

Methodology

The data in this publication are taken from the statistical system of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Quebec Region. The system consists of three components, all of which were used to produce this report: catch-effort-quotas, people-vessels-licences, and processing plant production and workforce.

Data on people, vessels and licences come from licensing paperwork. The number of licence holders corresponds to the number of people registered with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, who operated authorized fishing gears under the terms of a commercial fishing licence in 2004 and 2005. The number of vessels is the number of fishing boats licensed in 2004 and 2005. The number of licences is the total number of fishing licences issued, but not necessarily active, in 2004 and 2005.

Data on fish and shellfish landings are provided by commercial buyers, who are required to provide us with a copy of the DFO form to record their purchases from fishermen. Each transaction of this type generally corresponds to one fishing trip. The Enterprise Allocation Monitoring Program, initiated in 1989, now covers some mobile and fixed gear vessels less than 64' 11" and some 65'-100' long, for groundfish in areas 4RST and 3PN. The program also affects all crabbers and shrimpers, as well as many scallopers and surf clam fishers. For these fleets, an additional check has to be carried on the data supplied to the Statistics Service.

Furthermore, to estimate the volume of fish eaten by commercial fishermen and their families, the volume of fish sold directly to the public or used as bait and processed by fishermen themselves, we use data supplied by DFO fishery officers and information from fishermen's associations. **This type of data, called "supplementary purchase slips" is being included only in tables where we added a note to that effect.**

Data are gathered, coded and entered locally in each of the maritime sectors: Gaspé, Sept Îles and Cap aux Meules. The concepts and definitions used meet the standards set by the Statistical Coordinating Committee for the Atlantic Coast (STACAC) and are thus compatible with the systems of the other Atlantic regions (the Gulf, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland). Papers published by the STACAC provide more information on the concepts and definitions used here (see reference list). Some of them are available from Statistics Service at the Quebec City Regional Office.

Figures in the tables on landings have been rounded, so they may not add up to the totals shown.

It should also be noted that some data on salmon, eel, smelt, tomcod, capelin and sturgeon landings were supplied by the Quebec Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ - Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec).

Another important point is that until 1992, seal-hunt licences were issued in the maritime sectors and did not figure in the publication of the various statistical tables on fishing licences. In 1993, the policy on licensing for the seal hunt was amended to make it much more like the ones for other types of licences, so seal-hunt licences are now counted the same way as other existing licences. To avoid skewing the trend analysis, we decided to publish the seal-hunt data separately. Statistical table 4A gives the number of seal-hunt licences according to quite specific parameters.

It should be noted that the process of gathering data at the source is the result of the Federal-Provincial Harmonization Agreement on the Quebec Marine Fisheries, the main objective of which was to eliminate duplication of effort in this area.