

# PREFACE

## **FISHERIES OF THE UNITED STATES, 1998**

This publication is a preliminary report for 1998 on commercial and recreational fisheries of the United States with landings from the U.S. territorial seas, U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and on the high seas. This annual report provides timely answers to frequently asked questions.

## **SOURCES OF DATA**

Information in this report came from many sources. Field offices of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in cooperation with various States, collected and compiled data on U.S. commercial landings and processed fishery products. The NMFS Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division in Silver Spring, MD, managed the collection and compilation of recreational statistics, and tabulated and prepared all data for publication. Sources of other data appearing in this publication are: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

## **PRELIMINARY AND FINAL DATA**

Data on U.S. commercial landings, employment, prices, production of processed products, and recreational catches are preliminary for 1998. Final data will be published in other NMFS Current Fishery Statistics publications.

The Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division of NMFS takes this opportunity to thank states, industry, and foreign nations who provided the data that made this publication possible.

Program leaders of the field offices were: Gregory Power, New England, Middle Atlantic, and Chesapeake; Scott Nelson, National Biological Service Science Center, Great Lakes States; Nelson Johnson, Guy Davenport, Maggie Bourgeois, and Margot Hightower for the South Atlantic and Gulf States; Patricia J. Donley, California and Hawaii; John K. Bishop, Oregon and Washington; and David Ham, Alaska.

## **NOTES**

The time series of U.S. catch by species and distance from shore included in this year's "Fisheries of the U.S." is estimated by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

As in past issues of this publication, the units of quantity and value are defined as follows unless otherwise noted: U.S. landings are shown in round weight (except mollusks which are in meat weight); quantities shown for U.S. imports and exports are in product weight, as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; the value of the U.S. domestic commercial landings is exvessel in the Review Section on important species actual and deflated exvessel prices are shown. The deflated value was computed using the Gross Domestic Products Implicit Price Deflator); the value for U.S. imports is generally the market value in the foreign (exporting) country and, therefore, excludes U.S. import duties, freight charges from the foreign country to the United States, and insurance; the value for exports is generally the value at the U.S. port of export, based on the selling price, including inland freight, insurance, and other charges. Countries and territories shown in the U.S. foreign trade section are established for statistical purposes in the Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated (International Trade Commission) and reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

The Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division wishes to provide the kinds of data sought by users of fishery statistics, and welcomes comments or suggestions that will improve this publication.

Address all comments or questions to:

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