

# 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.

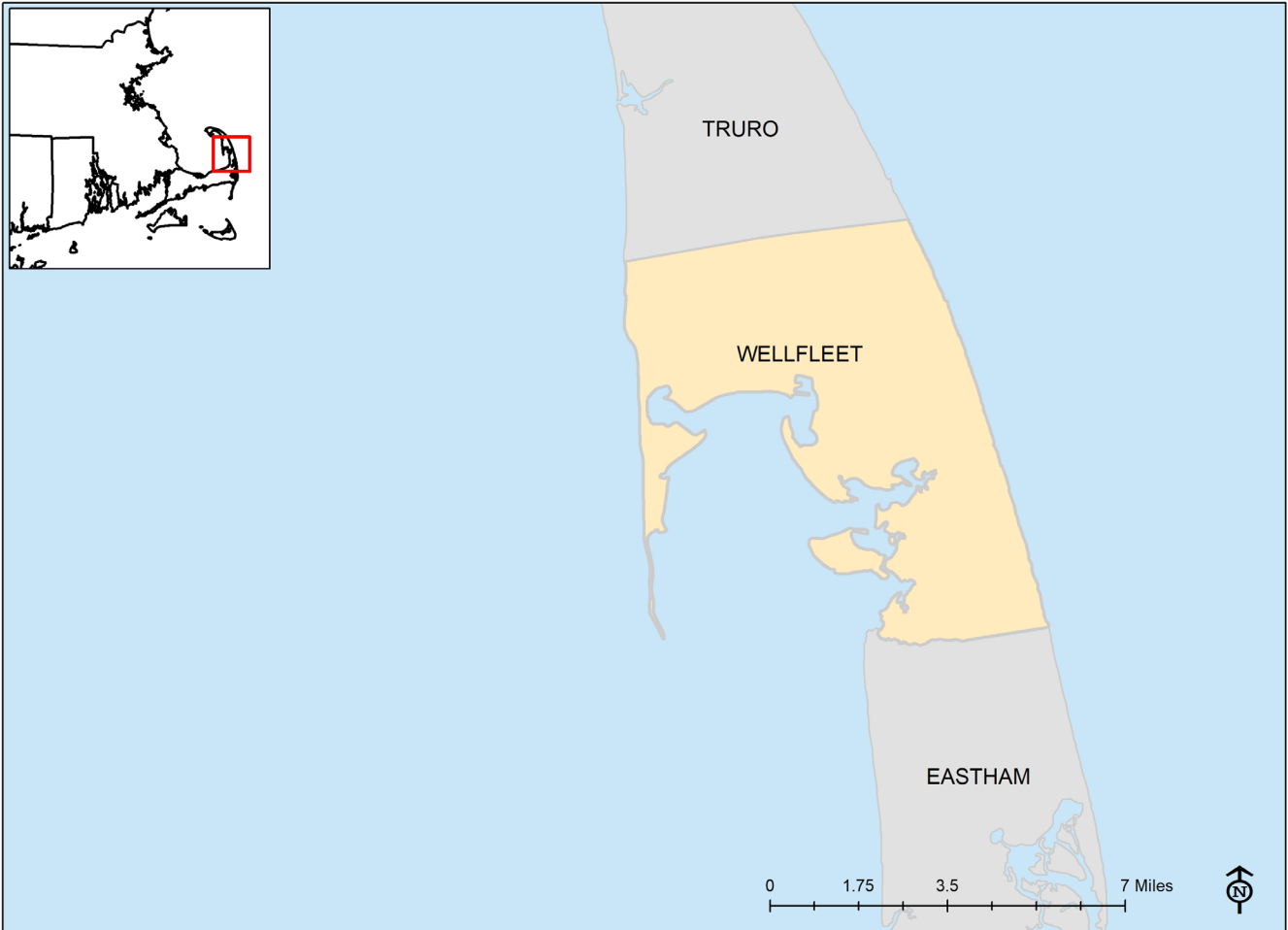
For the full report, visit the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries website.



URBAN HARBORS INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON







**Wellfleet 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

# WELLFLEET

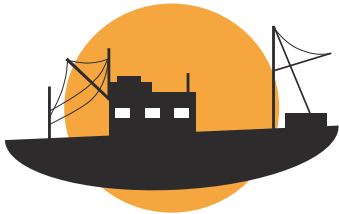
Located on Cape Cod, Wellfleet has one main harbor named Wellfleet Harbor.

Permitted commercial fisheries, which may or may not be 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: 2018 Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse



### Wellfleet's commercial fishery had:

- 227** permitted fishermen with a Wellfleet address
- 63** vessels with a Wellfleet homeport
- 7,993** trips landing in Wellfleet
- 236** active permitted fishermen landing in Wellfleet
- 33** active dealers purchasing in Wellfleet



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

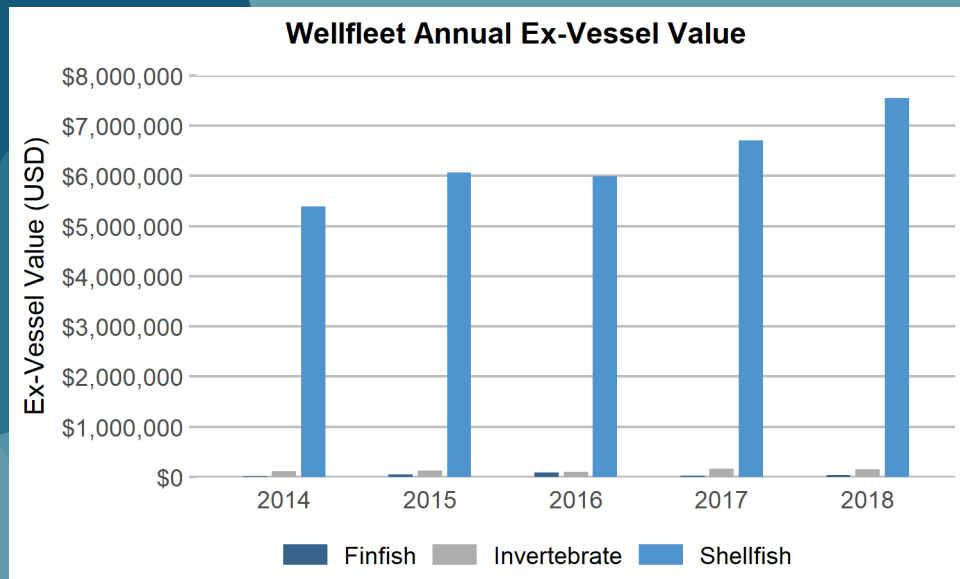
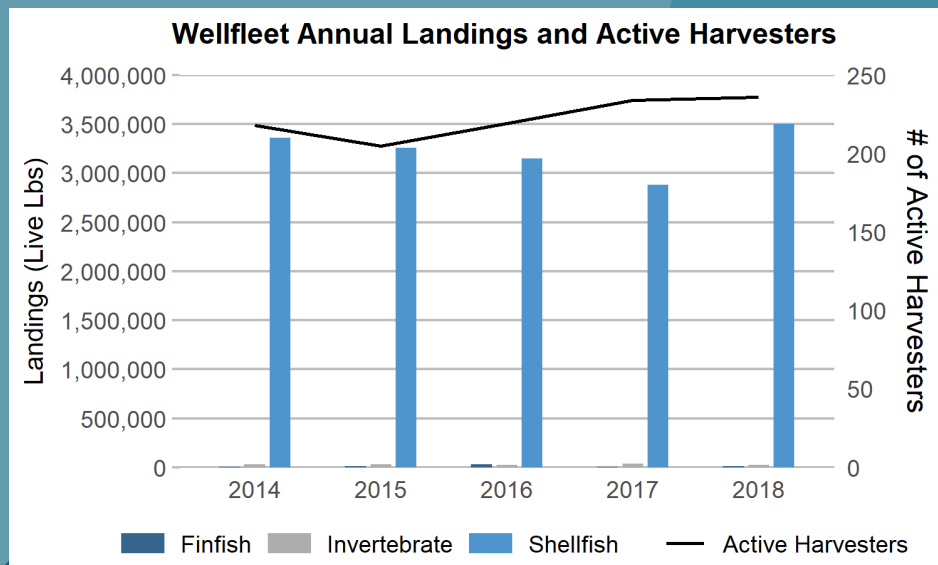
**3,535,471** pounds of catch with an ex-vessel value of **\$7,728,102**

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

- Eastern Oyster
- Northern Quahog
- Atlantic Surf Clam

# 5 Year Trends in Commercial Landings and Value

Source: 2018 Permitting and Statistics Data; ACCSP Data Warehouse



# Status of the Commercial Fishing Industry

Source: 2019 Harbormaster and Fishermen Survey Data

Wellfleet's commercial fishing fleet consists of both trailered and non-trailered vessels. In the last 10 years, Wellfleet has seen an increase in aquaculture and shellfishing, and a slight decline in charter boats for-hire. Because of the aquaculture and shellfishing growth, as well as more small vessels using the Wellfleet ramp, the number of commercial fishing vessels has also grown.

## Commercial Fishing Infrastructure



### Infrastructure upgrades in last ten years:

- Marina re-build
- New launch ramp
- Dredging



### Current infrastructure Challenges

- Lack of dock space (waitlist of 300+ people)
- Shallow water/need for dredging
- Limited parking
- Conflicts with other users
- Permitting process for infrastructure
- Lack of transient port accommodations

### Needs

- Dredging (started in 2020)
- Replace fuel tanks (project underway)
- More dock space
- Unloading/wholesale pickup space
- Commercial ice machine
- Parking



### Infrastructure dedicated solely to commercial fishermen:

- Moorings: Fishermen have own moorings
- Slips: 18 slips and L-Pier
- Broadside berthing: L-Pier is strictly for commercial vessels



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

- Moorings: \$219/mooring
- Slips: \$40/foot
- Broadside berthing: \$40/foot
- Unloading: \$55
- Transient dockage: \$40/night
- Launch: \$10/day; \$200/season



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

= Available