



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 9.9 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$5.4 billion.
- Dutch Harbor, Alaska and New Bedford, Massachusetts remain the top commercial fishing ports.
- Marine recreational anglers took 202 million trips and caught 1 billion fish, 64 percent of which were released.

Fisheries of the United States, 2017

A Statistical Snapshot of 2017 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 2017 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

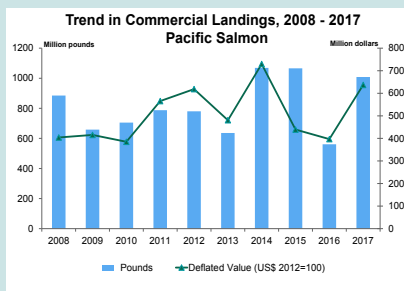
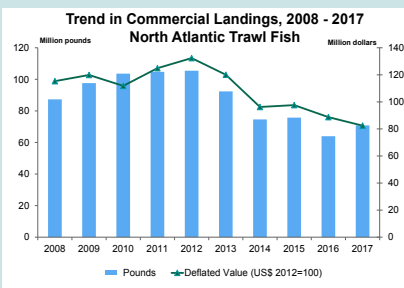
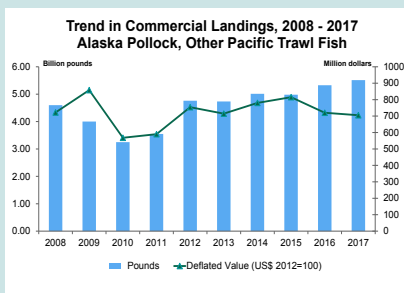
Both commercial and recreational fisheries play an enormous role in the U.S. economy. In 2017, U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.9 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$5.4 billion. Recreational anglers made 202 million marine recreational fishing trips with a catch of 1 billion fish and landings of 397 million fish (447 million pounds). Fish processors, icehouses, restaurants, grocery stores, bait and tackle shops, fuel stations, and many other businesses benefit from healthy commercial and recreational fishing¹.

Healthy Stocks Mean Healthy Economies

Maintaining high commercial fish landings and values and high participation levels in recreational fisheries is good news for fishermen, fishing communities, and for the Americans who want sustainable, healthy U.S. seafood and rewarding outdoor recreational experiences. We are seeing that responsible management has resulted in continued, steady high landings and values of U.S. fisheries over the last five years. This is the payoff from the collective progress that our agency, the eight regional fishery management councils, and our stakeholders have made, working together to ensure the sustainability and economic stability of our nation's fisheries. Additional information on the economic impacts of commercial and recreational fishing can be found in the companion publication Fisheries Economics of the United States (FEUS).



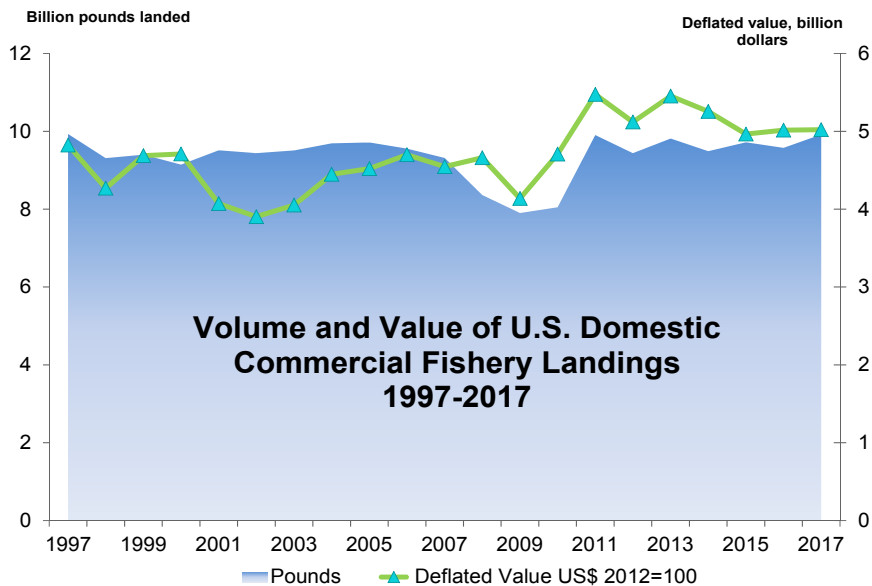
Trends Among Commercially Important Species



By the Numbers

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES LANDINGS

U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.9 billion pounds of fish and shellfish in 2017, valued at \$5.4 billion. These figures represent increases in volume (3.6%) and value (2.1%) over 2016 but are still within the 5-year average for both measures.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Alaska led all states in both volume and value of landings, increasing 7 percent in volume and 14 percent in value. In the Mid-Atlantic, volume increased by 7 percent and value decreased by 7 percent. In the Gulf of Mexico region, landings decreased 19 percent, while value decreased by less than 1 percent.

TOP 5 STATES

By volume of commercial landings:

1. Alaska (6.0 billion pounds)
2. Louisiana (890.6 million pounds)
3. Washington (665.9 million pounds)
4. Virginia (344.0 million pounds)
5. Mississippi (311.0 million pounds)

By value of commercial landings:

1. Alaska (\$1.8 billion)
2. Massachusetts (\$605.3 million)
3. Maine (\$511.3 million)
4. Louisiana (\$354.3 million)
5. Washington (\$313.7 million)

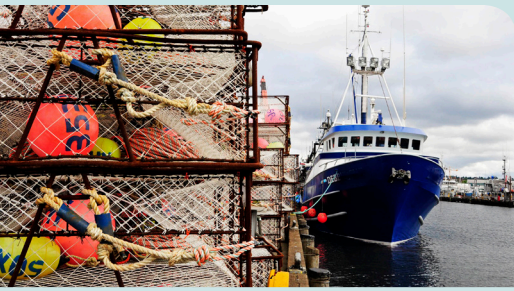
The majority of recreational fishing trips were taken on the Atlantic coast with 62 percent of trips and 69 percent of catch coming from this region. The Gulf coast comprised 36 percent of trips and 28 percent of catch, while 2 percent of trips and 1 percent of catch were from the Pacific coast (Alaska data for 2017 was not available).

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES LANDINGS

Recreational anglers took 202 million trips and caught 1 billion fish in 2017. Of the total number of fish caught, 64 percent were released alive. The estimated total weight of landed catch (397 million fish) was 447 million pounds. Striped bass remains the top species harvested among saltwater anglers, with 38 million pounds (3.0 million fish) harvested in 2017¹.

WHERE OUR RECREATIONAL CATCH CAME FROM:

- 56% Estuaries
- 34% State territorial seas
- 9% Federal waters (EEZ)



What's behind some of the changes?

Landings of some species went up and some went down. For example, Alaska (walleye) pollock increased 1% to 3.4 billion pounds, valued at \$413 million (down 1%). Landings of chum salmon increased by 75 percent to 177 million pounds, a new record for the species. Pacific hake (whiting) continued to recover with landings of 774 million pounds (up 39%).

Additionally, Atlantic illex and Pacific loligo squid landings were 50 million pounds (up 237%) and 137 million pounds (up 63%) respectively. Conversely, Atlantic loligo squid landings decreased to 180 million pounds (down 55%). Notable decreases also include menhaden with landings of 1.4 billion pounds (down 18%) and American lobster landings of 133 million pounds (down 16%).

Overall, the total volume of landings increased by 3.6 percent (344 million pounds) and landings value increased by 2.1 percent (\$110 million) from the 2016 level.



Top U.S. Commercial Fishing Ports

For the 21st consecutive year, Dutch Harbor, Alaska led the nation as the port with the highest volume of seafood landed (769 million pounds valued at \$173 million). Alaska pollock (walleye) made up 91.6 percent of the volume and 47.9 percent of the value. High-value snow crabs and king crabs accounted for an additional 33.5 percent of the value of Dutch Harbor landings and 1.8 percent of the volume. For the 18th consecutive year, New Bedford, Massachusetts had the highest valued catch (111 million pounds valued at \$389 million), due in large part to the highly valued sea scallop fishery. Sea scallops account for 80 percent of the value of landings in New Bedford.



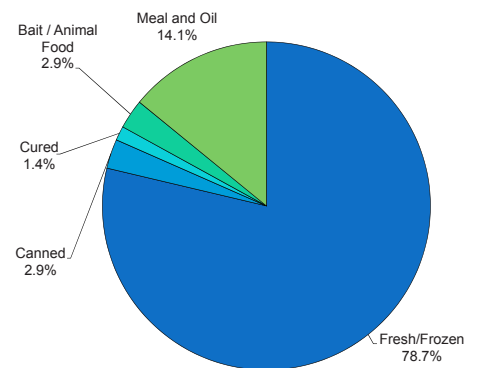
Sustainable Seafood

Americans consumed 5.2 billion pounds of seafood in 2017. 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 16.0 pounds of fish and shellfish in 2017, an increase of 1.1 pounds from 2016.

While most fish caught in the United States is consumed as seafood, approximately 17 percent of the 2017 catch was used for other products such as pet food, fish meal, and oil.

Disposition of U.S. Domestic Commercial Landings, 2017

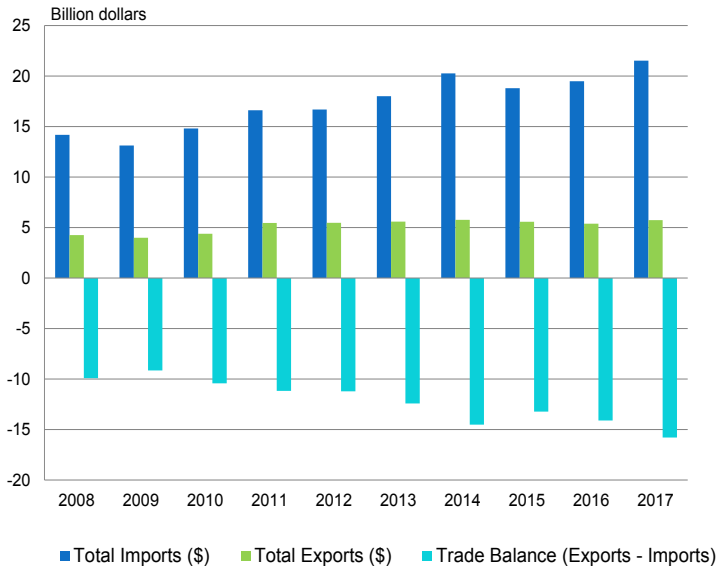


Fresh Facts, Smart Seafood

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

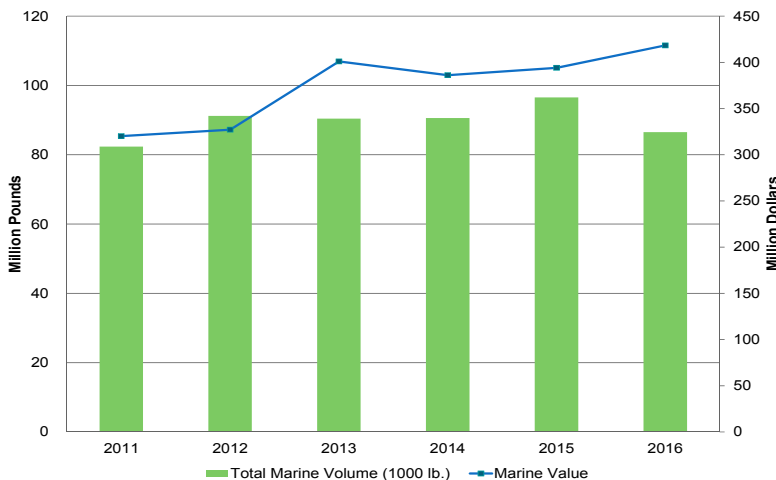
To meet consumer demand, the United States continues to be a major importer of seafood. Between 85 percent and 95 percent of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported, measured by edible weight. This measure has been rising in recent years reflecting an increase in imported seafood. However, a significant portion of this imported seafood is caught by American fishermen, exported overseas for processing, and then reimported to the United States. Exports have increased slightly compared to 2016.



Aquaculture

The U.S. aquaculture industry (marine and freshwater) produced \$1.5 billion worth of seafood in 2016, compared to 1.4 billion 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 (\$192 million), clams (\$138 million), and Atlantic salmon (\$68 million).

Volume and Value of Marine Aquaculture Production, 2016



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

1- It should be noted that recreational numbers are based on revised Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) estimates and comparisons to previously published figures are not appropriate. Revised MRIP numbers are based on a new survey technique utilizing mail-based surveys in lieu of phone-based surveys.