



You remember

how the fishing was for you last year, but how good was it for your neighbor, those in the next state, or on the other side of the country? Each year, NOAA Fisheries gathers information about saltwater fishing from coast to coast.

Knowing who's catching what and how much they're catching not only helps managers conserve fish populations, but it also shows the collective importance of saltwater recreational fishing to the nation.

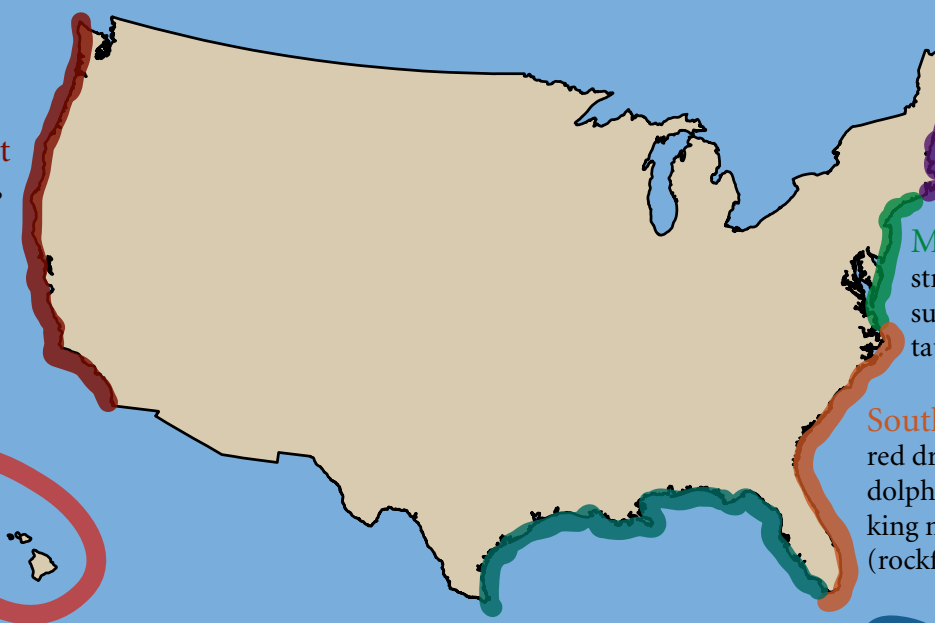


What are fishermen after?

Pacific Coast
tunas, salmon, surf perches, rockfish, halibut



Hawaii
convict tang (manini), yellowstripe goatfish (weke), skipjack tuna (aku), bluefin trevally (omilu), yellowfin tuna (ahi)



Gulf
spotted seatrout, red drum, snook, red snapper, king mackerel



Puerto Rico
dolphin fish (mahi mahi), blue marlin, Atlantic tarpon, wahoo, crevalle jack

North Atlantic
striped bass (rockfish), Atlantic cod, summer flounder (fluke), bluefish, tautog

Mid-Atlantic
striped bass (rockfish), summer flounder (fluke), tautog, bluefish, black sea bass

South Atlantic
red drum, spotted seatrout, dolphin fish (mahi mahi), king mackerel, striped bass (rockfish)



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All data and statistics included in this report are compiled by NOAA Fisheries from in-person and telephone interviews with recreational fishermen. Thanks to the millions of anglers who over the years have cooperated with the surveys and helped ensure that the catch and effort information used to conserve fisheries keeps getting better.

All information is based on data collected in 2006, unless otherwise noted.

For more information about recreational fishing statistics or to query our database, visit NOAA online at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st1/recreational/index.html>.

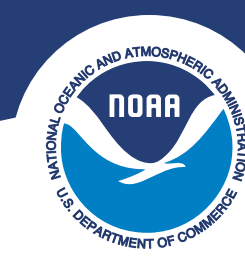
By the Numbers

Saltwater Fishing Facts and Figures for 2006



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Most saltwater fishing takes place in state waters close to shore.

Only 10 percent of all saltwater fishing takes place in Federal waters.

Where is the saltwater sportfishing capital of the U.S.?

Florida has the most anglers—more than 6.5 million.

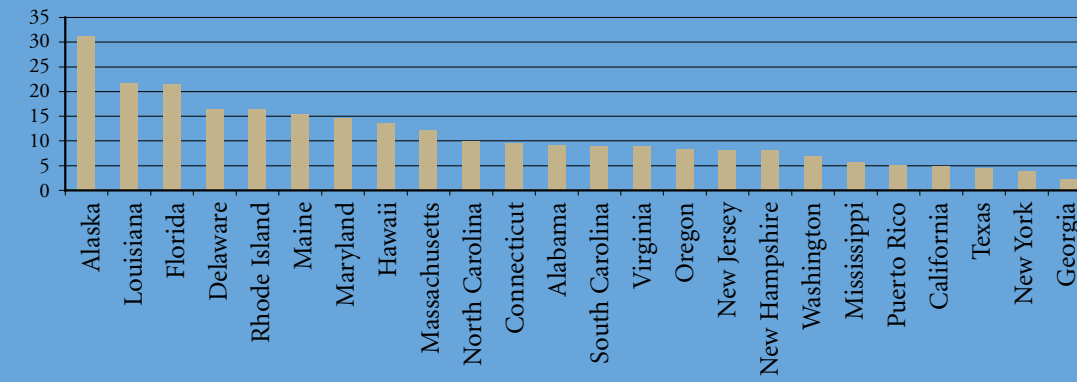
Most Popular Saltwater Fishing States

State	Total number of trips	Total number of anglers
Florida	29.3 million	6.7 million
North Carolina	7.3 million	2.2 million
New Jersey	7.3 million	1.2 million
California	5.6 million	1.1 million
New York	5.4 million	0.9 million

A greater percentage of Alaskans go fishing than anywhere else.

About 30 percent, or 1 of every 3 Alaska residents is a saltwater angler.

Percent of Coastal State Residents Who Fish



* Information from Alaska comes from the 2005 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Statewide Harvest Survey. Pacific coast (OR, WA, CA) in-state residents estimate comes from 2002 data; 2005/2006 was not yet available.

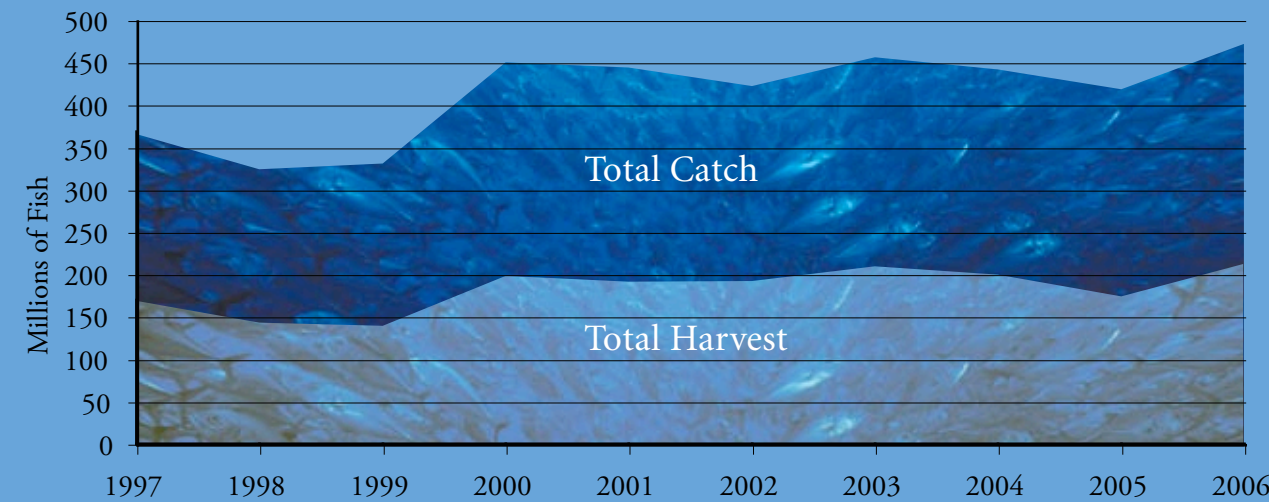


Quick facts:

In 2006, there were

13 million saltwater fishermen 89 million fishing trips
 475 million fish caught 55 percent of fish caught released alive

Total Fish Catch and Harvest



Catch (what's caught) and harvest (what's kept) fluctuates from year to year, but over the past decade, overall totals have remained fairly level. Regulations that manage harvest play a big role in helping keep fish populations at sustainable levels. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is the primary law for managing marine and anadromous fisheries resources in Federal U.S. waters. The law was recently reauthorized in 2006 to help ensure there will always be plenty of fish to catch.

Top Landings by Recreational Fishermen

Species	Millions of fish harvested	Millions of pounds harvested
1. Spotted seatrout	18.3	29.8
2. Atlantic croaker	11.8	20.6
3. Spot	11.4	17.3
4. Bluefish	7.8	16.8
5. Atlantic mackerel	4.8	15.5

Overall, recreational anglers catch and keep much less than commercial fishing operations (254 million pounds versus 8.5 billion pounds). However, for several popular species like striped bass and red drum, recreational harvest exceeds commercial harvest.

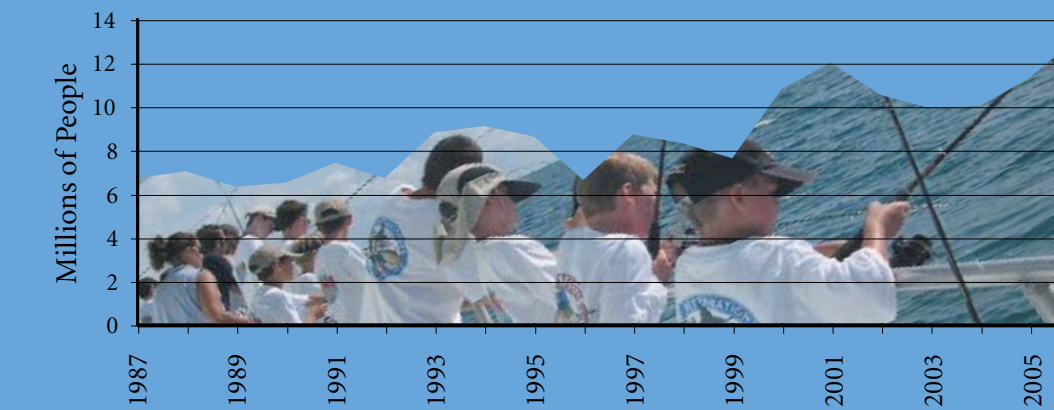
Each sector provides about \$30 billion in economic benefit to the nation.



Participation in saltwater fishing has grown over 9% in 5 years.

Recreational fishing has long been among Americans' most popular leisure time activities.

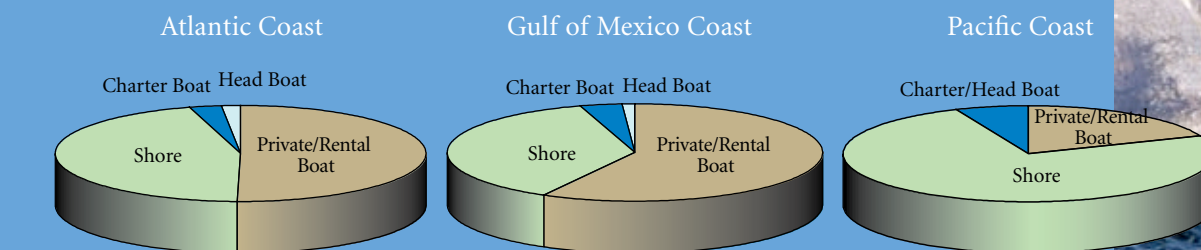
Saltwater Fishing Participation



Most anglers' trips along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts are from a boat.

Shore fishing is the most popular along the Pacific Coast states of California, Oregon and Washington.

Fishing Trips by Mode



The for-hire fleet accounts for roughly 5 to 10 percent of all trips.

* Comparable information for Hawaii, Alaska, and the Caribbean is unavailable. Texas data overlaps the years 2005-2006. Averages of Oregon and Washington shore data from 2001-2003 were used.

