

CANADIAN LOBSTER IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

1. SECTOR DESCRIPTION

Production of lobster (*homarus Americanus*) is confined to northeastern North America. In Canada, this means the five Atlantic provinces Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The United States is the only other producer of this species of lobster with which the Canadian lobster industry must compete in North American and other markets.

Other competing species include:

European lobster (*Homarus gammarus*) are found in the UK and Scandinavia. Scampi also belong to the true family of lobsters (*nephropidae*) being marine and having large claws on the front pair of legs.

Crayfish (*Astacidae* and *Cambaridae*) are found in Northern Hemisphere waters. *Parastacidae* are found in the Southern Hemisphere in various countries. Like true lobsters, crayfish have two claws but are confined to freshwater.

Rock lobster (*Palinuridae* spiny lobster) are found in Cuba, Columbia, S.Africa, Australia and in a range of other countries where water is temperate. This species lacks large claws on the first pair of legs.

Shrimp (Various species) are found in many locations.

GLOBAL MARKET AND CANADA'S SHARE

Total global lobster landings (all species) in 1990 were 152.7 tonnes. Canada is the world's largest supplier of all lobster species. Canadian landings have increased steadily from 19,000 tonnes in 1978 to over 46,500 tonnes in 1990. The United States imports over 70% of Canadian lobster exports with a value exceeding Cdn.\$ 200 million.

WORLD LOBSTER LANDINGS BY SPECIES (000 MT)

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Spiny	68.8	65.4	67.3	61.1	62.3
American	58.9	60.1	62.5	67.1	74.2
Rock	16.4	17.3	13.6	9.3	13.6
European	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.6
TOTAL	145.9	144.9	145.5	139.6	152.7

Source: FAO Year Book, Fisheries Statistics, 1990