

MASSACHUSETTS COMMERCIAL FISHING PORT PROFILES

The **Massachusetts Commercial Fishing Port Profiles** were developed through a collaboration between the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the University of Massachusetts Boston's Urban Harbors Institute, and the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance. Using data from commercial regional permits, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program's (ACCSP) Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) Dealer Database, and harbormaster and fishermen surveys, these profiles provide an overview of the commercial fishing activity and infrastructure within each municipality. The Port Profiles are part of a larger report which describes the status of the Commonwealth's commercial fishing and port infrastructure, as well as how profile data can inform policy, programming, funding, infrastructure improvements, and other important industry-related decisions.

For the full report, visit the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries website.



URBAN HARBORS INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON





Boston Municipal Boundary

Map created by the Urban Harbors Institute, UMass Boston
With data from MassGIS, March, 2021

Key Terms:

Permitted Harvesters: Commercially permitted harvesters residing in the municipality

Vessels: Commercially permitted vessels with the municipality listed as the homeport

Trips: Discrete commercial trips unloading fish or shellfish in this municipality

Active Permitted Harvesters: Commercially permitted harvesters with at least one reported transaction in a given year

Active Dealers: Permitted dealers with at least one reported purchase from a harvester in a given year

Ex-Vessel Value: Total amount (\$) paid directly to permitted harvesters by dealers at the first point of sale

BOSTON

Boston has five main harbors: Boston Harbor, Chelsea River, Dorchester Bay, Mystic River, and Neponset River.

Permitted commercial fisheries, which may or may not be active during the survey period, include:

- Lobster Pot
- Dragger
- For Hire/ Charter



2018 Overview

Source: DMF Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse



Boston's commercial fishery had:

- 166** permitted harvesters with a Boston address
- 123** vessels with a Boston homeport
- 2,165** trips landing in Boston
- 146** active permitted harvesters landing in Boston
- 21** active dealers purchasing in Boston



Commercial harvesters landed the following in Boston:

17,224,056 pounds of catch with an ex-vessel value of **\$16,416,184***

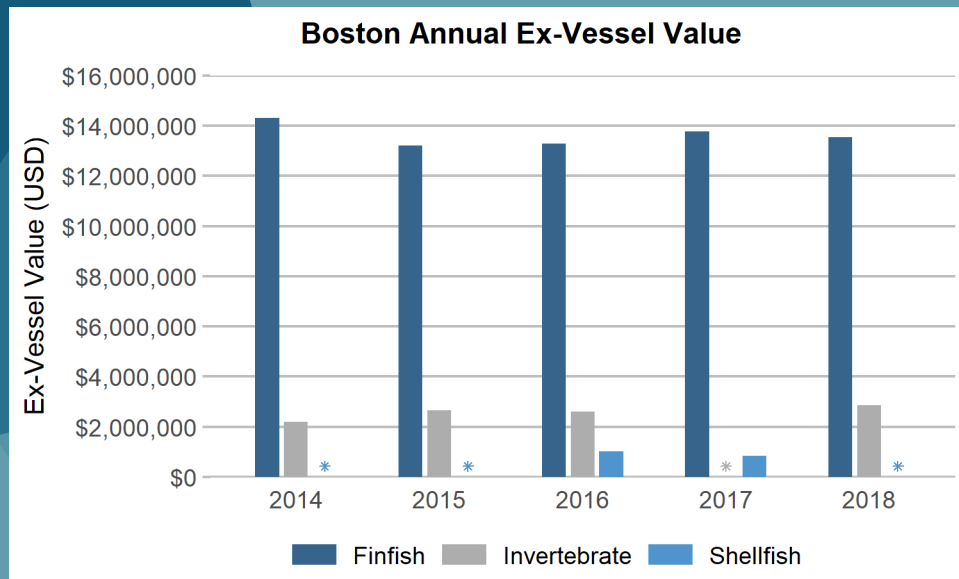
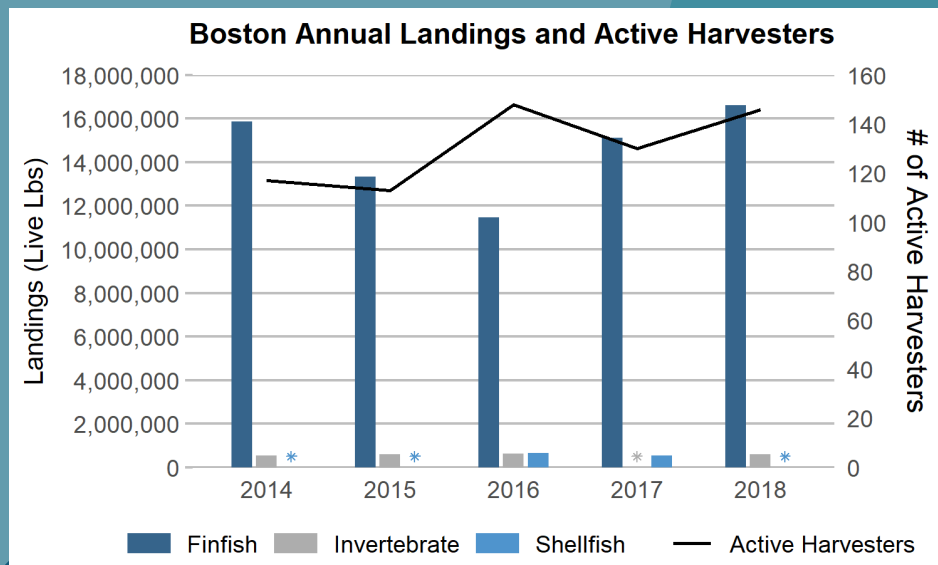
The top-ranked species, by dollar value, landed between 2014-2018 included:

- American Lobster
- Haddock
- Pollock

*Does not include confidential shellfish landings

5 Year Trends in Commercial Landings and Value

Source: DMF Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse



* = CONFIDENTIAL, as fewer than three harvesters, vessels, and/or dealers reported in this municipality.

Status of the Commercial Fishing Industry

Source: 2019 Harbormaster and Harvester Survey Data

Boston remains a major commercial fishing landing port. The Boston Fish Pier is an important seafood processing hub and vessel offloading location. More than 20 groundfish vessels offload at the fish pier annually, utilizing 20 dockside slips. Groundfish landings have been consistently valued at over \$13 million per year for the past 5 years. The Cardinal Medeiros Dock is home to the majority of Boston's lobster fleet. In the last 10 years, the number of commercial fishing vessels operating out of Boston has been consistent.



Commercial Fishing Infrastructure



Infrastructure upgrades in last ten years:

- New floats and docks
- New Ladders on the Boston Fish Pier



Current infrastructure:

Challenges

- Lack of docking space
- Lack of launch ramps
- Lack of transient port accommodations
- Limited parking

Needs

- Ramp for loading lobster traps
- Additional launch ramps
- Boston Fish Pier needs a small boat offloading platform
- Parking
- Dredging



Infrastructure dedicated solely to commercial harvesters:

- Moorings: None
- Slips: Medeiros Dock, South Boston; and Lobster Fleet Fish Pier, Boston
- Broadside berthing: Fish Pier, Boston



In 2018, the municipality charged for the following services:

- Moorings: \$5.50/foot per year
- Slips: \$82/foot per year

Type of Infrastructure	Available?
Ice	
Bait storage	
Trash disposal	
Commerical offloading	
Hoist	
Dock space	
Gear storage	
Mooring space	
Fueling stations	
Vessel repair	
Launch ramp	
Parking for fishermen	
Parking for seafood trucks	
Other	

= Available