That's How Big Fishing Is In Maine.

Check out the value of Maine’s fishing industry. For the eighth year in a row, Maine produced more fish and shellfish than any other state in the Northeast. Portland ranked second in the Northeast and fifteenth in the nation in the value of product landed.

- There are 10,300 full or part-time fishermen in the state of Maine.
- All totaled, the industry is worth over $740 million.
- Commercial fishing in Maine generates 26,000 jobs.
- Fishermen and fishing businesses depend on roughly 25 miles of Maine’s coastal waterfront and 53 fishing ports to get their fish to market.
- 75% of the access to the waterfront is provided by private working residential and commercial wharfs.
- 25% is achieved through public piers.
- The top threats to commercial fishing access in Maine are higher property taxes, increasing competition from tourism and recreational use, and development pressure.
- The loss of commercial fishing access takes many forms:
  - Intertidal access is lost when no trespassing signs are posted
  - New coastal property owners close off or contest public access
  - Commercial fishing access is tenuous through a lease agreement
  - Singular reliance on public facilities creates competition with other users
  - Land access problem—either no parking or not enough parking
  - Conversion of working wharves to residential or recreational use
- 64% of * feel that commercial fishing access is a problem today.
- 80% of * are planning to address commercial fishing access in the future.
  *(25 Maine fishing communities sampled)

- Support Commercial Fishing Access in your community:
  - Make access a priority
  - Endorse strong town ordinances
  - Invest in your waterfront facilities
  - Create a dedicated commercial fishing pier
  - Prioritize water dependent uses along the waterfront
  - Grow your fishing community
  - Support current use taxation for commercial fishing properties

To learn more about commercial fishing access in Maine please see the recent report: “Preserving Commercial Fishing Access: A Study of Working Waterfronts in 25 Maine Communities.” This report was funded by the Maine State Planning Office Coastal Program and can be located on the web at http://www.state.me.us/mcp/online_resources/ftp.html or http://www.ceimaine.org/fisheries/rd.htm

We invite you to learn more about Maine’s commercial fishing industry by contacting:

Elizabeth Sheehan
Fisheries Project
Coastal Enterprises Inc.
207-772-5356
email: mes@ceimaine.org

Maggie Raymond
The Groundfish Group
Associated Fisheries of Maine
207-384-4854
email: maggeraymond@attbi.com

Yvette Alexander
Maine Fishermen’s Wives Association
207-729-5739
email: Yvettealex@gwi.net

Special thanks to Farm Credit of Maine, AgEnhancement Program and Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Poster layout and design by Woodbury & Morse. Drawings courtesy of Bill Harrison.