Massachusetts has a long and proud history with marine industries. Today, Massachusetts is the number two producer of seafood in the country by sales.\(^1\) The seafood industry employs 11,270 Massachusetts workers in commercial fishing, seafood processing and wholesale distribution, and another 11,000 workers in related industries. Combined, these jobs pull in a payroll of $509 million.\(^2\)

In 2009, Massachusetts adopted a first-in-the-nation Ocean Management Plan. The Ocean Plan is a framework for managing the state's marine waters in the face of growing economic, environmental and recreational interests. The planning area includes more than 2,000 square miles of ocean.\(^3\) The plan delineates a wide variety of resources within this area—fisheries, commerce, recreation, wildlife, and geology—and designates distinct zones of development.

\(^1\) USDA Census of Agriculture, 2012
\(^2\) Massachusetts Special Commission on Seafood Marketing, 2013
\(^3\) Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, 2009
\(^5\) Woods Hole Sea Grant http://www.whoi.edu/seagrant/page.do?pid=52096
\(^7\) Port of New Bedford http://www.portofnewbedford.org/commercial-fishing/our-commercial-fishing-industry/
\(^8\) Provincetown Lobster Bouys, berniemccan, Flickr
\(^9\) Cape Cod Clam Digging, flattop351, Flickr
\(^10\) New Bedford Fishing Fleet, MassTravel, Flickr