

PRODUCTION AND TRADE

WORLD PRODUCTION

World lobster landings during the period 1983-1992 topped out at 152,000 MT in 1988. Landings decreased in 1992 to 134,500 MT, down from 147,7000 MT in 1991 (a decrease of 8.9%). Spiny lobster landings led the way in 1992 with production of {66,200 MT}, followed by American lobster {65,900 MT}, rock lobster {10,500 MT}, and European lobster {2,4000 MT}.

World spiny lobster landings have increased from 49,500 MT in 1982, reaching a high of 68,800 MT in 1986, and a low of 53,600 MT in 1990. Landings of American lobster have also increased from 40,700 MT in 1982, to a high of 76,300 MT in 1991. World rock lobster landings have generally declined from 15,100 MT in 1982, to a low of 8,600 MT in 1991, only reaching a high of 17,300 MT in 1987. European lobster landings remained relatively steady during the period 1982-1992, from a high of 2,600 MT in 1990, to a low of 1,800 MT in 1986.

World Lobster Landings By Species {1,000 MT}

Species	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Spiny	51.3	56.8	67.1	68.8	65.4	67.3	61.8	53.6	61.5	66.2
American	47.7	48.6	53.7	58.9	60.1	62.5	67.1	74.6	76.3	65.9
Rock	15.0	16.0	16.4	16.4	17.3	13.6	9.3	15.5	8.6	10.5
European	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.4
Total	120.2	129.5	139.6	143.9	146.5	152.2	147.8	145.9	147.7	134.5

Source: FAO/FISHDAB

Canada has remained the leading lobster producer during the entire 1983-1992 period, while the United States landed the second highest totals each year. Cuban vessels landed the third highest lobster totals every year except 1990 when Australia, the perennial fourth largest producer, had landings of 9,200 MT. Other major lobster producers are Brazil who increased landings, and the Bahamas, whose landings increased dramatically in 1991 and 1992. Canadian lobster vessel landings increased dramatically to a high of 47,600 MT in 1991, and a low of 27,700 MT in 1983. United States lobster vessel landings have increased steadily from a low of 22,200 MT in 1983, to a high of 31,900 MT in 1991. During the same period, Australian lobster landings have fluctuated between a high of 20,500 MT in 1988, to a low of 13,300 MT in 1986.

World Lobster Landings by Country {1,000 MT}

Country	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Canada	27.7	28.7	32.8	39.0	39.4	40.4	43.1	46.5	47.6	40.6
USA	22.2	22.8	23.3	24.3	23.3	25.3	27.2	30.9	31.9	27.5
Australia	17.6	15.5	16.3	13.3	19.0	20.5	17.5	18.2	14.0	18.4
Cuba	10.9	12.6	13.6	13.3	12.8	11.7	11.2	7.9	9.9	9.3
Brazil	5.9	8.9	8.1	4.4	6.9	7.1	7.1	9.2	9.9	9.3
Bahamas	2.8	3.5	5.5	3.6	4.6	5.1	6.2	5.8	7.5	8.2
South Africa	3.9	4.8	4.3	4.4	6.1	6.5	3.9	5.1	2.7	3.1
New Zealand	n/a	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.0	1.2	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.8
Mexico	2.3	2.3	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0
Indonesia	0.8	0.5	0.4	1.3	1.0	1.3	0.9	0.8	4.4	1.8
Honduras	3.9	3.1	4.1	5.3	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.3	2.5	1.4

Source: FAO/FISHDAB