Sector Snapshot: B.C. Seafood – 2012

**Sector Defined:** B.C.’s seafood sector comprises primary production from commercial fishing and aquaculture. Seafood does not include post-farm or post-vessel processing.

- B.C. was the fourth largest producer of cultured Atlantic salmon in the world after Norway, Chile, and the U.K.
- B.C. led the nation in sales of cultured salmon, wild salmon, halibut, rockfish, skate, dogfish, sea urchins, wild clams, flatfishes, and farmed clams, oysters & scallops.

**SEAFOOD KEY FACTS**

- **Sales:** $668.5 million
- **GDP:** $261 Million
- **Share of Provincial Total GDP:** 0.1%
- **Exports:** $869.4 million

- Total sales of primary seafood production in B.C. were $668.5 million in landed and farm-gate value from more than 100 species, down 18 per cent in value from 2011, due to changes in a number of species’ harvest allocations and aquaculture production.
- Approximately 3,053 vessels harvested 147,500 tonnes of wild fish, shellfish and marine plants in 2012, down 14 per cent from 2011. The landed value of commercial capture fisheries decreased by 16 per cent to $293.4 million in 2012 compared to 2011.
- In 2012, 639 aquaculture tenures utilized 8,466 hectares of Crown Land to produce 84,200 tonnes of cultured fish, shellfish and marine plants.
- In 2012, cultured seafood production declined 10 per cent over 2011, while landed values fell 19 per cent to $375 million.
- The top 10 commodities in terms of sales in B.C. in 2012 were Atlantic salmon, geoduck clams, Pacific salmon, halibut, crabs, prawns, sablefish, rockfish, hake, and tuna.
- Total estimated GDP for seafood amounted to $261 million and accounted for 0.1 per cent of B.C.’s total GDP.

**SEAFOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT PROFILE**

- Seafood products include primary production products and post-farm and post-vessel processed products.
- In 2012, B.C. exported $870 million in seafood products to 62 countries, a decrease of five per cent in value from 2011.
- About 80 per cent of B.C.’s seafood is exported.
- Top Five Export Markets: United States (55 per cent), China (14 per cent), Japan (11 per cent), Hong Kong (five per cent), and the Ukraine (three per cent).
- The fastest growing markets of the top 10 export markets in 2012 were Ukraine (42 per cent), Australia (30 per cent) and China (11 per cent).
- Top Five Exports: $291 million in Atlantic salmon; $72 million in crabs; $53 million in hake; $43 million in geoduck clams; and $38 million in shrimp & prawns.