

2021 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, and indigenous communities. In 2021, the fishing fleet of 2,152 vessels harvested 74,020 tonnes of fish and seafood for a value of \$634.0 million. In terms of fish and seafood species, lobster and snow crab account for 94 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 \$2.21 billion in 2021. The main export destination is the United States with 88 per cent of the export value. In terms of employment, the fisheries sector generated about 2,250 and 4,520 full-year equivalent jobs in harvesting and processing activities, respectively.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- New Brunswick's commercial fisheries landings increased in value by \$262.4 million (71 per cent), from \$371.6 million in 2020 to a record-high \$634.0 million in 2021, as the industry rebounded strongly from the pandemic.
- The value of lobster landings rose significantly by \$178.3 million (74 per cent) to \$420.1 million in 2021. This resulted from a 63-per-cent rise in average price, from \$11.46/kg in 2020 to \$18.62/kg in 2021, coupled with a seven-per-cent increase in landed volume, from 21,109 tonnes to 22,567 tonnes.
- Snow crab landings value nearly doubled (up \$87.8 million), from \$88.8 million in 2020 to \$176.6 million in 2021. This was due to a significant rise in average price, by \$9.89/kg (129 per cent) to \$17.53/kg, outweighing a decrease in landed volume, by 1,549 tonnes (13 per cent) to 10,072 tonnes.
- Herring landings were valued at \$8.8 million in 2021, down 46 per cent (\$7.5 million) from 2020, as a result of lower prices and volume. The average price fell 34 per cent to \$0.46/kg in 2021, while landed volume decreased by 19 per cent to 19,210 tonnes.
- The value of scallop landings increased by \$0.8 million (11 per cent) to \$8.8 million in 2021, as a result of higher prices outweighing lower landed volume. Note, Fisheries and Oceans Canada converts all landings into live weight, which includes the shell for scallops. Compared to 2020, the average price of muscle meat rose by 39 per cent, from \$16.70/kg to \$23.21/kg in 2021, while landed volume fell by one-fifth, from 475 tonnes to 378 tonnes.
- Shrimp landings totaled \$6.7 million in 2021, up \$0.3 million (five per cent) compared to 2020. This was due to a rise in average price, by \$0.37/kg (18 per cent) to \$2.42/kg, outweighing a decline in volume, by 346 tonnes (11 per cent) to 2,776 tonnes.
- New Brunswick exported a record-high \$2.21 billion worth of seafood products (including aquaculture) in 2021. Compared to 2020, seafood exports were up 60 per cent (\$828.6 million), as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and markets recovered. Export sales of lobster, salmon, and crab increased the most.
- Lobster exports rose by \$547.3 million (79 per cent) to an all-time high \$1.24 billion in 2021; while salmon sales increased by \$159.3 million (66 per cent) to \$401.4 million; and crab exports grew by \$110.1 million (43 per cent) to reach \$364.6 million.
- New Brunswick's seafood exports to the United States grew by \$771.8 million (66 per cent) to total \$1.94 billion in 2021. Other top markets that saw increases in 2021 include China, by \$24.8 million (96 per cent), Hong Kong, by \$6.4 million (56 per cent), and South Korea, by \$6.2 million (47 per cent).

Note: When comparing 2021 statistics to 2020, absolute and percentage changes are calculated based on unrounded numbers.

INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

Number of fishing vessels	2,152
Number of active processing plants	101
Value of commercial landings	\$634.0 million
Value of processed seafood shipments	\$2.06 billion
Value of exports	\$2.21 billion
GDP (direct)	\$525.0 million
Employment-Primary ¹	2,250
Employment-Processing ²	4,520

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

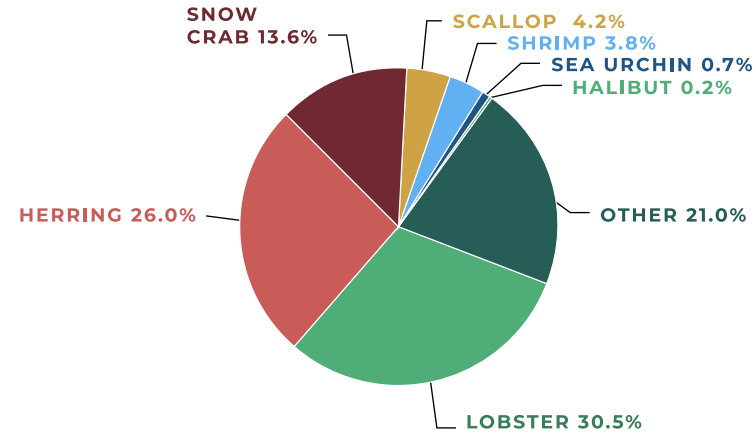
Landings

SPECIES	VOLUME (TONNES, LIVE WEIGHT)		VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2020	2021	2020	2021
Lobster	21,109	22,567	241.8	420.1
Snow crab	11,621	10,072	88.8	176.6
Herring	23,574	19,210	16.4	8.8
Scallop	3,942	3,139	7.9	8.8
Shrimp	3,123	2,776	6.4	6.7
Sea urchin	720	547	2.9	2.1
Halibut	112	141	1.2	1.9
Other	14,393	15,567	6.2	9.0
Total	78,593	74,020	371.6	634.0

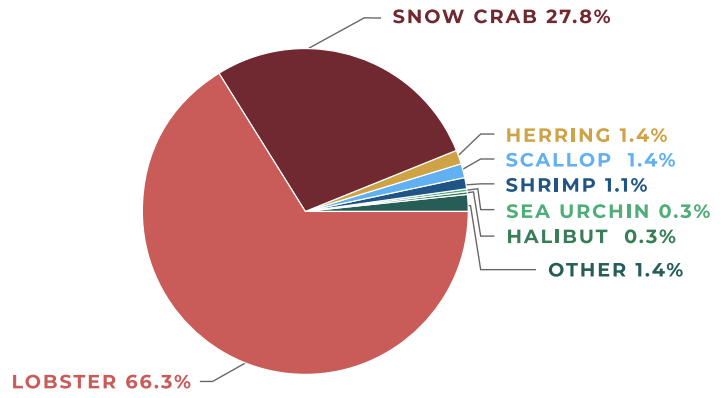
Source: Department of Fisheries and Oceans (2022). Zonal Interchange File [database]. Ottawa.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada modified data from previous years, including 2020, based on new information provided.

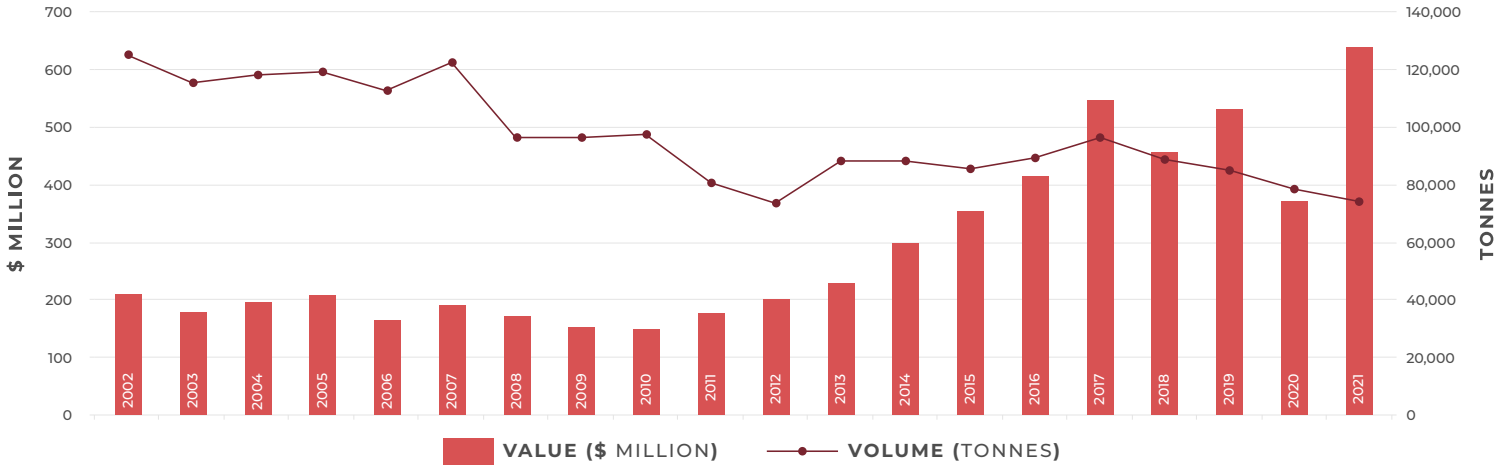
Landings Total Volume (74,020 Tonnes)



Landings Total Value (\$634.0 Million)



Total Commercial Landings: 2002-2021



Exports by Country

COUNTRY	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2020	2021
United States	1,168.2	1,940.1
China	25.9	50.7
Japan	48.4	50.2
Dominican Republic	37.9	33.3
South Korea	13.2	19.4
Hong Kong	11.5	17.9
Haiti	11.5	13.6
Belgium	11.5	12.8
Taiwan	6.1	11.0
Jamaica	7.6	10.7
Other	42.0	52.7
Total	1,383.8	2,212.4

Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics (February 2023).

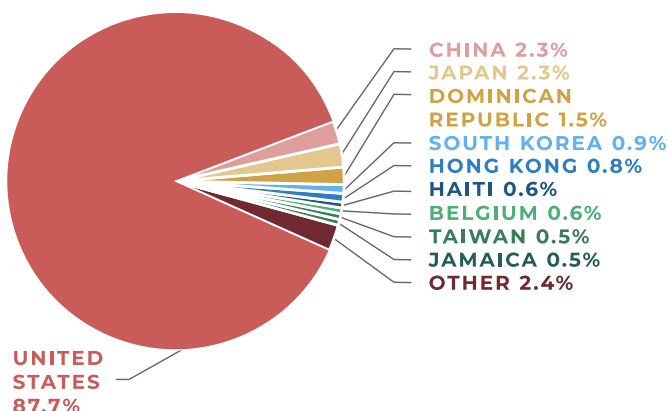
Exports by Species

SPECIES	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2020	2021
Lobster	693.1	1,240.4
Salmon	242.1	401.4
Crab	254.5	364.6
Herring	83.8	79.8
Sardine	31.6	34.9
Eel	14.6	15.2
Oyster	5.2	11.5
Seaweed and algae	11.0	10.2
Scallop	11.6	9.6
Shrimp and prawn	7.3	6.6
Clam, cockle and ark shell	2.9	4.2
Trout	1.8	3.9
Other	24.4	30.2
Total	1,383.8	2,212.4

Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics (February 2023).

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.

Exports by Country (\$2.21 Billion)



Exports by Species (\$2.21 Billion)

