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## Annual Commercial Blue Crab Landings and Landing Values in the Gulf of Mexico States, 2000-2012 Working Paper Series

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URL: <http://gomos.msstate.edu/gomosreports.html>

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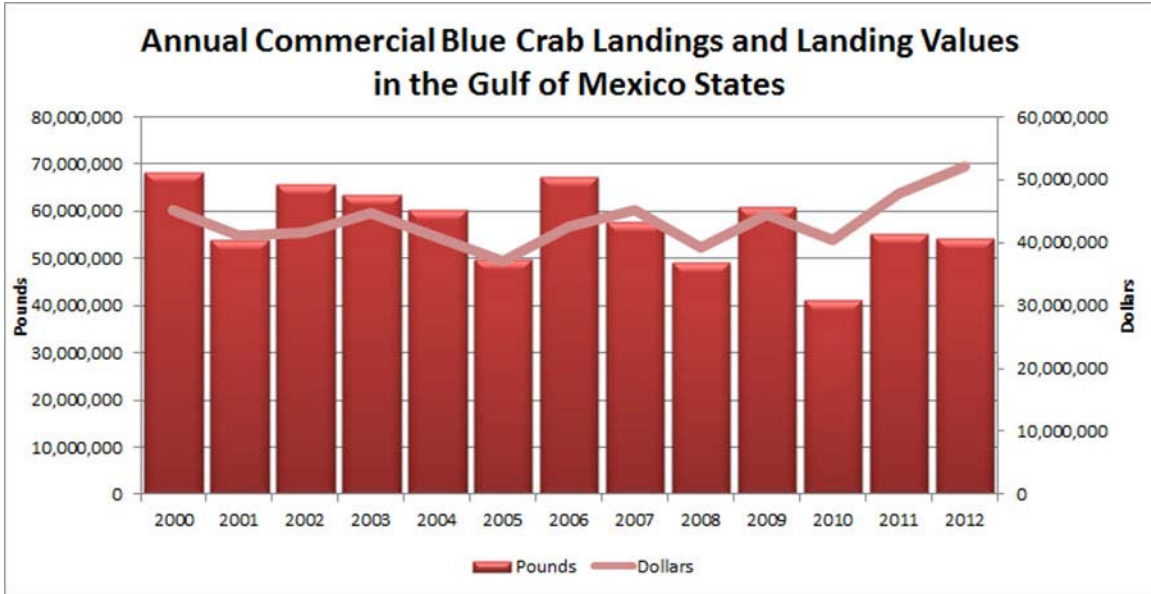
The damages to the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) natural resources due to the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill (GOMOS) will take some time to be fully cleaned up, and the restoration period to get the resources back to their original pre-GOMOS status is still indefinite. In the meantime, the production of goods and services by economic sectors located in the GOM states will be adversely affected, leading to possible reduction in the levels of economic activity, employment and personal income, and tax revenues.

**In order to understand the magnitude of the potential economic impacts of the GOMOS to commercial crabbing in the coastal counties, multi-year baseline economic information about the sector is compiled from various secondary sources.**

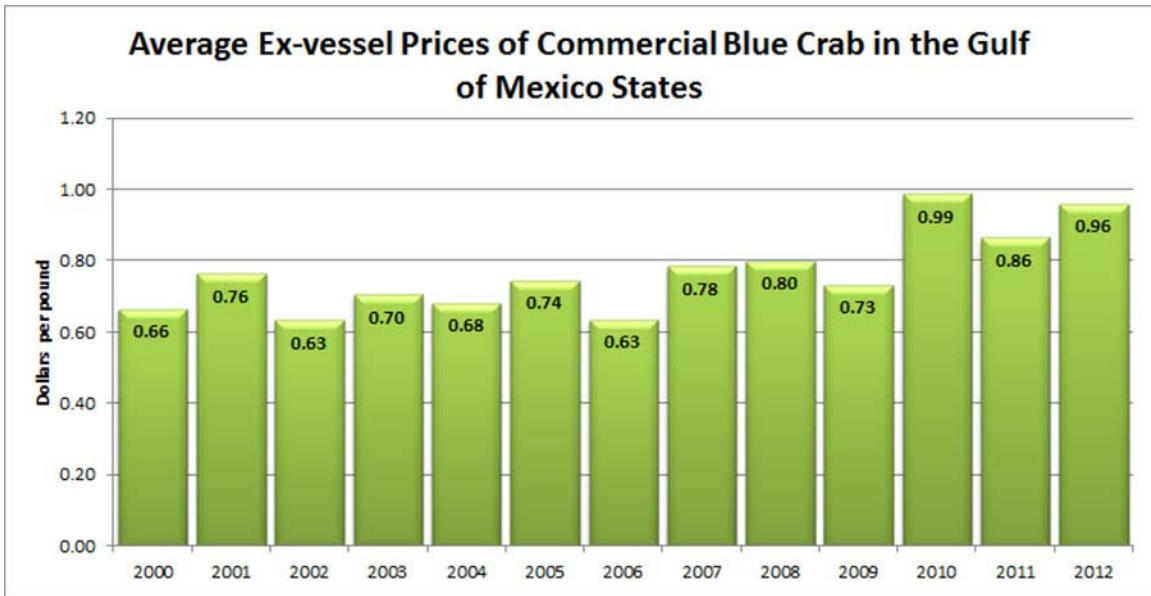
Commercial crabbing corresponds to economic sector 114112 or shellfish fishing in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Shellfish fishing comprises establishments primarily engaged in the commercial catching or taking of shellfish (e.g., clams, crabs, lobsters, mussels, oysters, sea urchins, shrimp) from their natural habitat.

The annual hardshell and softshell blue crab oyster commercial landings and landing values shown in the following figures were compiled from the NOAA Fisheries Service website. The scientific name of blue crab is *Callinectes sapidus*. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office reports that blue crabs must shed their hard carapace shell in order to grow, and experienced crabbers can quickly spot signs that the crab is about to molt. These 'peeler' crabs are held for a short time in shedding tanks until they molt. After molting, the soft-shell crabs are removed from the water and sold. These shedding tanks are monitored continuously through the day and night.

The suppliers of blue crabs registered in MarketMaker can be found by clicking this link - <http://webapps.foodmarketmaker.com/marketmaker/#MS/food/productsearch/22695/28>. There are 36 seafood businesses registered in five Gulf of Mexico MarketMaker member states.



**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**

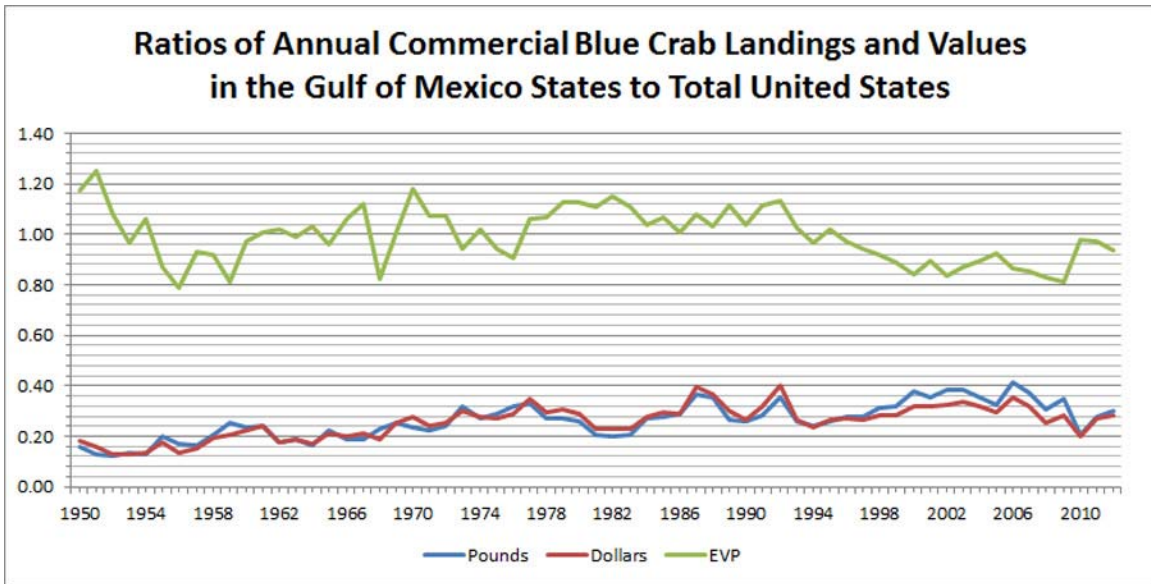


Figure 3.

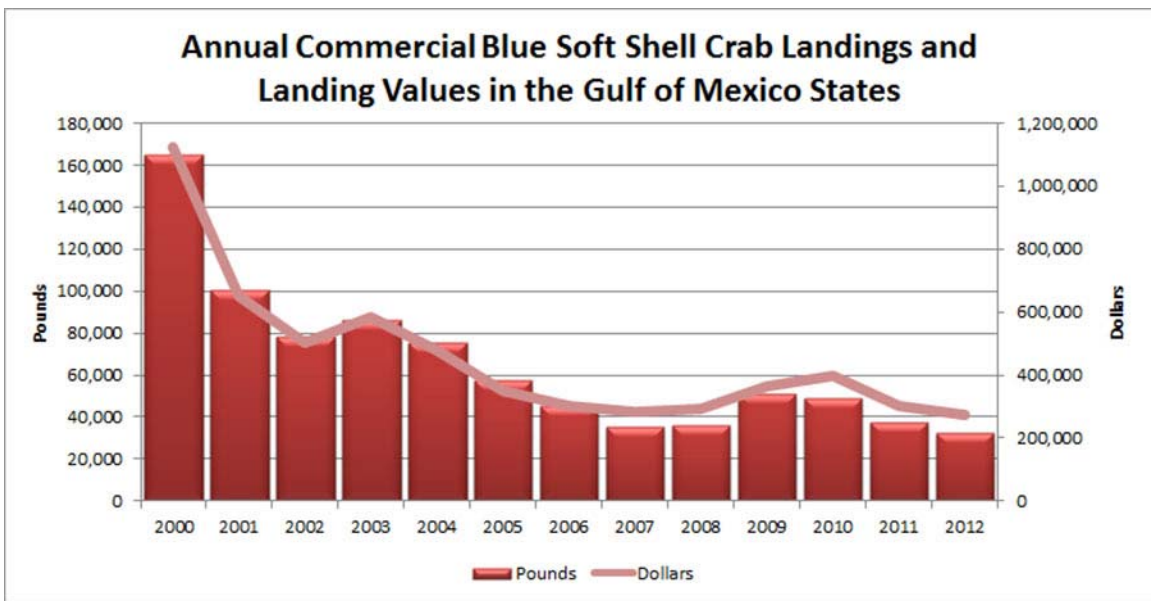
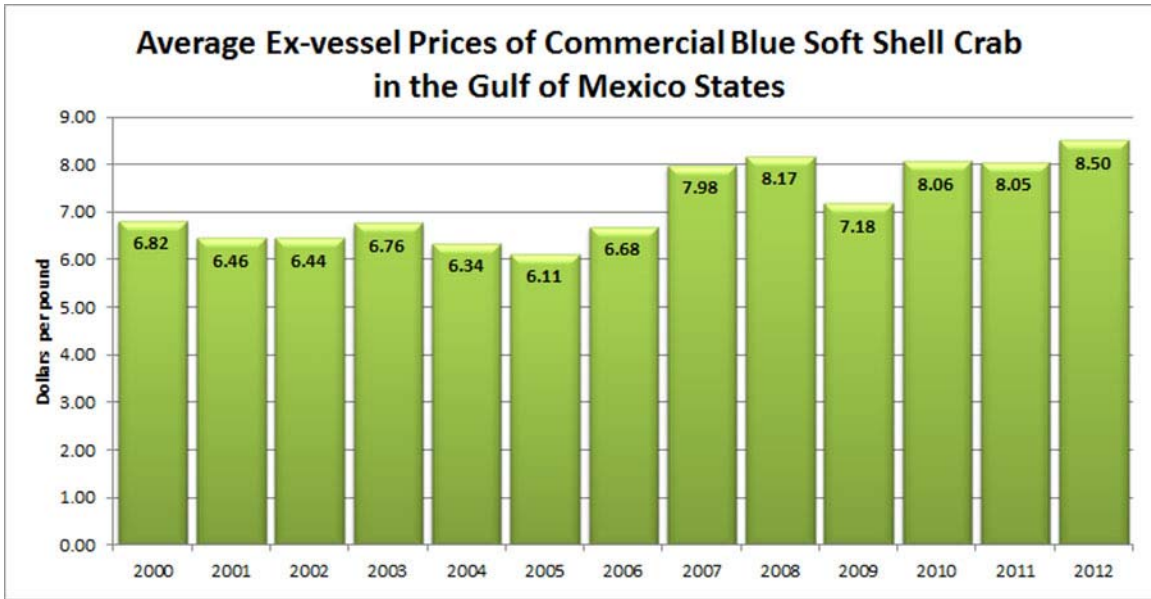
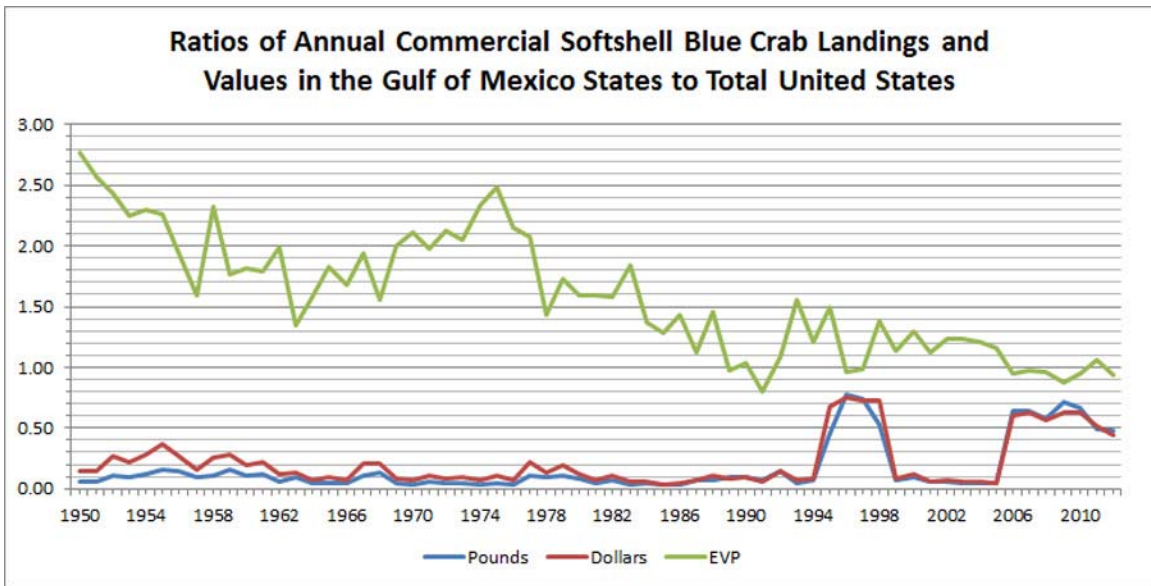


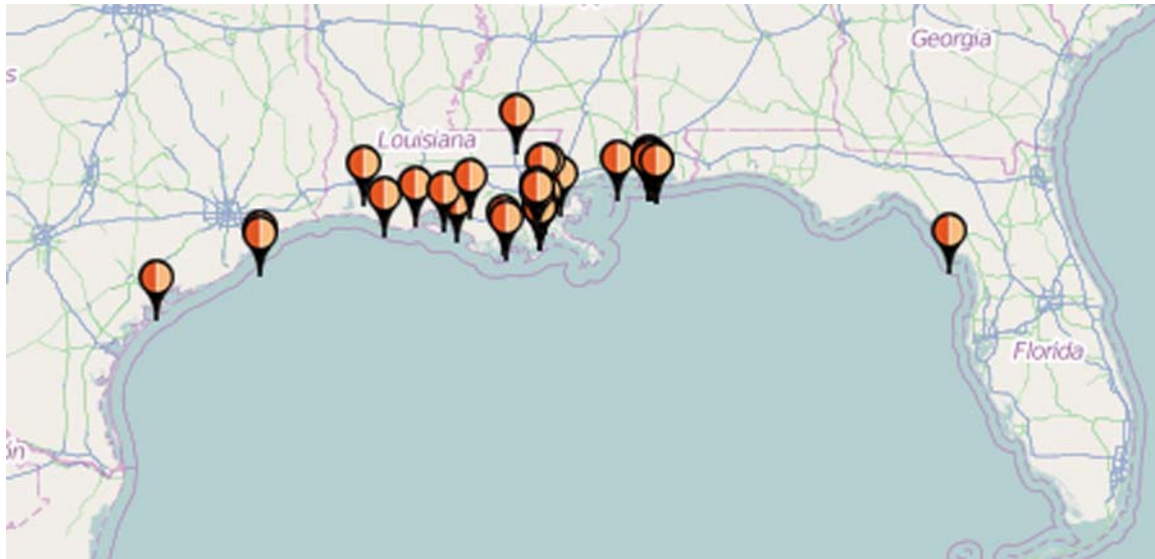
Figure 4.



**Figure 5.**



**Figure 6.**



**Figure 7. Commercial blue crab suppliers in the Gulf of Mexico States registered in MarketMaker.**