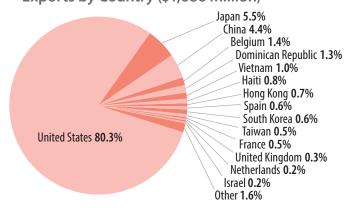
Landings Total Volume (96,316 Tonnes)



Landings Total Receipts (\$546 Million)



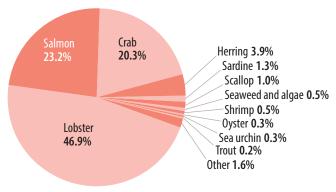
Exports by Country (\$1,686 Million)



2017 Highlights

- The value of New Brunswick's fish and seafood landings increased considerably by about one-third (\$135 million) to \$546 million in 2017. This increase largely resulted from a rise in the value of snow crab landings.
- Lobster landings increased in value by \$16 million (six per cent) to reach \$287 million in 2017. This was due to an eight-per-cent rise in harvested volume, from 19,541 tonnes to 21,056 tonnes, outweighing a two-per-cent drop in price, from \$13.85/kg to \$13.62/kg.
- The value of snow crab rose significantly by \$129 million (160 per cent) to total \$210 million in 2017. This resulted from considerable increases in harvested volume and landing price. Particularly, harvested volume rose by 94 per cent (9,231 tonnes) to 19,017 tonnes, while price increased by about one-third (\$2.77/kg) to \$11.02/kg.
- Herring landings were valued at \$15 million in 2017, up \$1.2 million (nine per cent) compared to the previous year. Particularly, landing price rose notably by 17 per cent to \$0.52/kg, while volume dropped seven per cent to 29,635 tonnes.
- The value of scallop landings remained relatively stable at \$12 million, due to an increase in landing price offsetting a decrease in harvested volume.
- Shrimp landings were valued at \$9.7 million in 2017, down \$6.6 million (40 per cent) compared to 2016. This drop in value was due to declines in price, by 25 per cent (from \$2.79/kg to \$2.09/kg), and harvested volume, by 20 per cent (from 5,848 tonnes to 4,660 tonnes).
- The value of sea urchin production dropped by \$5.7 million (69 per cent) to \$2.6 million in 2017, due to declines in both landing price (by 65 per cent) and harvested volume (by 11 per cent).
- New Brunswick fish and seafood export sales increased notably by \$120 million (eight per cent) to reach an all-time high of \$1.7 billion in 2017, largely due to higher crab sales. This marks the eighth straight year of export increases for the sector.
- Crab exports rose significantly by \$181 million (112 per cent) to \$342 million in 2017. This resulted from higher export volume and market price, reflecting better market conditions.
- On the other hand, top commodities that experienced declines in export value in 2017 were lobster and herring. Particularly, lobster exports fell by \$16 million (two per cent) to \$790 million, while herring sales fell by \$6.8 million (nine per cent) to \$65 million.
- Key markets that showed notable increases in 2017 were the United States, Japan and China, valued at \$1.4 billion, \$93 million and \$75 million, respectively. Particularly, exports to the United States rose by \$46 million (four per cent), while sales to Japan and China increased by \$21 million (30 per cent) and \$29 million (63 per cent), respectively. These increases mainly resulted from higher sales of crab.

Exports by Species (\$1,686 Million)



Landings

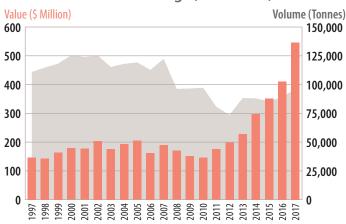
Species	Volume (Tonnes)		(\$ 1	Value Million)
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Lobster	19,541	21,056	270.7	286.8
Snow crab	9,786	19,017	80.7	209.6
Herring	31,755	29,635	14.2	15.5
Scallop	4,101	3,759	12.2	12.1
Shrimp	5,848	4,660	16.3	9.7
Sea urchin	935	832	8.2	2.6
Halibut	71	135	1.0	1.6
Other	17,177	17,223	7.3	8.3
Total	89,213	96,316	410.7	546.2

Exports by Species

Species	Value	Value (\$ Million)		
	2016	2017		
Lobster	806.0	790.5		
Salmon ²	425.1	391.8		
Crab	161.4	342.1		
Herring	71.8	65.1		
Sardine	19.6	21.5		
Scallop	17.2	16.8		
Seaweed and algae	8.0	9.0		
Shrimp	11.4	8.6		
Oyster ³	4.8	5.7		
Sea urchin	4.9	4.3		
Trout	1.9	3.6		
Other	33.9	27.2		
Total	1,566.1	1,686.2		

² This refers to aquaculture salmon. Other statistics on New Brunswick's salmon aquaculture industry are provided in the Aquaculture Sector Review.

Total Commercial Landings (1997–2017)



³ This refers to aquaculture oysters. Other statistics on New Brunswick's oyster aquaculture industry are provided in the Aquaculture Sector Review.