

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





Rockport 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

ROCKPORT

Located on the North Shore, Rockport has three main harbors: Granite Pier, Pigeon Cove, and Rockport Harbor.

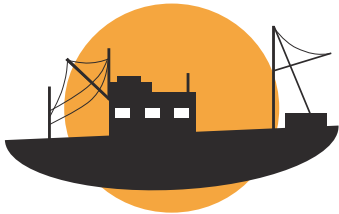
Permitted commercial fisheries, which may or may not be active during the survey period, include:

- Lobster Pot
- Scallop Dredge
- Rod & Reel
- For Hire/ Charter



2018 Overview

Source: DMF Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse



Rockport's commercial fishery had:

- 95** permitted harvesters with a Rockport address
- 80** vessels with a Rockport homeport
- 3,681** trips landing in Rockport
- 56** active permitted harvesters landing in Rockport
- 12** active dealers purchasing in Rockport



Commercial harvesters landed the following in Rockport in 2018:

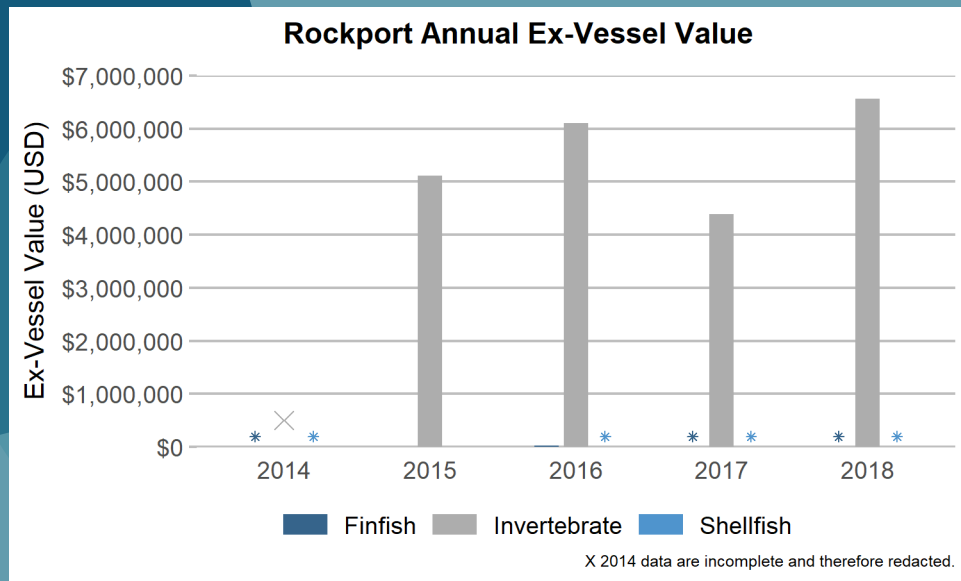
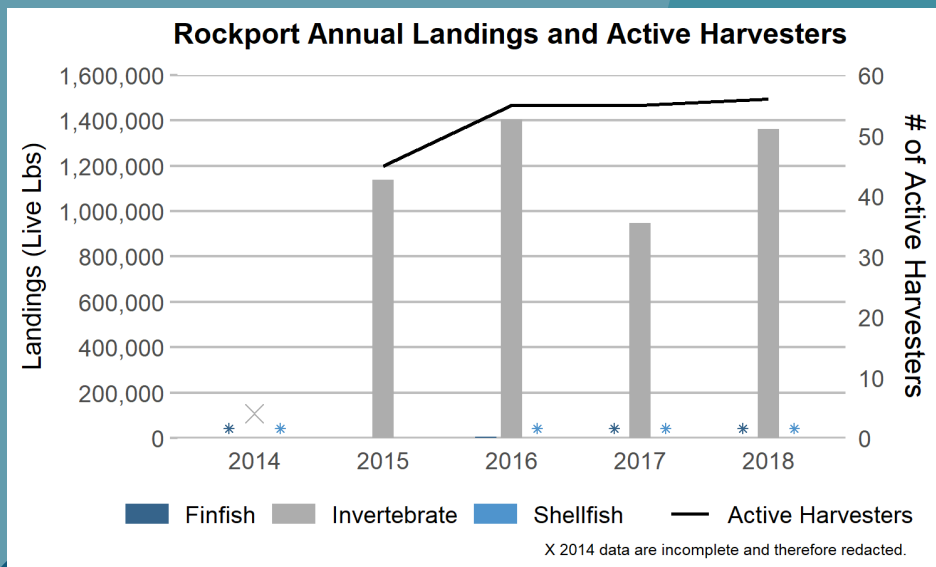
1,424,033 pounds of catch with an ex-vessel value of **\$6,641,393**

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

- American Lobster
- Sea Scallop
- Bluefin Tuna

5 Year Trends in Commercial Landings and Value

Source: 2018 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 Fishermen Survey Data

Rockport's commercial fishing fleet consists mostly of non-trailerred vessels (20'-48'), with approximately a dozen trailerred vessels. In the last 10 years, Rockport has seen an increase in lobster catch due to the northern migration of lobsters. Generally speaking, trailerred vessels operating out of Granite Pier have recently increased due to the close proximity of the pier to the tuna/finfishing grounds, a shorter run which saves time and fuel.

Commercial Fishing Infrastructure



Infrastructure upgrades in last ten years:

- Seawall repair



Current infrastructure:

Challenges

- Lack of docking space and moorings
- Shallow water/need for dredging
- Limited parking
- Conflicts with other users
- Permitting process for infrastructure
- Competition with private adjacent facility owning real estate
- Open ocean harbor at Granite Pier

Needs

- Parking, fuel
- Dredging
- More protection in the harbors
- Cooperation within existing commercial fleet
- Docks with water and electricity
- Wharf repairs



Infrastructure dedicated solely to commercial fishermen:

- Moorings: 12 moorings on the Northeast wall of Pigeon Cove
- Slips: None
- Broadside berthing: None



In 2018, the municipality charged for the following services:

- Moorings: \$10/foot per year
- Broadside berthing: \$1/foot per night (3 day limit)
- Transient dockage: \$1/foot per night
- Launch: \$12 per launch



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