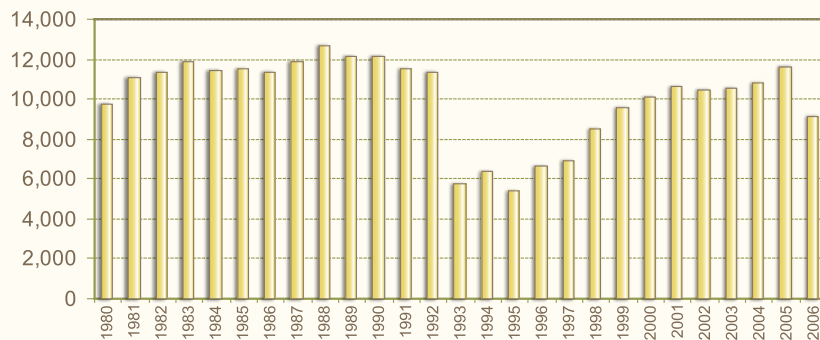
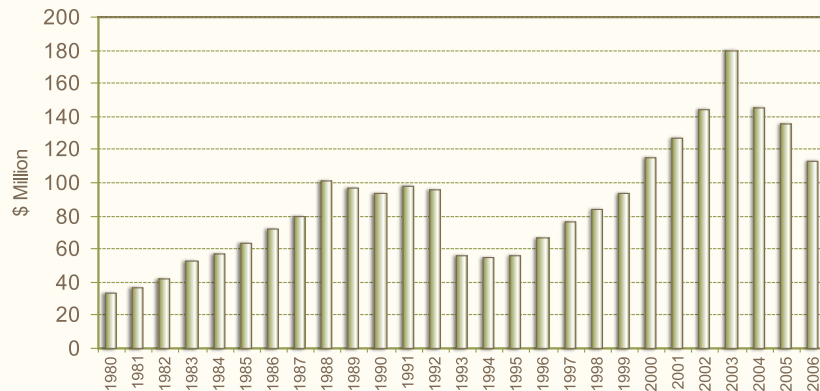


Trends and Usage in Newfoundland and Labrador

Fishing Type EI Beneficiaries - Month of January
Newfoundland and Labrador



Benefits Paid - Fishing EI Beneficiaries
Newfoundland and Labrador



beneficiaries

Chart 11

Statistics Canada, 73-001
and CANSIM Matrix # 005705

benefits

Chart 12

Statistics Canada, 73-001
and CANSIM Matrix # 005705

Benefits Paid at Highest Levels in 2003

The amount of benefits paid to individuals with fishing type claims was at its highest level ever in 2003 at \$179.7 million.³ This is \$81.6 million more than was paid in 1991, prior to the moratorium; a 83% increase. This figure has declined to \$112.4 million in 2006.

The increase in benefits can be attributed to a number of factors which affect eligible benefit amounts such as higher incomes in the fishery, as a result of higher-valued shellfish species like crab, as well as increased negotiated prices paid for other species. The 1997 changes to Fishing EI Regulations that allowed more harvesters to qualify for two claims a year if they had sufficient earnings has also been a factor.

Under the new EI program as it relates to fish harvesters, many more self-employed fish harvesters can qualify for two claims in the same calendar year, unlike the old UI program where this option was more difficult.⁴ In 1991, 2.4% of fish harvesters initiated a second fishing claim in the same year; in 2006, 35.2% initiated more than one claim (note that this figure is down from 45.9% in 2004). In occupations other than fishing, the average in 2006 was 3.4%.

³ This figure includes additional benefits paid to some fish harvesters through HRDC's anti-dating provision, which allowed some individuals to be paid retroactive benefits for EI eligibility prior to 2004.

⁴ A major change for fishing type claimants as a result of the 1996 EI reforms was that program access was now based on amount of earnings instead of weeks worked.