

# Statistical Highlights Fisheries of the United States, 2003

*prepared by NMFS Fisheries Statistics 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 less than 1%  
Valued at \$3.4 billion - exvessel value - up 6%

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

8.5 billion pounds (3.8 million metric tons) of finfish - up less than 1%  
1.2 billion pounds (570,200 metric tons) of shellfish - down 4%

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

9.5 billion pounds (4.3 million metric tons) - up 1%  
Valued at \$3.3 billion - up 8%

### **Of 9.5 billion pounds:**

7.5 billion pounds (3.4 million metric tons) for food - up 4%  
2.0 billion pounds (900,800 metric tons) for industrial purposes - down 9%  
(including bait and animal food)

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

Total = 11.8 billion pounds (5.3 million metric tons) - up 13%  
Landings = 7.5 billion pounds (3.4 million metric tons) - up 4%  
Imports = 9.7 billion pounds (4.4 million metric tons) - up 10%  
Exports = 5.4 billion pounds (2.4 million metric tons) - down 3%

**Per capita consumption:** 16.3 pounds (7.4 kilograms) edible meat - up 4%

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

### **Imports - edible:**

4.9 billion pounds (2.2 million metric tons) product weight  
Valued at \$11.1 billion

### **Exports - edible:**

2.4 billion pounds (1.1 million metric tons) product weight  
Valued at \$3.3 billion

## CATCH IN THE EEZ

Total - 6.1 billion pounds (2.8 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	3.4	1.5	35	1.5	44
3-200 miles	6.1	2.8	63	1.8	53
International	0.2	0.1	2	0.1	3
TOTAL	9.7	4.4	100	3.4	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	3,372.3 million	35	1	Crabs	483.6 million	14
2	Menhaden	1,599.4 million	17	2	Shrimp	424.0 million	13
3	Salmon	674.1 million	7	3	Lobsters	308.0 million	9
4	Cod	591.1 million	6	4	Flatfish	266.6 million	8
5	Flatfish	444.1 million	5	5	Scallops	229.2 million	7

## WORLD FISHERIES (Live weight, 2002)

**Total catch** 293.2 billion pounds (133.0 million metric tons)  
**U.S. catch** 12.0 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 \$61.2 billion for fishery products.  
In producing and marketing these items, the commercial fishing industry contributed \$31.5 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	Spotted Seatrout	32,800	8
2	Atlantic Croaker	26,500	6
3	Summer Flounder	20,600	5
4	Black Sea Bass	156,00	4
5	Bluefish	15,700	4

#### **Pacific:**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish Caught</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	Barred Sandbass	2,400	8
2	Kelp Bass	1,700	6
3	Black Rockfish	1,300	4
4	Lingcod	1,100	4
5	Sanddabs	613	2

2003 Atlantic and Gulf Coast (excluding Texas) catch: 411 million fish

2003 Pacific Coast (excluding Alaska) catch: 30 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	101,900	46	43	108,000	56	147,500	59
STS	57,900	26	25	62,900	32	73,200	30
EEZ	73,800	33	32	24,200	12	27,200	11
Total	233,600	106	100	195,100	100	247,900	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	60,500	31	56,400	23	33,800	42
Private/Rental Boat	119,800	61	179,800	72	44,000	54
Party/Charter Boat	14,800	8	11,700	5	3,500	4
Total	195,100	100	247,900	100	81,300	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	11,500	6
2	Spotted Seatrout	10,500	5
3	Scup	9,400	5
4	Spot	9,300	5
5	Bluefish	6,200	3

#### **Released:**

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Thousands of Fish</u>	<u>Percent of Release</u>
1	Spotted Seatrout	22,300	9
2	Summer Flounder	16,000	6
3	Atlantic Croaker	15,000	6
4	Striped Bass	14,900	6
5	Black Sea Bass	11,600	5

## **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 - 2003

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). Detailed information and access to the data are available on the Fisheries Statistics web page (<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/>).

### **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, so 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.
- Prior to 1998, on the Pacific coast, ocean boat trips and salmon trips were not sampled during certain waves because they were surveyed by state natural resource agencies.
- Alaska conducts an annual mail survey and has never been surveyed by the MRFSS.
- West Pacific U.S. territories have not been surveyed by the MRFSS since 1981.
- Hawaii was not surveyed between 1981 and 2001.
- The U.S. Caribbean was not surveyed between 1981 and 2000.

Historically, only about five percent 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 few exceptions (Georgia 1985-1989, South Carolina 1988, North Carolina 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	Nov/Dec (Oregon) - 1994
Mar/Apr (ME & NH) - 1996 to present	Nov/Dec (Washington shore modes) - 2003
Jan/Feb (No.CA-OR) - 1994	July - Dec (Oregon shore modes) - 2003
Jan/Feb (So. CA-OR) - 1995	All Waves (CA through WA) -1990 to 1993
	All Waves (Washington) 1993 to 1994

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

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