

8. IMPACT OF THE HARVESTING/FISHING INDUSTRY IN NEW ENGLAND

The harvesting/fishing industry in New England employs 6500 fishermen (1986 figure) and represents only a small fraction of the agriculture employment in the region; it represents an even smaller portion of nonagricultural employment and the civilian labor force in New England.

NEW ENGLAND EMPLOYMENT

(in thousands)		fishing employment as a % of other employment
total non-agriculture	6,652.3 (2/89)	.01%
total agriculture	37.0 (4/89)	17.6%
civilian labor force	7,032.3 (2/89)	.009%

While the impact on the fishing industry on employment in the region is negligible, its contribution to the Gross Regional Product (GRP) of New England has significance. The GRP of the category of small agricultural services/forestry/fisheries rose 14.8% from 1985 to 1986 (from \$899 million in 1985 to \$1,032 million in 1986), approximately double the corresponding national rate of increase. The rise is almost all attributal to the fishing sector and the increase in prices of the landings.

New England's fishing activities and its international distribution locus in Boston are a vital part of the U.S. seafood market. With the decline in resources, it is an industry facing increasing competition and lower income although such high value species as scallops and lobsters keep its over-all value up.

Canada's heavy dependence upon New England's demand for and distribution of seafood exports points up the need for new attention to the fisheries industry here.