

# Sector Snapshot 2020: B.C. Seafood

B.C.'s seafood sector comprises primary production from wild commercial fishing and aquaculture. Primary seafood production does not include post-vessel or post-farm processing.

- B.C. consistently ranks as the 4<sup>th</sup> largest farmed Atlantic salmon producer in the world.
- B.C. led the nation in sales of farmed salmon, crabs (non-queen), wild clams, wild salmon, hake, wild sablefish, rockfish, tuna, farmed clams, sea cucumbers, lingcod, wild sea urchins, and Pacific cod, in 2020.

## SEAFOOD KEY FACTS

- ❖ **Sales: \$0.976 billion**
  - ❖ **Harvest: 272,374 tonnes**
  - ❖ **GDP: \$264.1 million**
  - ❖ **Share of Provincial Total GDP\*: 0.1%**
  - ❖ **International Exports: \$1.3 billion**
  - ❖ **Seafood Jobs: 4,900**
- Total sales of primary seafood production in B.C. were \$0.976 billion in landed and farm-gate value—a decrease of 13.4% from 2019.
  - Approximately 2,311 vessels harvested 6.1% less wild fish, invertebrates, and algae & plants than in 2019.
  - The **commercial fishery** harvest was 172,070 tonnes and generated a total landed value of \$298.3 million—down 26.7% from 2019.
  - In 2020, a total of 735 aquaculture operations were licensed to produce fish, invertebrates, and algae & plants.
  - The total **aquaculture** harvest of 100,304 tonnes was up 0.01% from the previous year, while farm-gate value decreased by 5.9% to \$677.3 million.
  - Top 10 seafood commodities in terms of sales were farmed Atlantic salmon, crabs, wild geoducks, halibut, farmed Pacific salmon, prawns, wild salmon, hake, wild sablefish, and oysters.
  - Total estimated GDP for seafood was \$264.1 million and accounted for 0.1% of B.C.'s total GDP.

\*GDP excluding unlicensed cannabis.

## SEAFOOD INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS

- Exported seafood products include both primary seafood production and post-vessel and post-farm processed seafood products.
- In 2020, B.C. exported \$1.3 billion in seafood products to 66 markets, a decrease of 8% from 2019.
- Top five seafood export markets: United States \$841 million (64%); China \$234 million (18%); Japan \$70 million (5%); Hong Kong \$36 million (3%); and Ukraine \$31 million (2%).
- The fastest growing export markets of the top 10 markets were Belarus (5,112%); South Africa (56%); South Korea (19%); and Ukraine (5%).
- Top five seafood exports: \$566 million in farmed Atlantic salmon; \$187 million in crabs; \$98 million in hake; \$52 million in geoduck clams; and \$36 million in shrimp & prawns.

