



## Seafood industry affected only slightly by Irene, insiders say

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Both Boston's Stavis Seafood and Brooklyn's Acme Smoked Fish had some weekend shipments cancelled because of Hurricane Irene, but their companies fared relatively well, representatives said.



"It hasn't affected us as dramatically as one may think," Stavis' President and CEO Richard Stavis said. "Now that the industry is so global, it's easier to go another way."

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He said some shipments they were planning on receiving from Florida were cancelled, but said it was a blessing that the storm occurred on a weekend, so no regular shipments were cancelled.

Buzz Billick, Acme's vice-president of sales, said increasing talk of an upcoming storm actually fueled sales toward the latter part of the week of Aug. 22.

"(Customers wanted to) be ahead of the weather and (fill up) their homes and their refrigerators," that Acme saw an increase in sales just prior to the storm.

Over the weekend, however, sales came "to a screeching halt" he said.

Although it is early, he said he's spoken with many customers in the tri-state area and expects sales to be normal this week.

The Atlantic fisheries may be a different story -- both Cathy Collins from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in Delaware and Tina Berger from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in Virginia said they know little about any aftermath.

"It's a little too soon to tell right now," Berger said. "They're all sort of in the mode of evaluating what's happened."

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