

The aquaculture sector is a major economic contributor for rural, coastal, and indigenous communities of the province. Economic impact is primarily generated through jobs created and incomes earned in primary and processing activities. The aquaculture sector in New Brunswick is considered the second largest in the country after British Columbia. The main aquaculture activity in New Brunswick is salmon farming, representing about 90 per cent of the sector's value. Shellfish aquaculture is also a growing industry, with the main species being American oysters. In 2020, total primary aquaculture sales were approximately \$139 million. During the same year, the aquaculture sector directly generated 495 full-year equivalent jobs in primary production.

Industry at a glance

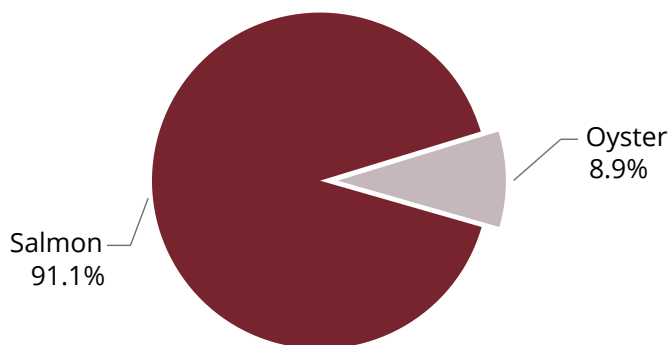
Number of salmon sites	87
Area leased to salmon sites, hectares	1,639
Number of shellfish sites	501
Area leased to shellfish sites, hectares	2,686
Farm gate value ¹	\$139.4 million
Salmon	\$125.2 million
Oyster	\$14.2 million
Salmon exports	\$242.1 million
Oyster exports	\$5.2 million
GDP (direct) - primary	\$56.9 million
Employment - primary ²	495

Note: 'Sites' refers to commercial grow-out sites.

¹ Estimate.

² Full-year equivalent jobs.

Total volume by species: 20,744 Tonnes



2020 Highlights

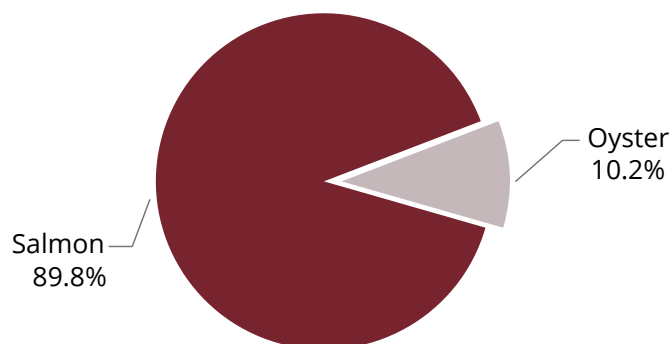
- New Brunswick's primary aquaculture sales totaled \$139 million in 2020, down \$66 million (32 per cent) from 2019.
- The value of harvested salmon fell by about one-third (\$63 million) to \$125 million in 2020, as a result of lower prices and volume. The average price of farmed salmon decreased by \$1.79/kg (21 per cent) to \$6.62/kg, while harvested volume dropped by 3,497 tonnes (16 per cent) to 18,900 tonnes.
- The three-year production cycle management system implies that salmon production will fluctuate from year to year. It is therefore necessary to interpret yearly production changes with some caution.

Production volume and value

Species	Volume (Tonnes)	
	2019	2020
Salmon	22,397	18,900
Oyster	1,898	1,844
Other	0	0
Total	24,295	20,744

Species	Value (\$ Million)	
	2019	2020
Salmon	188.4	125.2
Oyster	17.1	14.2
Other	0.0	0.0
Total	205.5	139.4

Total value by species: \$139.4 Million



2020 Highlights (continued)

- New Brunswick Atlantic salmon farming companies are leaders in production and processing in the Atlantic Provinces, providing processing and sales support for additional salmon product grown in Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia.
- Oyster sales decreased by \$2.9 million (17 per cent) to \$14 million in 2020. Market-sized oysters accounted for 90 per cent of the value and non-market-sized oysters (under 65mm) for the remaining 10 per cent. Sales of market-sized oysters fell by 16 per cent (\$2.4 million), as a result of an 11-per-cent reduction in price, from \$9.08/kg to \$8.08/kg, coupled with a six-per-cent decline in volume, from 1,687 tonnes to 1,593 tonnes. Particularly, demand for oysters dropped sharply in the first half of 2020 as food service establishments closed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, sales started to pick up in the second half of the year as companies diverted product to the retail market.
- New Brunswick salmon exports totaled \$242 million in 2020, about 23 per cent (\$72 million) lower than the previous year. This decrease was driven by declines in export volume and market price of fresh/chilled Atlantic salmon. Reduced demand from food service in the United States, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with increased competition from other suppliers at retail, negatively impacted New Brunswick's salmon exports. Sales to the United States, Israel, and Taiwan declined the most, by \$53 million (18 per cent), \$7.6 million (82 per cent), and \$5.2 million (66 per cent), respectively.
- Compared to 2019, oyster exports decreased in value by \$2.5 million (32 per cent) to \$5.2 million in 2020, largely due to a drop in the export volume of live oysters. This can be attributed to the major disruptions in the United States' food service industry and overall market uncertainty, resulting from the pandemic. The United States accounted for 99.5 per cent of New Brunswick's oyster exports in 2020.

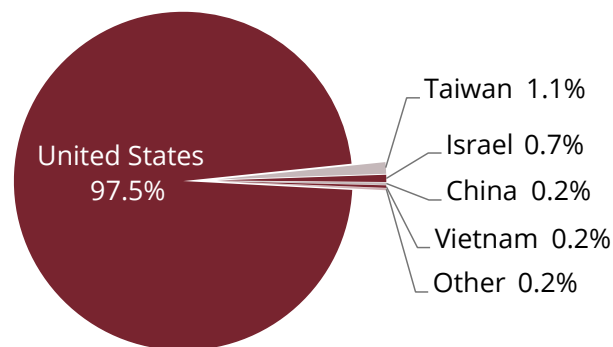
Salmon exports by country

Country	Value (\$ Million)	
	2019	2020
United States	288.7	236.1
Taiwan	7.9	2.7
Israel	9.3	1.7
China	3.4	0.6
Vietnam	3.6	0.6
Other	1.0	0.5
Total	313.9	242.1

Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics (September 2021).

Note: Due to rounding, numbers in the table may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Salmon exports by country: \$242.1 Million



Salmon industry production value (2001-2020)

