

# 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.

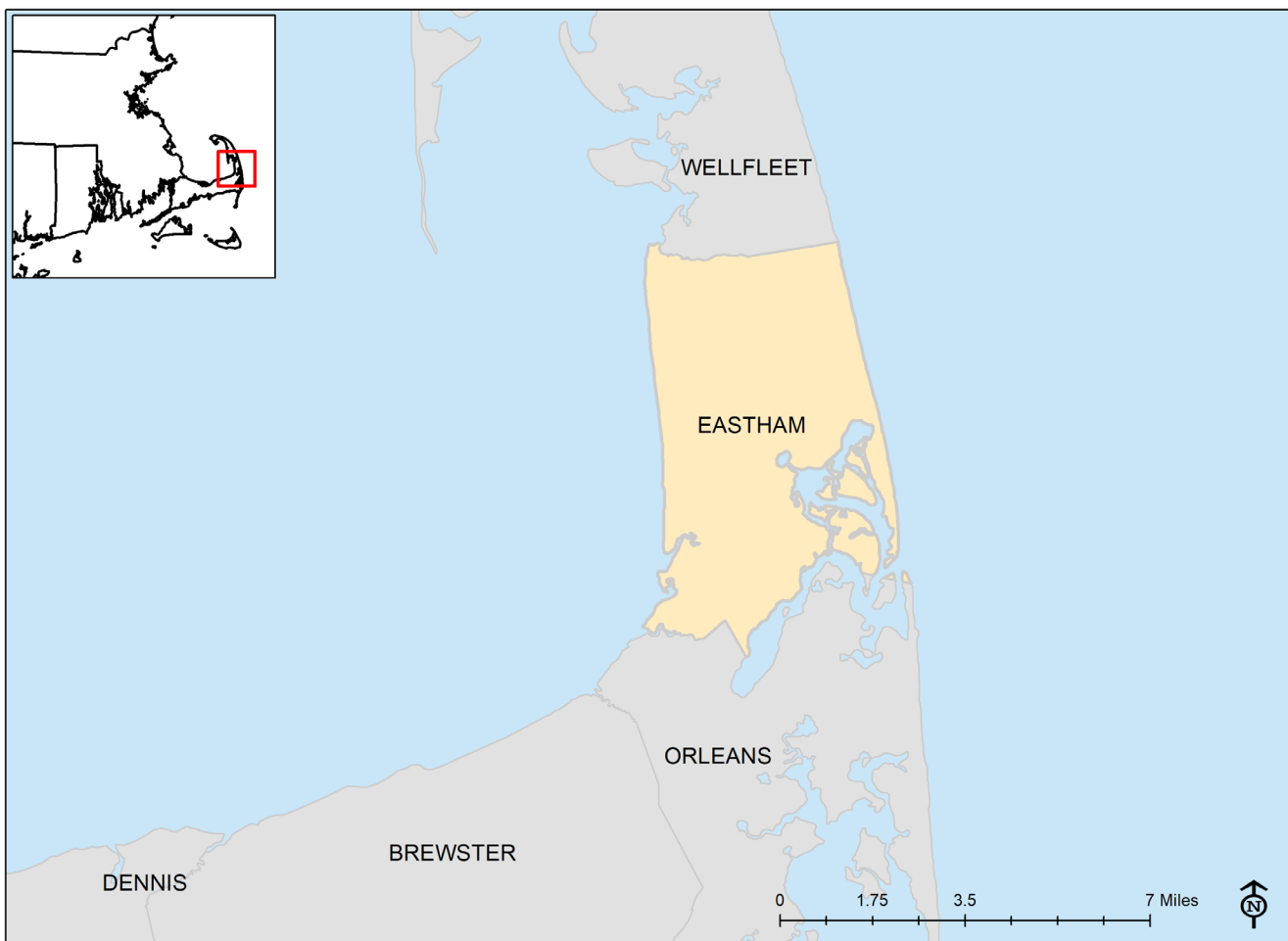
For the full report, visit the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries website.



URBAN HARBORS INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON







**Eastham 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

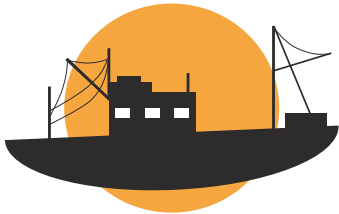
# EASTHAM

Located on Cape Cod, Eastham has two main harbors: Rock Harbor and Nauset Inlet.

Permitted commercial fisheries, which may or may not have been active during the survey period, include: Lobster Pot, Shellfish (by hand), Dragger, Clam Dredge, Scallop Dredge, Rod & Reel, Aquaculture, and For Hire/Charter.

## 2018 Overview

Source: DMF Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse



### Eastham's commercial fishery had:

- 91** permitted harvester with an Eastham address
- 47** vessels with an Eastham homeport
- 1,558** trips landing in Eastham
- 114** active permitted harvester landing in Eastham
- 19** active dealers purchasing in Eastham



### Commercial fishermen harvested the following in Eastham in 2018:

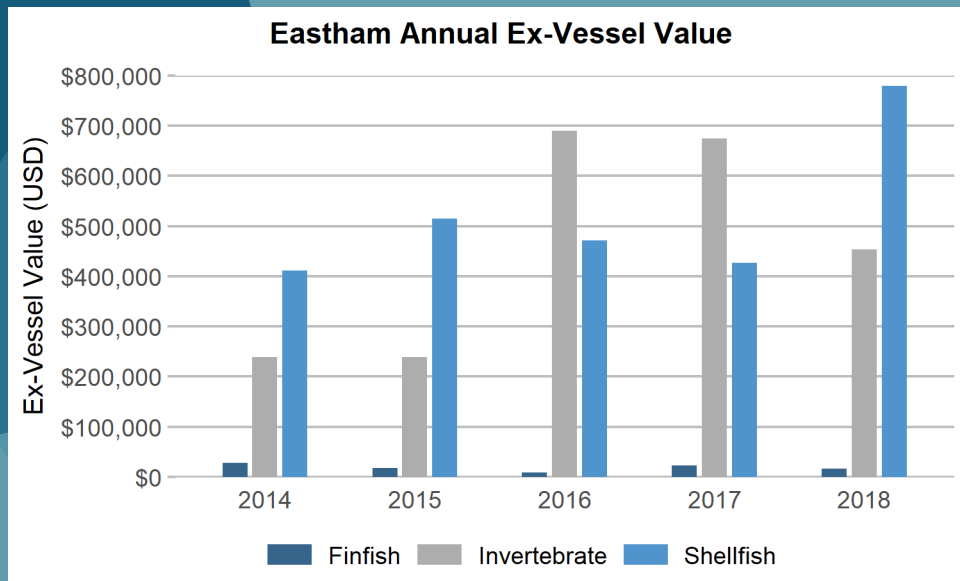
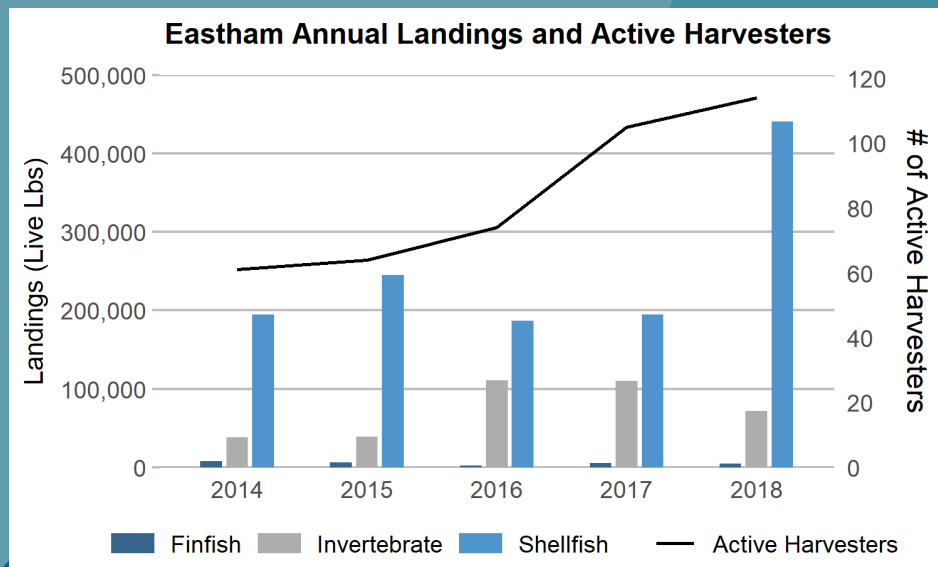
**517,215** pounds of catch with an ex-vessel value of **\$1,250,591**

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

- American Lobster
- Eastern Oyster
- Northern Quahog

# 5 Year Trends in Commercial Landings and Value

Source: DMF Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse



# Status of the Commercial Fishing Industry

Source: 2019 Harbormaster and Harvester Survey Data

Eastham's commercial fishing fleet consists of both non-trailered and trailered vessels. The number of non-trailered commercial fishing vessels has increased due to new lobster permit holders, more grant holders that use skiffs, and harvesters downsizing to town water fisheries. The number of trailered vessels has decreased due to fewer striped bass and the shoaling of the inlet. Additionally, in the last 10 years, anecdotal sources report that Eastham has seen a decline in the demand for the charter industry due to fewer striped bass, a decline in softshell clams and groundfish, and an increase in lobster, quahog, and aquaculture.



## Commercial Fishing Infrastructure



### Current infrastructure:

#### Challenges

- Lack of docking space
- Shallow water/need for dredging inside inlet
- Limited parking during summer
- Conflicts with other users
- Lack of transient port accommodations
- Permitting process for infrastructure

#### Needs

- Dredging
- Bulkhead requires permitting
- Dockage space



### Infrastructure dedicated solely to commercial fishermen:

- Moorings: Yes
- Slips: Yes
- Broadside berthing: Not in Eastham, but is available on Orleans side of harbor



### In 2018, the municipality charged for the following services:

- Moorings: \$50 for under 16', \$75 for under 25', \$100 for over 25'
- 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