

NOAA FISHERIES

NOAA Fisheries releases its annual summary report on U.S. recreational and commercial fishery landings.



U.S. Fisheries Facts

- U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.6 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$5.3 billion.
- Dutch Harbor, Alaska and New Bedford, Massachusetts remain the top commercial fishing ports.
- Recreational anglers took nearly 63 million trips and caught more than 371 million fish, 61 percent of which were released.

Fisheries of the United States, 2016

A Statistical Snapshot of 2016 Fish Landings



About the Report

Each year NOAA Fisheries compiles key fisheries statistics from the previous year into an annual snapshot documenting fishing's importance to the nation. The 2016 report provides landings totals for both domestic recreational and commercial fisheries by species and allows us to track important indicators such as annual seafood consumption and the productivity of top fishing ports. These statistics provide valuable insights,—but to fully understand the overall condition of our fisheries, they must be looked at in combination with other biological, social, and economic factors of ecosystem and ocean health.

Sustainable Fisheries, Jobs, and the Economy

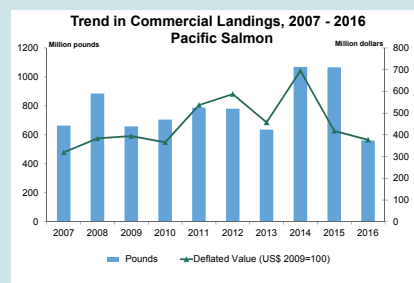
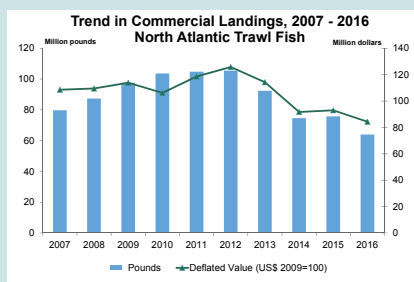
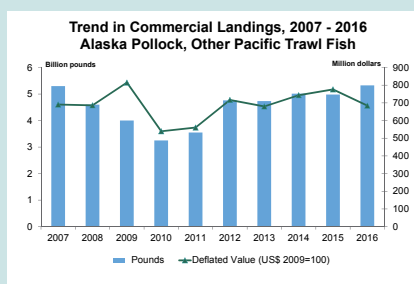
Fisheries, whether for commerce or recreation, play an enormous role in the U.S. economy. In 2016, U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.6 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$5.3 billion. Anglers made nearly 63 million marine recreational fishing trips and landed 371 million fish. Fish processors, icehouses, restaurants, grocery stores, bait and tackle shops, fuel stations, and many other businesses benefit from healthy commercial and recreational fishing.

Healthy Stocks Mean Healthy Economies

Continuing to maintain high commercial fish landings and values is good news for fishermen, fishing communities, and for the Americans who want sustainable, healthy U.S. seafood. We are seeing that responsible management is helping us “turn the corner” toward more sustainable and profitable commercial fisheries.



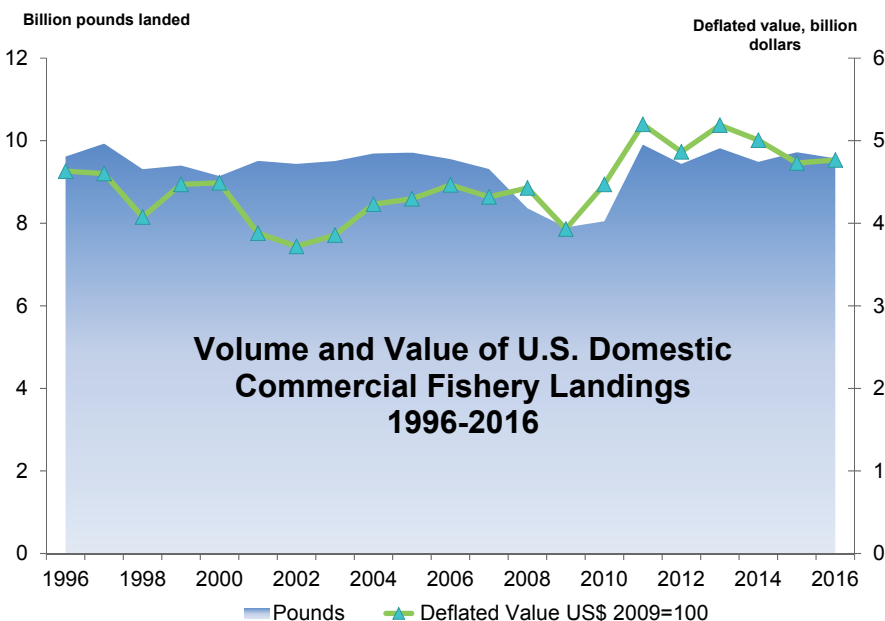
Trends Among Commercially Important Species



By the Numbers

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES LANDINGS

U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.6 billion pounds of fish and shellfish in 2016, valued at \$5.3 billion. These figures represent a small decrease in pounds (1.5%) and an increase in value (2.1%) over 2015. Volume and value remain similar to recent years.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Alaska led all states in both volume and value of landings, decreasing 7 percent in volume and 12 percent in value. In the Mid-Atlantic, volume decreased by 10 percent and value increased by 7 percent. In the Gulf of Mexico region, landings increased 12 percent, while value increased by 5 percent.

TOP 5 STATES

By volume of landings:

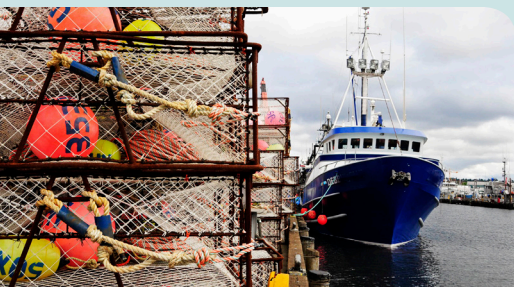
1. Alaska (5.6 billion pounds)
2. Louisiana (1.2 billion pounds)
3. Washington (551.9 million pounds)
4. Virginia (363.3 million pounds)
5. Mississippi (304.1 million pounds)

By value of landings:

1. Alaska (\$1.6 billion)
2. Maine (\$633.7 million)
3. Massachusetts (\$522.2 million)
4. Louisiana (\$407.2 million)
5. Washington (\$321.1 million)

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES LANDINGS

Recreational anglers took 63 million trips and caught 371 million fish in 2016. Of the total number of fish caught, 61 percent were released alive. The estimated total weight of landed catch (145 million fish) was 182 million pounds. Striped bass remains the top species harvested among saltwater anglers, with more than 20 million pounds (1.6 million fish) harvested in 2016.



What's behind some of the changes?

Landings of some species went up and some went down. For example, Alaska (walleye) pollock had near-record landings of 3.36 billion pounds (up 3%), valued at \$417 million (down 5%). Landings of Pacific hake (whiting) increased by 67 percent showing recovery from a poor 2015 harvest.

Additionally, Dungeness crab landings increased 168 percent from the poor 2015 harvest. Conversely, Pacific sardines continued their decline of recent years due to the closure of the fishery. The 2016 landings of 1.1 million pounds represents less than one percent of the 2012 or 2013 harvests.

Overall, the total volume of landings decreased by 1.5 percent (146 million pounds) from the 2015 level however, the value of the catch increased 2.1 percent (\$109 million).



Top U.S. Commercial Fishing Ports

For the 20th consecutive year, Dutch Harbor, Alaska led the nation as the port with the highest volume of seafood landed (770 million pounds valued at \$198 million). Alaska pollock (walleye) made up 89 percent of the volume and 44 percent of the value. High-value snow crabs and king crabs accounted for an additional 14 percent of the value of Dutch Harbor landings and 1.7 percent of the volume. For the 17th consecutive year, New Bedford, Massachusetts had the highest valued catch (107 million pounds valued at \$327 million), due in large part to the highly valued sea scallop fishery. Sea scallops account for 77 percent of the value of landings in New Bedford.



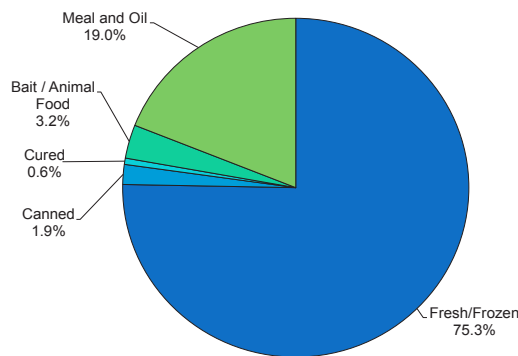
Sustainable Seafood

Americans consumed 4.8 billion pounds of seafood in 2016. The U.S. is the world's second largest consumer of seafood after China, according to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The average American ate 14.9 pounds of fish and shellfish in 2016, a decrease of 0.6 pounds from 2015.

While most fish caught in the United States is consumed as seafood, slightly more than 22 percent of the 2016 catch was used for other products such as pet food, fish meal, and oil.

Disposition of U.S. Domestic Landings, 2016

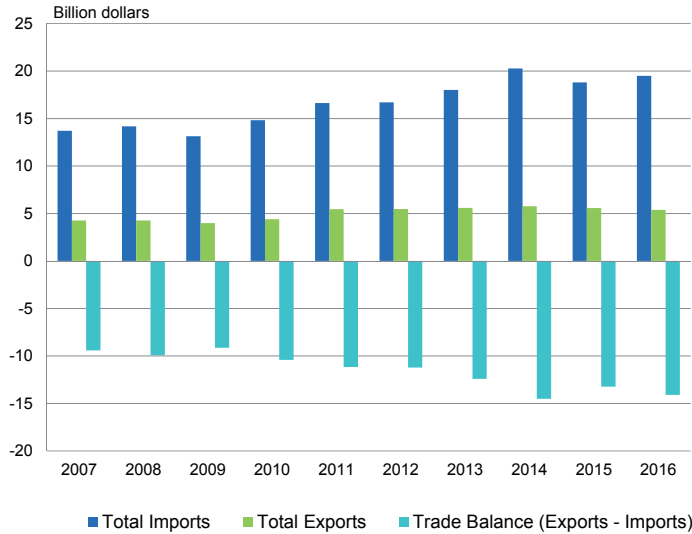


Fresh Facts, Smart Seafood

When consumers go to the market for seafood, they can be assured that if the species is harvested in the United States., it has been caught or farmed responsibly. NOAA Fisheries provides the public with easy-to-understand, science-based facts at FishWatch.gov to help them make smart, sustainable seafood choices. FishWatch delivers regularly updated information on how U.S. seafood is harvested under regulations that keep the environment healthy, fish populations thriving, and our seafood industry on the job.

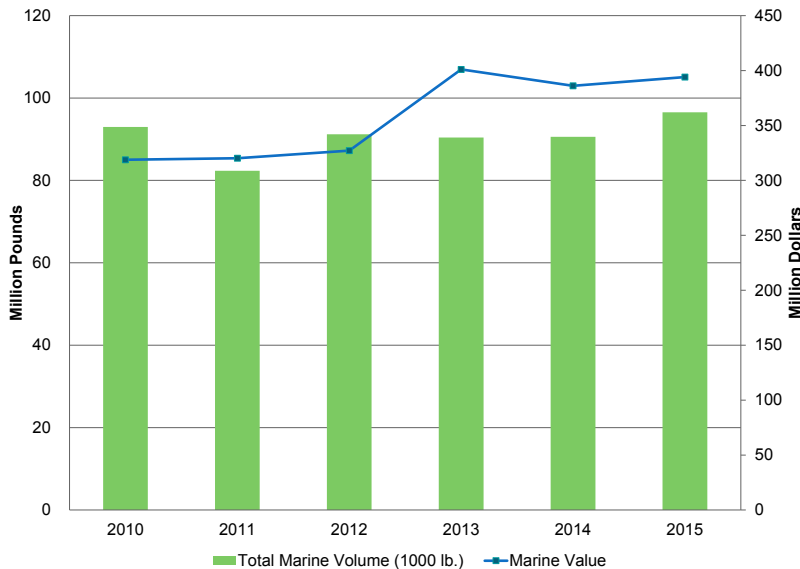
Imports and Exports

To meet consumer demand, the United States continues to be a major importer of seafood. Between 85 percent and 95 percent of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported, measured by edible weight. This measure has been rising in recent years reflecting an increase in imported seafood. However, a significant portion of this imported seafood is caught by American fishermen, exported overseas for processing, and then reimported to the United States.



Aquaculture

The U.S. aquaculture industry produced \$1.4 billion worth of seafood in 2015. Because aquaculture focuses on high-value food species, the value of U.S. aquaculture production equals about 21 percent of the value of total U.S. seafood production, while the volume equals 6 percent of the total production. The top U.S. marine aquaculture species are oysters (\$173 million), clams (\$112 million), and Atlantic salmon (\$88 million).



Collecting Reliable Data

The collection and analysis of recreational and commercial catches provide scientists and managers with important information they need to make informed decisions. We use a number of different methods—including surveys, catch cards, and logbooks—to gather recreational and commercial fishing landings data. Fishermen’s landings combined with other sources of fishery-independent data give us a good understanding of the health and productivity of the resource.



For more information:

fisheries.noaa.gov