

# Statistical Highlights

# Fisheries of the United States,

# 2002

*prepared by NMFS Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division*

## **U.S. COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (Round weight)**

### **World-wide catch by U.S. Vessels <sup>(1)</sup>:**

9.7 billion pounds (4.4 million metric tons) - down 1%  
Valued at \$3.2 billion - exvessel value - down 4%

### **Of 9.7 billion pounds:**

8.4 billion pounds (3.8 million metric tons) of finfish - down 2%  
1.3 billion pounds (592,900 metric tons) of shellfish - up 5%

### **U.S. Landings in the 50 United States <sup>(2)</sup>:**

9.4 billion pounds (4.3 million metric tons) - down 1%  
Valued at \$3.1 billion - down 4%

### **Of 9.4 billion pounds:**

7.2 billion pounds (3.3 million metric tons) for food - down 2%  
2.2 billion pounds (994,300 metric tons) for industrial purposes - up 1%  
(including bait and animal food)

### **Total supply (landings + imports - exports) of edible fishery products:**

Total = 10.4 billion pounds (4.7 million metric tons) - up 9%  
Landings = 7.2 billion pounds (3.3 million metric tons) - down 2%  
Imports = 8.8 billion pounds (3.9 million metric tons) - up 10%  
Exports = 5.6 billion pounds (2.6 million metric tons) - down 3%

**Per capita consumption:** 15.6 pounds (7.1 kilograms) edible meat - up 5%

## **FOREIGN TRADE (Product weight)**

### **Imports - edible:**

4.4 billion pounds (2.0 million metric tons) product weight  
Valued at \$10.1 billion

### **Exports - edible:**

2.4 billion pounds (1.1 million metric tons) product weight  
Valued at \$3.1 billion

## **CATCH IN THE EEZ**

Total - 5.9 billion pounds (2.7 million metric tons)

No foreign catch took place in the U.S. EEZ.

## **U. S. LANDINGS BY DISTANCE FROM SHORE<sup>(1)</sup>**

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Billion Pounds</u>	<u>Million Metric Tons</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Billion Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-3 miles	3.5	1.6	36	1.4	44
3-200 miles	5.9	2.7	61	1.7	53
International	0.3	0.1	3	0.1	3
TOTAL	9.7	4.4	100	3.2	100

## **U.S. DOMESTIC LANDINGS - TOP FIVE SPECIES / GROUPS**

<u>Volume:</u>				<u>Value:</u>			
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>U.S. Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	Pollock	3,349.0 million	37	1	Shrimp	460.9 million	15
2	Menhaden	1,750.6 million	19	2	Crab	397.7 million	13
3	Salmon	567.2 million	6	3	Lobsters	318.9 million	10
4	Cod	541.8 million	5	4	Pollock	209.9 million	7
5	Flounders	372.7 million	4	5	Scallops	203.8 million	7

## **WORLD FISHERIES (Live weight, 2001)**

**Total catch** 287.0 billion pounds (130.2 million metric tons)  
**U.S. catch** 11.9 billion pounds (5.4 million metric tons)  
(including weight of mollusk shells)

U.S. catch is 4.0 percent of world catch

## **COMMERCIAL FISHERIES CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT (GNP)**

U.S. consumers spent an estimated \$55.1 billion for fishery products.  
In producing and marketing these items, the commercial fishing industry contributed \$28.4 billion in value added to the U.S. GNP.

## **MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES<sup>(3)</sup>**

### **MAJOR SPECIES**

#### **Atlantic and Gulf:**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish Caught</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	Atlantic Croaker	26,900	7
2	Spotted Seatrout	26,800	7
3	Black Sea Bass	19,300	5
4	Summer Flounder	16,700	4
5	Bluefish	15,800	4

#### **Pacific:**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish Caught</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	Barred Sandbass	4,200	10
2	Sanddabs	3,500	8
3	Kelp Bass	2,000	5
4	Lingcod	1,300	3
5	Black Rockfish	1,200	3

2002 Atlantic and Gulf Coast (excluding Texas) catch: 378 million fish

2002 Pacific Coast (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) catch: 42 million fish

### **U.S. RECREATIONAL CATCH TYPES BY AREA FISHED**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Thousand Pounds</u>	<u>Thousand Metric Tons</u>	<u>Percent of Catch</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish Harvested</u>	<u>Percent of Harvest</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish Released</u>	<u>Percent of Release</u>
Inland	88,600	40	39	105,900	56	138,300	60
STS	66,600	30	29	58,200	31	66,300	28
EEZ	73,000	33	32	25,100	13	27,500	12
Total	228,200	103	100	189,200	100	232,100	100

### **U.S. RECREATIONAL CATCH TYPES AND NUMBER OF TRIPS BY FISHING MODE**

<u>Mode</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish Harvested</u>	<u>Percent of Harvest</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish Released</u>	<u>Percent of Release</u>	<u>Thousands of of Trips</u>	<u>Percent of Trips</u>
Shore	53,300	28	52,200	23	30,200	41
Private/Rental Boat	116,300	62	164,900	71	38,900	53
Party/Charter Boat	19,600	10	15,000	6	4,300	6
Total	189,200	100	232,100	100	73,400	100

### **U.S. RECREATIONAL TOP ENCOUNTERED SPECIES**

#### **Harvested:**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish</u>	<u>Percent of Harvest</u>
1	Atlantic Croaker	12,400	7
2	Spotted Seatrout	8,100	4
3	Bluefish	5,500	3
4	Spot	5,300	3
5	Sanddabs	3,300	2

#### **Released:**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish</u>	<u>Percent of Release</u>
1	Spotted Seatrout	18,700	8
2	Black Sea Bass	15,000	6
3	Atlantic Croaker	14,500	6
4	Striped Bass	14,000	6
5	Summer Flounder	13,400	6

## **ENDNOTES**

- (1) Commercial landings including all catches by U.S.-flag vessels landed in the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and other foreign ports.
- (2) Commercial landings by U.S. fishermen at ports in the 50 United States, excluding catches by U.S.-flag vessels which are landed in Puerto Rico and other foreign ports.
- (3) Coverage of MRFSS Survey, 1979 - 2002

The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey provides coverage of saltwater sport fishing (including estuarine and brackish water) from private/rental boats, charter and head boats, and the shore on the Atlantic Coast (Maine - East Florida), Gulf Coast (Louisiana - West Florida), and Pacific coast (Washington through California).

### **Exceptions to MRFSS Coverage**

Care is advised when comparing catch estimates for the MRFSS time series because of differences in sampling coverage.

- In the South Atlantic and Gulf sub-regions (NC-LA) the MRFSS has not collected catch data from head boats since 1985. Estimates for these sub-regions now only include charter boats in the for-hire sector.
- Marine recreational fishing in Texas is monitored by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife and has not been surveyed by the MRFSS since 1985.
- On the Pacific coast, ocean boat trips during certain waves and salmon trips in some years are not estimated because they are surveyed through the state natural resource agencies.
- Alaska conducts an annual mail survey and has never been surveyed by the MRFSS.
- The U.S. Caribbean, Hawaii and West Pacific territories had not been surveyed by the MRFSS since 1981. Sampling resumed in the U.S. Caribbean in 2001, and was continued in Puerto Rico in 2001, although those data are not reflected here. In 2001, limited sampling resumed in Hawaii and was expanded in 2002, although those data are not reflected here.

Only about 5% of the annual recreational catch on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts is taken during Wave 1 (January – February). Costs to sample these months are very high due to low fishing activity. Therefore, in Jan/Feb of 1981 the MRFSS was not conducted in any region. In 1982, Jan/Feb data collection resumed on the Pacific and Gulf Coasts and also on the Atlantic coast of Florida. With a few exceptions (GA 1985-1989, SC 1988, NC 1988-1992), the MRFSS has not been conducted in Jan/Feb on the Atlantic coast north of Florida since 1980.

### **Other Times / Areas of No Coverage**

Nov/Dec (ME & NH) - 1987 to present	All Waves (WA) - 1993 to 1994
Mar/Apr (ME & NH) - 1996 to present	Jan/Feb (No.CA-OR) - 1994
All Waves (CA-WA) - 1990 to 1993	Jan/Feb (So.CA-OR) - 1995
	Nov/Dec (OR) - 1994

Note:--Totals may not match due to rounding.

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