



# NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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## **New Economic Report Finds Commercial and Recreational Saltwater Fishing Generated More Than Two Million Jobs**

U.S. commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generated more than \$185 billion in sales and supported more than two million jobs in 2006, according to a new economic report released by NOAA's Fisheries Service.

The commercial fishing industry—harvesters, seafood processors and dealers, seafood wholesalers and seafood retailers—generated \$103 billion in sales, \$44 billion in income and supported 1.5 million jobs in 2006, the most recent year included in the report, *Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2006*, which covers 1997 to 2006. Recreational fishing generated \$82 billion in sales, \$24 billion in income, and supported 534,000 jobs in 2006.

"The report documents clearly that managing fisheries sustainably is good for the environment and the economy," said Jim Balsiger, NOAA acting assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "Fishing helps create a substantial number of jobs around the nation."

The report also breaks down the sales, income and job figures for each coastal state. The highest amount of sales generated by the commercial fishing industry were in California (\$9.8 billion), Florida (\$5.2 billion), Massachusetts (\$4.4 billion), Washington (\$3.8 billion), and Alaska (\$3 billion). The most jobs were generated in California (179,000), Florida (103,000), Massachusetts (83,000), Washington (75,000) and Texas (47,000).

Saltwater recreational fishing generated its highest economic effect in total sales and jobs generated in Florida (\$7.6 billion sales, 131,000 jobs); Texas (\$2.2 billion sales, 34,000 jobs); California (\$1.9 billion sales, 23,000 jobs); North Carolina (\$1.2 billion sales, 24,000 jobs); and Louisiana (\$1.2 billion sales, 27,000 jobs).

*Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2006* also includes descriptive statistics on commercial fish landings, revenue, and price trends; recreational fishing effort, catch, and participation rates; and employer and non-employer establishments, annual payroll, and annual receipt information for fishing-related industries such as seafood retailers and ship and boat building.

The report is the first volume in a new series designed to give the public accessible economic information on fishing activities in the U.S., and is a companion to *Fisheries of the United States*, and the forthcoming *Fishing Communities of the United States*.

The report also provides a snapshot of fishery management plans, limited access privilege fishing programs (a type of catch share program), buyback programs, and ecolabeling programs as well as the status of fish stocks and an inventory of protected marine resources.

*Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2006* is available online at:  
<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/index.html> Hard copies of the report are forthcoming.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov> for more information.