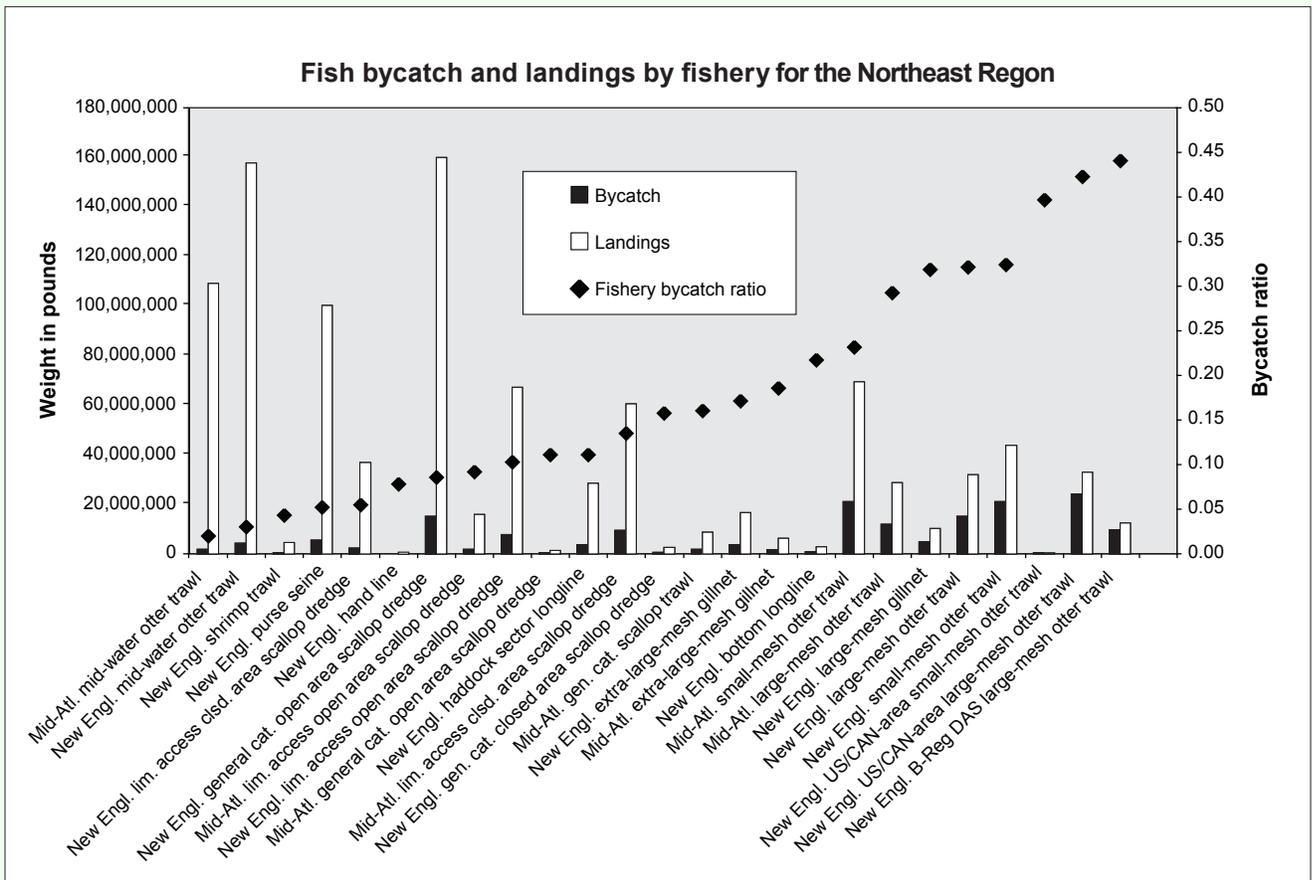


U.S. NATIONAL BYCATCH REPORT



Fast facts:

- A total of 63 commercial fisheries are included in this report for the Northeast Region.
- Landings from all Northeast fisheries were valued at approximately \$1.4 billion in 2005.
- Thirteen FMPs regulate the harvest of federally managed species in the Northeast Region.
- An observer program monitors 33 of the 63 fisheries.
- Fish bycatch estimates are available for 25 fisheries and 34 species or species groups.
- Protected species bycatch estimates are available for 13 fisheries and 7 species or species groups.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bycatch reduction success stories (2005 to present):

- "Weak links" are required on the surface system of gillnet and trap/pot fishing gear to reduce the risk of whales becoming entangled, injured, or killed.
- "Chain mats" are required in the Atlantic sea scallop dredge fishery to reduce the severity (i.e., mortality and injury) of sea turtle interactions with the gear.
- Implementation of acoustic deterrent devices (known as "pingers") on fishing gear in the Northeast gillnet fishery within seasonal management areas under the Gulf of Maine Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan reduced harbor porpoise bycatch interactions with gillnet gear by 92%.
- The Ruhle Trawl (World Wildlife Fund SmartGear competition winner) reduced bycatch in stocks of concern while catch of the target species did not significantly change (catch ratio of haddock to cod improved from 3:1 in the control net to 20:1 in the test trawl, and skate bycatch was reduced by 98%).

Bycatch of Northeast Region key stocks in 2005^a

Fish and invertebrates	Bycatch estimate (lb) ^b	Bycatch ratio
American plaice	667,000	0.18
Atlantic cod	1,920,000	0.12
Atlantic halibut	30,000	0.45
Atlantic salmon	0	*
Black sea bass	188,000	0.07
Butterfish	2,173,000	0.69
Haddock	1,190,000	0.07
Monkfish	9,100,000	0.18
Ocean pout	346,000	0.98
Offshore hake	21,000	0.42
Red hake	3,371,000	0.78
Redfish	186,000	0.13
Scup	1,207,000	0.11
Shortfin squid, northern	3,507,000	0.13
Shortnose sturgeon	0	*
Silver hake	6,083,000	0.27
Skate complex (multiple species)	79,561,000	*
Spiny dogfish	21,471,000	0.90
Summer flounder	3,250,000	0.20
Windowpane flounder	1,865,000	0.91
Yellowtail flounder	1,511,000	0.14

Protected species	Bycatch estimate (individuals) ^b
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	355
Blue whale	*
Bottlenose dolphin, western North Atlantic coastal stock	61
Common dolphin	151
Fin whale	*
Harbor porpoise	652
Humpback whale	*
North Atlantic right whale	*
Pilot whale (long- and short-finned)	65
Sei whale	*
Sperm whale	*
Green sea turtle	*
Hawksbill sea turtle	*
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	*
Leatherback sea turtle	*
Loggerhead sea turtle	1,062
Cahow (Bermuda petrel)	*
Red-throated loon, Atlantic	*
Roseate tern, northeast nesting population	*

^aTotal # of key stocks for Northeast = 55; in some cases estimates are available only at the species (or species group) level and cannot be assigned to the appropriate key stock. Therefore, there are fewer than 55 bycatch estimates listed in this table. A full list of Northeast Region key stocks is included in Section 4.1. (Note: bycatch estimates of rare-event species may incorporate data from a range of years)

^bEstimates have been rounded.

*Indicates that landings were not available for a species (or species is not landed, as for protected species), bycatch was not observed, or was observed but no estimate is available, or bycatch and landings were in different units, so no bycatch ratio could be developed (fish). Please see Section 4.1 for further information.