MASSACHUSETTS COMMERCIAL FISHING PORT PROFILES
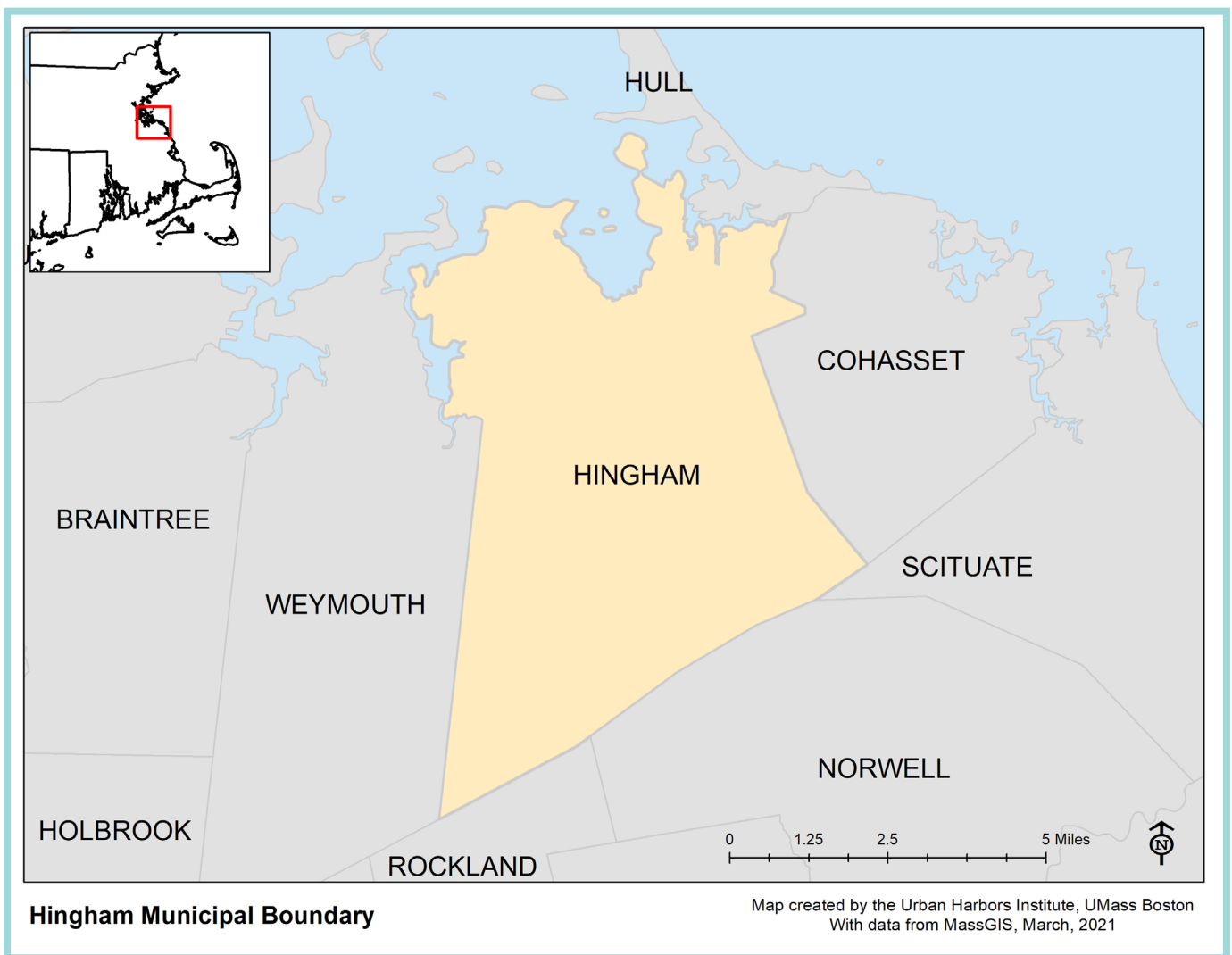
The Massachusetts Commercial Fishing Port Profiles were developed through a collaboration between the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the University of Massachusetts Boston's Urban Harbors Institute, and the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance. Using data from commercial regional permits, 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.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DIVISION of MARINE FISHERIES

UMASS BOSTON
URBAN HARBORS INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ALLIANCE

Hingham 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

HINGHAM

Located on the South Shore, Hingham has four main harbors: Back River, Hewitts Cove, Hingham Harbor, and Weir River.

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

- Lobster Pot
- Shellfish (by hand)

2018 Overview

Source: DMF Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse

Hingham's commercial fishery had:

37 permitted harvesters with a Hingham address

37 vessels with a Hingham homeport

709 trips landing in Hingham

15 active permitted harvesters landing in Hingham

6 active dealers purchasing in Hingham

Commercial harvesters landed the following in Hingham in 2018:

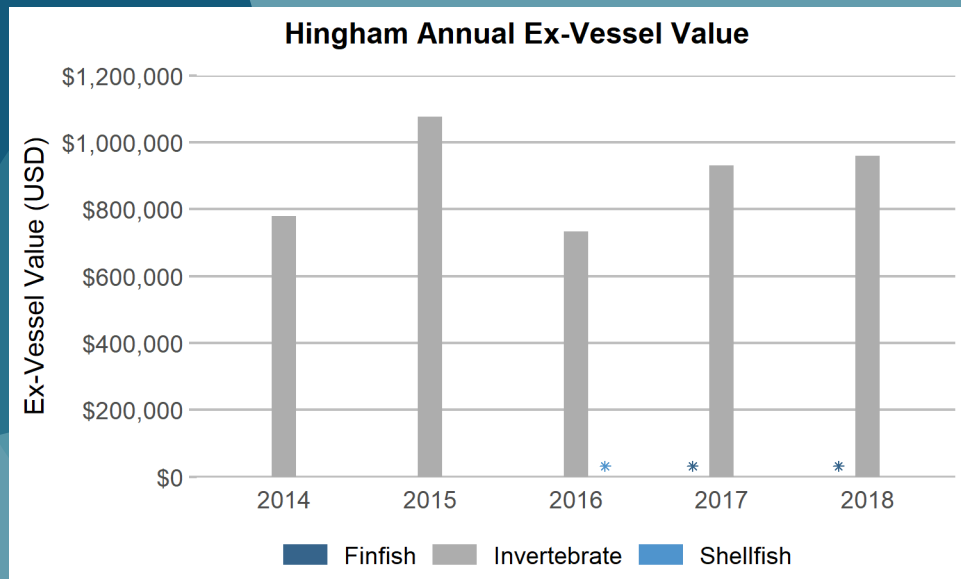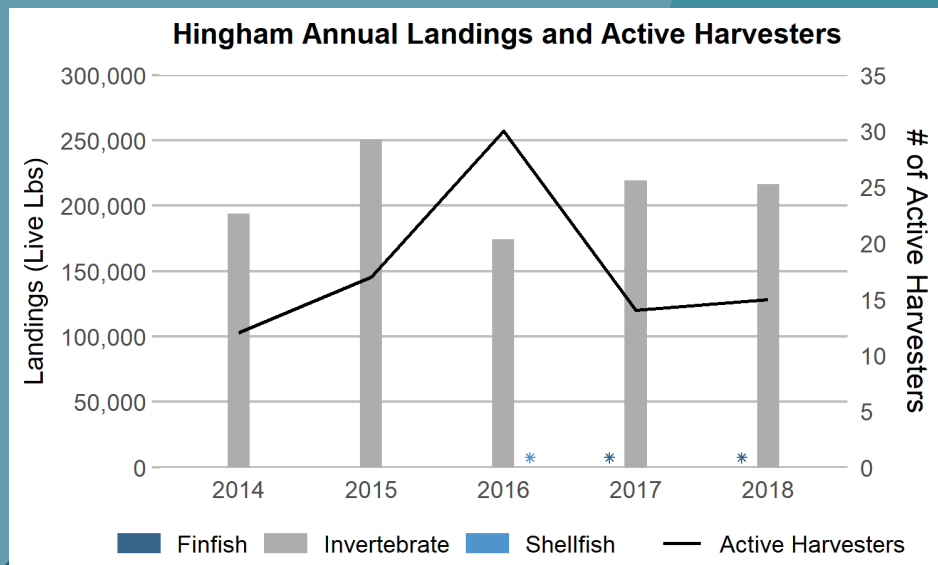**216,587** pounds of catch with an ex-vessel value of **$960,519***

The top-ranked species, by dollar value, landed between 2014-2018 included:
American Lobster
Soft Shell Clam
Bluefin Tuna

*Does not include confidential finfish landings

5 Year Trends in Commercial Landings and Value
Source: DMF Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse

Hingham Annual Landings and Active Harvesters

Landings (Live Lbs) / # of Active Harvesters

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

Legend: Finfish | Invertebrate | Shellfish | Active Harvesters

Hingham Annual Ex-Vessel Value

Ex-Vessel Value (USD)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

Legend: Finfish | Invertebrate | Shellfish

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

Status of the Commercial Fishing Industry

Hingham's commercial fishing fleet consists primarily of non-trailered vessels. Anecdotal sources report that the Hingham has seen a decline in the shellfish and lobster fisheries in the last 10 years. Additionally, the number of commercial vessels has decreased due to insufficient docking space and shellfish activity, and an increase in costs associated with storage and operation.

Commercial Fishing Infrastructure

Current infrastructure:

Challenges
- Conflicts with other users
- Vessel storage costs
- Lack of public commercial fishing access
- Lack of docking space (including for loading and unloading vessels)
- Limited parking

Needs
- Inner Harbor dredging to enhance access to the boat ramp
- Boat ramp replacement
- More options for boat, bait, and gear storage
- Commercial wharf
- Wholesale buyer access
- Sheltered mooring area

Infrastructure dedicated solely to commercial fishermen:
- Moorings: None
- Slips: None
- Broadside berthing: None

In 2018, the municipality charged for the following services:
- Moorings: $8.50/foot
- Slips: $8.50/foot plus marina slip fee
- Transient dockage: $35/night; $15/4 hours

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