

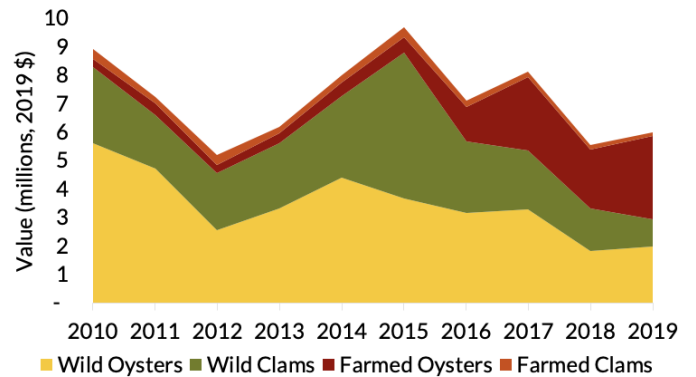
The Economic Impact of North Carolina's Shellfish Mariculture Industry

OYSTER FARMING HAS EMERGED AS A KEY COASTAL INDUSTRY

North Carolina's shellfish industry provides over \$27 million in economic impact and 532 jobs in the state. Until 2016, this sector's impact was primarily due to the harvest of wild clams and oysters. More recently, wild harvests have declined and cultivated oysters now represent over half of the total economic impact of shellfish in the state.

Our estimates suggest farmed oysters contribute over \$14 million to state GDP and 271 jobs. Growing inland consumer demand for oysters, especially from restaurants, is increasing the economic impact of the industry across the state.

N.C. Shellfish Landings



Farmed Shellfish Economic Impact Harvesting

economic impact \$6.77M
employment 118

Preparation and Processing

economic impact \$0.84M
employment 12

Fish Markets and Retailers

economic impact \$0.57M
employment 11

Seafood Restaurants

economic impact \$5.89M
employment 130

Total

economic impact \$14.06M
employment 271

Northern District

Farmed Oyster Harvest: \$0.55M
Wild Oyster Harvest: \$0.07M



Central District

Farmed Oyster Harvest: \$1.53M
Wild Oyster Harvest: \$0.41M



Southern District

Farmed Oyster Harvest: \$0.83M
Wild Oyster Harvest: \$1.49M



VALUE ADDED INCOME

All impact figures are value-added income for 2019. For the harvesting sector value-added is total sales. At the processing, restaurant, and retail levels, value-added is sales minus the cost of non-labor inputs. Value-added does not include non-North Carolina inputs, and avoids double counting product used several times in the production chain. Economists view value-added as the most accurate measure of economic impact.

Methodology and additional details for the estimates included in this factsheet are available by emailing eric.edwards@ncsu.edu.