



Northeast Multispecies Sector Program

Methods of Analysis: May 2015

Social Indicators:

- Landings and Revenues by State and Port Group
- Vessel Activity by State and Port Group
- Crew Employment and Compensation
- Fishing Vessel and Crew Safety
- Fishing Support Service Employment
- Seafood Processor Employment

Have social and economic effects on local communities changed?

Together these elements describe fishery-related changes that affect the economic and social life of communities. The effects may vary from state to state within the fishery management region and locally from community to community. For that reason, the indicators are reported when possible for each state and for ports or port groups. Ideally, the results could be reported for individual communities so that local effects could be revealed, but this is not possible under the confidentiality requirements of data provided by NOAA.

Social indicator data for “Groundfish Landings and Revenues by State and Port Group,” “Vessel Activity by State and Port Group,” and “Crew Employment and Compensation,” are largely drawn from annual performance reports for the Northeast multispecies groundfish fishery published by NOAA Fisheries. Typically, these reports are published in the winter and provide data for the past four fishing years. As our baseline extends past the most recent four years, data from older annual reports are used. However, each subsequent annual report updates information for previous years, so the most accurate information can only be obtained by referencing the most recent report for which that fishing year is included. Specifically:

- The 2013 annual report from NOAA Fisheries included information from the 2010-2013 fishing years and is the most updated source of information for those four years. It was the source for data for years 2010-2013.

- The 2012 annual report includes information for the 2009-2012 fishing years, but since 2010-2012 was updated in the 2013 annual report, the 2012 annual report only provided us with information for the 2009 fishing year.
- The 2011 annual report only included data from three fishing years (2009-2011), so it was reviewed for conclusions but data were not used.
- The 2010 annual report, which was the first in the series, included data from 2007-2010. Since 2009 data were updated in the 2012 annual report and 2010 data are updated in the 2013 report, those data are not used; however, the 2010 annual report is the only source for 2007 and 2008 data.

Data related to numbers of vessels and crew are absolute and have not been adjusted aside from small changes based on revised data from newly published annual reviews. Dollar values have been adjusted to 2013 constant dollars. Refer to [NE Economic Methods](#) for details.

“Groundfish Landings and Revenue by State and Port Group,” includes information from the NOAA Office of Science and Technology (OST) with a baseline going back to 1980 for two charts. These data were collected in early 2015. The primary groundfish species for which data are presented include: American plaice, Atlantic cod, haddock, pollock, redfish, white hake, winter flounder, witch flounder, and yellowtail flounder. (These are the same species “checked” on the “(OST Data) Revenues and Landings by State” figure, although other species can be viewed to gain a more comprehensive context of commercial fishing in the northeast.) OST data are tabulated by calendar year from 1980 to 1990; after 1990, data are available by month. To align the OST data with fishing year, 1990-1993 are transition years during which a month from that calendar year was excluded and replaced with a month from the next calendar year. Over the course of four transition years, the monthly OST data was made to reflect fishing years that start in May and end in April. Specifically:

- January 1990 data are excluded from 1990 totals, while January 1991 data are included;
- February 1991 data are excluded from 1991 totals, while February 1992 data are included;
- March 1992 data are excluded from 1992 totals, while March 1993 data are included;
- April 1993 data are excluded from 1993 totals, while April 1994 data are included.

“Fishing Vessel and Crew Safety” data were provided by the Center for Disease Control National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) through a data request. Data provided by NIOSH included fatality data by state, fishery, and gear type, with latitude and longitude of the incident. Those incidents identified as occurring to vessels engaged in the groundfish fishery employing trawl gear were selected for inclusion.

Information displayed for the “Fishing Support Service Employment” and “Seafood Processor Employment” indicators are from U.S. Census Bureau County Business Patterns datasets. County Business Pattern data are updated annually by the U.S. Census Bureau and are available from 2003 (the 2004 County Business Patterns include data for 2003 and 2004; from 2005 onward, County Business Pattern data are only for one year). County Business Pattern data are available by 6-digit North American Industry Classification System code. The social indicator team reviewed available 6-digit codes and selected those industries most applicable to the commercial multispecies groundfish fishery. For fishery support services, these included codes for ship building and repairing (336611), boat dealers (441222), marinas (713930), and transportation equipment and supplies (except motor vehicles) merchant wholesalers (423860). For seafood processor employment, these included codes for seafood product preparation and packaging (31171, which is a 5-digit code that includes different kinds of custom products), fish and seafood merchant wholesalers (424460), and fish and seafood markets (445220).