

CHAPTER 20

COMMERCIAL & NATIVE FISHERIES

Fisheries and Oceans Canada maintains annual commercial and native harvest statistics for the following species in estuarial waters: striped bass, gaspereau, American eel, smelt and Atlantic salmon. These statistics are gathered by commercial statistical districts which are similar to provincial drainage units although some districts may include multiple estuaries, such as in Kent county rivers. Annual research assessment reports document Fisheries and Oceans commercial and native harvest data.

Commercial harvest information since 1970 is available for the following New Brunswick rivers:

Restigouche	Kouchibouguac
Eel	Kouchibouguacis
Nepisiguit	Richibucto
Pokemouche	Buctouche
Big Tracadie	Cocagne
Tabusintac	Petitcodiac
Bartibog	Saint John
Miramichi	

Native harvest data since 1970 is available for the following rivers:

Restigouche	Miramichi
Eel	Richibucto
Nepisiguit	Buctouche
Tabusintac	Saint John

Data is recorded by river system even though there may be multiple reserves within the system.

International commercial harvest statistics for Atlantic salmon are prepared by the North Atlantic Salmon Working Group of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES). The statistics are the result of questions to ICES posed by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). These statistics, which are the only source of historical information, may be used to examine trends in stock abundance for each Atlantic salmon producing country. Prior to 1995, methods used to collect catch statistics varied by country, creating areas of incompatibility. NASCO has since adopted a minimum standard for catch statistics. Nevertheless, ICES has established a time series harvest / stock return database for nearly 1000 North American and European rivers to help track the relative abundance of Atlantic salmon.

Commercial and native harvest information have not yet been incorporated within the Data Warehouse.