

Friday, August 29, 2008

HOME | LOGIN | PLACE AN AD | CLASSIFIEDS | CONTACT US



LOCAL WEATHER:
SUNNY 54°
Forecast / Radar

NEWS ▾ SPORTS ▾ OPINION ▾ ENTERTAINMENT ▾ LIFESTYLE ▾ SPECIAL REPORTS ▾ SIGHTS & SOUNDS ▾ YOUR TOWN ▾ MARKETPLACE ▾ SUBSCRIBERS ▾

More clams for city fishing port

New Bedford looks to be richest in U.S. for sixth consecutive year

By BECKY W. EVANS, Standard-Times staff writer

NEW BEDFORD -- With scallop prices soaring in recent months, New Bedford fishermen said the value of fish and shellfish landings should reach an all-time high in 2005 -- securing the city's ranking as the most valuable fishing port for the sixth year in a row.

The port of New Bedford landed \$206.5 million in fish and shellfish in 2004, according to a report released yesterday by NOAA Fisheries Service.

The value of landings should be significantly higher in 2005 because scallop prices have nearly doubled due to an increase in European demand, fishing industry experts said.

"I don't think there's any stopping" New Bedford from becoming the top port again, said former scalloper Jim Kendall, who heads up New Bedford Seafood Consulting.

Scallops sold for an average price of \$9.72 per pound yesterday at the Whaling City Seafood Display Auction. Last year, scallops sold for an average price of \$5.31 per pound, according to auction records.

New Bedford fishing vessel owner Carlos Rafael said that scallop prices will begin to drop below \$10 per pound "after a short period of time."

"They're not going to stay there," he said.

But the boost in price should make for New Bedford's highest-valued catch yet.

Mr. Rafael predicted that 2005 landings of fish and shellfish will be valued at \$230 to \$240 million.

According to the NOAA report, the dollar value of landings has increased each year for the past five years. In 2004, the value of landings rose by \$30.3 million from \$176.2 million in 2003 to \$206.5 million.

The report attributes the increase to a 35 percent jump in the number of pounds of scallops caught by fishermen.

The larger catch is evidence that scallop stocks, which were depleted during the early to mid-1990s, are recovering, Mr. Kendall said.

"It seems the industry and the resource are improving together," he said.

The port's No. 1 ranking is a source of pride for the local scallop and groundfishing fleets, which have been beleaguered by restrictive fishing regulations that limit catch and the number of days fishing vessels can go to sea.

"The fact that they've been able to increase total catch and value of landings is significant when they're trying to hold on to what little they have left," Mr. Kendall said.

New Bedford Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz Jr. applauded the industry's success.

"It distinguishes us and focuses attention on this port," he said of the No. 1 ranking. "It shows fishing is one of the city's leading economic engines."

In a second category, the port of New Bedford ranked seventh in the country for total volume of landings, according to NOAA.

New Bedford fishermen caught 175.1 million pounds of fish and shellfish in 2004 compared with 155.4 million pounds in 2003.

The port of Dutch Harbor-Unalaska in Alaska retained its No. 1 ranking for the 16th consecutive year by landing 886.4 million pounds in 2004. A year earlier, the port landed 908.7 million pounds.

Contact Becky W. Evans at revans@s-t.com

This story appeared on Page A1 of The Standard-Times on November 15, 2005.



DISCUSS THIS STORY



PRINT THIS PAGE



EMAIL TO A FRIEND

NEWS CALENDAR HOMES AUTOS JOBS CLASSIFIEDS

Search For Local News

FIND IT!

Find a Business

Quick Links

TOP JOBS from SouthCoastJobMart.com

Greeting Card business

New Bedford, MA SouthCoastToday.com Classified Ads

Warehouse Manager

New Bedford, MA SouthCoastToday.com Classified Ads

SPANISH TUTORS PT

Middleboro, MA SouthCoastToday.com Classified Ads

Post Office Now Hiring

NEW BEDFORD, MA SouthCoastToday.com Classified Ads

[More jobs](#)

TOP HOMES from SouthCoastHouseandHome.com



\$679,000

Rochester, MA
Virta & Associates
[More Details...](#)



\$319,000

Lakeville, MA
Residential Property
[More Details...](#)



[TERMS OF USE](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [SITE MAP](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [ADVERTISE](#) | 

Copyright 2007 The Standard-Times. The Standard-Times maintains the copyright for all material posted here. Any reproduction for other than personal use will be considered a violation of that copyright.