

RECREATIONAL FISHERY SOCIOECONOMIC INFORMATION

Economic information is obtained from the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources & Energy licence sales, telephone surveys and the Canada/New Brunswick quinquennial sportfishing mail surveys. Economic values measure fisheries worth for purposes of program justification, budgeting, and estimating economic impacts of fishing. In particular, economic evaluation is needed to determine how dollars spent on fisheries programs; perhaps at the expense of other programs, will benefit the public. There are two economic value estimates: gross expenditures and net value. Gross expenditures involve direct expenditures for food, lodging, transportation, tackle, etc., showing the magnitude of a fishery. The net value or total value is the value of the fishery resource to society, or value of fishing experience to anglers. The net value is “over and above” the gross expenditure value and is assessed by asking anglers their willingness to pay for charges associated with fishing.

Human dimensions, as well as biological information, should be incorporated with fishery management to better understand the impact of users on fisheries resources. Users derive various benefits from the resource and have different preferences and values on resource use. Consequently, understanding users is important for management (e.g., regulation) and marketing (e.g., local economic impact) purposes.

Social attitudes, age and sex groupings, income categories, and angler expectations, satisfaction and demand are measured by similar methods, such as mail and telephone surveys. License sales

are also very useful to measure annual fishing demand for general planning purposes. The New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources & Energy has maintained angling license sale information since 1963.

Beginning in 1970, the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources & Energy and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have undertaken a sportfishing survey every five years to measure angler participation and socioeconomic and resource factors that affect fishing demand. Anglers are classified by residency (New Brunswick resident, non-resident Canadian and non-resident non-Canadian) and by angler licence type (Atlantic salmon or other).

Socioeconomic data is summarized by gender, age, days fished, purchases and expenditures, and willingness to pay additional costs. Other social attributes pertaining to anglers are available from reports pertaining to each 5-year survey.

The New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources & Energy performed a telephone survey in 1995 to measure feelings and dispositions of anglers toward Crown reserve water management and license fee increases. This information is available in report form.

Sportfishing socioeconomic information has not yet been incorporated within the Data Warehouse.