CATCHING VALUE: AN ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF CONNECTICUT RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH HARVEST

Tessa Getchis, Robert Pomeroy, Di Yang
OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- As part of the Connecticut Shellfish Initiative, University of Connecticut economists and Sea Grant Extension staff are undertaking the first statewide economic assessment of recreational shellfishing.
- The purpose is to place a dollar value on the economic importance of recreational shellfishing in Connecticut.
- Although the focus of the study is on an economic analysis of recreational shellfishing, data will also be collected on commercial shellfishing and inquire about other aspects of municipal management of shellfisheries.
The recreational shellfishing study is being undertaken through a four steps process:

1. Survey of municipal shellfish commissions to obtain information on municipal contacts, permits, and permit records.
2. Collect permit data from municipal shellfish commissions on permits sold, type and fee.
3. Survey of recreational shellfish permit vendors and wardens to assess spending by permit holders.
4. Survey of recreational shellfishing permit holders on spending.

Of the 19 shellfish commissions’ active in 2014, it was decided to focus the study on 13 municipalities with recreational shellfishing. This included Branford, Darien, East Lyme, Fairfield, Greenwich, Groton, Guilford, Madison, Norwalk, Stonington, Waterford, Waterford-East Lyme (WELSCO), and Westport.
## Data Availability

(as the date of Jan 30th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Stonington</th>
<th>Branford</th>
<th>Fairfield</th>
<th>Guilford</th>
<th>Darien</th>
<th>East Lyme</th>
<th>WELSCO</th>
<th>Westport</th>
<th>Waterford</th>
<th>Greenwich</th>
<th>Norwalk</th>
<th>Madison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DATA AVAILABILITY

- Permit records were collected from 12 Towns.
- **Still missing the records of Groton.**
- All records of permit sale and value range from the years 2005 to 2015.
- The average year of available permit records from the 12 towns is 7.8 years.
- The longest history of records came from the towns of Stonington, Fairfield, Branford, and Guilford, which all have records from the years 2005 to 2014.
- The shortest history of records came from the towns of Greenwich, Norwalk, and Madison, which all provided record for five years.
- The permit records for the years 2011 to 2014 are available for all 12 towns.
THE TOWN OF STONINGTON

average annual permits sale of 840
average annual permit value of $11,753
THE TOWN OF STONINGTON

average annual permits sale of 840
average annual permit value of $11,753
average annual permits sale of 284
average annual permit value of $1,684

THE TOWN OF BRANFORD

Permits Sale and Value in Branford

Total number of permits include annual permit for residents ($5), non-residents ($10), and day-pass ($50).
Fairfield experienced recreational shellfishing closures at the year of 2007, 2008, and 2009 due to sewer by-pass from adjoining town, and re-opened at 2010 at reduced permit rate.

average annual permits sale of 68
average annual permit value of $842
Fairfield experienced recreational shellfishing closures at the year of 2007, 2008, and 2009 due to sewer by-pass from adjoining town, and re-opened at 2010 at reduced permit rate.

average annual permits sale of 68
average annual permit value of $842
THE TOWN OF GUILFORD

average annual permits sale of 1,015
average annual permit value of $39,769

*Only ¾ of data in the year 2005 is provided.*
average annual permits sale of 1,015
average annual permit value of $39,769

THE TOWN OF GUILFORD

*Only ¾ of data in the year 2005 is provided.
THE TOWN OF DARIEN

average annual permits sale of 57
average annual permit value of $942

Permits Sale and Value in Darien
average annual permits sale of 57
average annual permit value of $942
THE TOWN OF EAST LYME

average annual permits sale of 4
average annual permit value of $127

Permits Sale and Value in East Lyme
WATERFORD EAST LYME SHELLFISH COMMISSION (WELSCO)

Average annual permits sale of 537
Average annual permit value of $12,240

Permits Sale and Value in WELSCO (Niantic River)
WATERFORD EAST LYME SHELLFISH COMMISSION (WELSCO)

average annual permits sale of 537
average annual permit value of $12,240
THE TOWN OF WESTPORT

average annual permits sale of 861
average annual permit value of $15,182
average annual permits sale of 861
average annual permit value of $15,182

THE TOWN OF WESTPORT
average annual permits sale of 117
average annual permit value of $2,321
THE TOWN OF WATERFORD

Average annual permits sale of 117
Average annual permit value of $2,321
THE TOWN OF WATERFORD

average annual permits sale of 117
average annual permit value of $2,321
THE TOWN OF GREENWICH

average annual permits sale of 265
average annual permit value of $3,436
THE TOWN OF GREENWICH

average annual permits sale of 265
average annual permit value of $3,436
THE TOWN OF NORWALK

average annual permits sale of 541
average annual permit value of $7,968

Permits Sale and Value in Norwalk

- Permits Sale
- Permits Value

2010: 600
2011: 800
2012: 600
2013: 400
2014: 500

Values:
- $2,000
- $4,000
- $6,000
- $8,000
- $10,000
- $12,000
THE TOWN OF NORWALK

average annual permits sale of 541
average annual permit value of $7,968
THE TOWN OF MADISON

Average annual permits sale of 77
Average annual permit value of $1,399

Permits Sale and Value in Madison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Permits Sale</th>
<th>Permits Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1,399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE TOWN OF MADISON

average annual permits sale of 77
average annual permit value of $1,399

Total Permits Sale in Madison (2011-2015)

Total Permits Value in Madison (2011-2015)
THE TOWN OF MADISON

average annual permits sale of 77
average annual permit value of $1,399
AGGREGATE SALE AND VALUE FOR 12 TOWNS
WHAT WE DO NEXT

An analysis is planned to estimate the **indirect economic impacts** of recreational shellfishing by:

- Survey of recreational shellfish permit vendors and wardens to assess spending by permit holders.
- Survey of recreational shellfishing permit holders on spending.
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