

Last Revised: June 2001

## **Fishery Landings Trends**

Total U.S. commercial landings in 1999 were estimated at 4.2 million metric tons (mt) of which approximately 676,500 mt came from the Northeast. The U.S. recreational harvest on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts were estimated at 135.6 million fish weighing 90,100 mt, of which 40 million fish or 34,700 mt came from the Northeast. Aggregate statistics for U.S. fisheries are detailed in *Fisheries of the United States, 1999*.

Prior to 1994, fishery statistics were collected in the Northeast under a voluntary reporting system. Landings and price data were collected by NMFS port agents and state personnel at the point of first sale through dealer reports or "weighout receipts". This information was complemented by interviews of vessel captains by NMFS port agents at dockside, to collect detailed data on fishing effort, gear used and areas fished; and a monthly canvas to collect landings data at secondary ports. In June of 1994, voluntary reporting was replaced by a mandatory reporting system in which dealer reports were retained, and dockside interviews were replaced by a logbook reporting system. This system is now used in all fisheries subject to federal fishery management plans or FMPs (except the American lobster and Atlantic herring fisheries). However, many vessels that fish for lobster and herring are permitted under one or more of the remaining federal FMPs, and are therefore subject to mandatory reporting. Recreational fishermen are surveyed both in the field as they complete fishing trips and through telephone calls to households. These independent components, along with census data, produce estimates of recreational catch, effort, and participation.

Tables 1 and 2 provide commercial (domestic and foreign) and recreational landings data for 36 of the 39 species, or species groups, reviewed in this document (Atlantic salmon and sturgeons excluded). "Foreign" landings include Canadian and distant-water fleet catches outside of the U.S. EEZ for transboundary stocks fished by the U.S., such as Canadian landings of groundfish and scallops from eastern Georges Bank, and Atlantic mackerel from off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. They also include catches made by U.S. vessels during internal waters processing (IWP) operations in state waters, which are transferred to foreign vessels and later landed in foreign ports. It is logical to group these species into several assemblages: principal groundfish, flounders, other groundfish, principal pelagics, other pelagics, anadromous fish, and invertebrates.

For these assemblages, landings totaled 422,300 mt in 1999, a decrease of 22,700 mt (5%) from 1998 (Tables 1 and 2). Of these landings, 13% were from foreign, 82% from domestic commercial, and 5% from domestic recreational fishing. U.S. commercial landings declined in all categories except for principal pelagics which rose by a modest amount. Preliminary figures for 2000 indicate a total of 420,900 mt (12% foreign, 81% domestic commercial, and 7% domestic recreational). The 1997-1998 average was 459,500 mt.

Principal groundfish (Atlantic cod, haddock, redfish, silver hake, red hake, and pollock) and flounders (yellowtail, summer flounder, American plaice, witch and winter flounder, and windowpane) have together accounted for less than 20% of the total landings by weight since 1997 (17% in 1999). Principal pelagics (Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel) and invertebrates (squids, American lobster, northern shrimp, surfclams, ocean quahogs, and sea scallops) each accounted for 31% of the 1997-2000 total (34% and 30%, respectively, in 1999). Other groundfish (goosefish, scup, black sea bass, ocean pout, white hake, cusk, Atlantic wolffish, tilefish, spiny dogfish, and skates) accounted for 15% of the 1997-2000 total (14% in 1999). See Tables 1 and 2.

### **For more information**

NMFS [National Marine Fisheries Service]. 2000. Fisheries of the United States, 1999. *Current Fishery Statistics* No. 9900. USDOC/NOAA/NMFS, Silver Spring, MD.

Table 1. Total landings of selected assessment species groups off the northeastern United States, from domestic and foreign commercial fishing, and from recreational fishing, 1997 and 1998 (1,000 mt)<sup>1</sup>.

Species	Commercial				Recreational			Total	
	Foreign		U.S.		1997	1998	1997	1998	
	1997	1998	1997	1998					
<b>Principal Groundfish</b>									
Atlantic cod	2.9	1.9	13.0	11.1	1.1	1.3	17.0	14.3	
Haddock	2.6	3.4	1.5	2.8	<0.1	<0.1	4.1	6.2	
Redfish	<0.1	<0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	
Silver hake	0.0	0.0	15.6	15.0	<0.1	<0.1	15.6	15.0	
Red hake	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.1	1.5	1.4	
Pollock	11.9	14.4	4.3	5.6	0.2	0.1	16.4	20.1	
Subtotal	17.4	19.7	35.9	36.1	1.5	1.5	54.8	57.3	
<b>Flounders</b>									
Yellowtail flounder	0.8	1.2	2.8	3.6	0.0	0.0	3.6	4.8	
Summer flounder	0.0	0.0	4.0	5.1	5.4	5.7	9.4	10.8	
American plaice	0.1	<0.1	3.9	3.7	0.0	0.0	4.0	3.7	
Witch flounder	<0.1	<0.1	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	
Winter flounder	0.1	0.1	5.4	5.1	0.6	0.3	6.1	5.4	
Windowpane	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	
Subtotal	1.0	1.3	18.4	19.8	6.0	6.0	25.4	27.1	
<b>Other Groundfish</b>									
Goosefish	0.2	0.2	28.5	26.9	<0.1	<0.1	28.7	27.1	
Scup	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.9	0.5	0.4	2.7	2.3	
Black sea bass	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2	1.9	0.5	3.1	1.7	
Ocean pout	0.0	0.0	<0.1	<0.1	0.0	0.0	<0.1	<0.1	
White hake	0.3	0.2	2.2	2.4	<0.1	<0.1	2.5	2.6	
Cusk	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	<0.1	<0.1	0.6	0.5	
Atlantic wolffish	<0.1	<0.1	0.3	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	0.3	0.3	
Tilefish	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.3	<0.1	<0.1	1.8	1.3	
Spiny dogfish	0.6	1.0	18.4	20.7	0.8	0.4	19.8	22.1	
Skates	<0.1	<0.1	11.0	13.9	0.1	<0.1	11.1	13.9	
Subtotal	1.3	1.5	66.0	69.0	3.3	1.3	70.6	71.8	
<b>Principal Pelagics</b>									
Atlantic herring	20.6	20.1	97.4	81.6	0.0	0.0	118.0	101.7	
Atlantic mackerel	18.5	15.0	15.4	14.4	1.7	0.7	35.6	30.1	
Subtotal	39.1	35.1	112.8	96.0	1.7	0.7	153.6	131.8	

<b>Other Pelagics</b>								
Atlantic butterfish	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.0
Bluefish	0.0	0.0	4.1	3.7	6.5	5.6	10.6	9.3
Subtotal	0.0	0.0	6.9	5.7	6.5	5.6	13.4	11.3
<b>Anadromous Fish</b>								
River herring	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6
American shad	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.0
Striped bass	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.9	7.2	5.8	9.9	8.7
Subtotal	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.5	7.2	5.8	11.2	10.3
<b>Invertebrates</b>								
Shortfin squid	14.5	1.9	13.6	22.7	0.0	0.0	28.1	24.6
Longfin inshore squid	0.0	0.0	16.3	18.4	0.0	0.0	16.3	18.4
American lobster	0.2	0.2	37.5	36.3	0.0	0.0	37.7	36.5
Northern shrimp	0.0	0.0	6.3	3.7	0.0	0.0	6.3	3.7
Atlantic surfclam	0.0	0.0	26.5	24.5	0.0	0.0	26.3	24.5
Ocean quahog	0.0	0.0	19.9	18.1	0.0	0.0	19.9	18.1
Sea scallop	4.3	4.0	6.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	10.3	9.6
Subtotal	19.0	6.1	125.9	129.3	0.0	0.0	144.9	135.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>63.7</b>	<b>369.9</b>	<b>360.4</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>473.9</b>	<b>445.0</b>

<sup>1</sup> Landings expressed as live weights except for bivalve molluscs (meat weight).

Table 2. Total landings of selected assessment species groups off the northeastern United States, from domestic and foreign commercial fishing, and from recreational fishing, 1999 and 2000 (1,000 mt)<sup>1</sup>.

Species	Commercial				Recreational		Total	
	Foreign		U.S.		1999	2000	1999	2000
	1999	2000	1999	2000				
<b>Principal Groundfish</b>								
Atlantic cod	1.8	1.6	9.7	11.3	1.2	2.2	12.7	15.1
Haddock	3.7	5.4	3.4	4.1	<0.1	<0.1	7.1	9.5
Redfish	0.0	<0.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3
Silver hake	0.0	0.0	14.1	11.9	<0.1	<0.1	14.1	11.9
Red hake	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.5	<0.1	<0.1	1.5	1.5
Pollock	7.8	5.5	4.6	4.0	<0.1	0.4	12.4	9.9
Subtotal	13.3	12.5	33.7	33.1	1.2	2.6	48.2	48.2

**Flounders**

Yellowtail flounder	2.0	2.9	4.4	7.1	0.0	0.0	6.4	10.0
Summer flounder	0.0	0.0	4.8	5.0	3.8	7.1	8.6	12.1
American plaice	0.1	0.1	3.1	4.2	0.0	0.0	3.2	4.3
Witch flounder	<0.1	<0.1	2.1	2.4	0.0	0.0	2.1	2.4
Winter flounder	<0.1	0.1	4.7	5.8	0.3	0.9	5.0	6.8
Windowpane	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Subtotal	2.1	3.1	19.3	24.7	4.1	8.0	25.5	35.8

**Other Groundfish**

Goosefish	0.2	0.2	25.3	20.8	<0.1	<0.1	25.5	21.0
Scup	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.2	0.9	2.4	2.4	3.6
Black sea bass	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.2	0.8	1.8	2.1	3.0
Ocean pout	0.0	0.0	<0.1	<0.1	0.0	0.0	<0.1	<0.1
White hake	0.2	0.3	2.6	3.0	<0.1	<0.1	2.8	3.3
Cusk	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	<0.1	0.7	0.4
Atlantic wolffish	<0.1	<0.1	0.3	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	0.3	0.2
Tilefish	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	<0.1	<0.1	0.5	0.5
Spiny dogfish	0.2	2.5	14.7	9.2	<0.1	<0.1	14.9	11.7
Skates	0.0	0.0	11.7	12.9	<0.1	<0.1	11.7	12.9
Subtotal	0.7	3.2	58.1	49.2	2.1	4.2	60.9	56.6

**Principal Pelagics**

Atlantic herring	18.6	7.4	94.8	102.5	0.0	0.0	113.4	109.9
Atlantic mackerel	16.0	4.0	12.0	5.6	1.3	1.4	29.3	11.0
Subtotal	34.6	11.4	106.8	108.1	1.3	1.4	142.7	120.9

**Other Pelagics**

Atlantic butterfish	0.0	0.0	2.1	1.4	0.0	0.0	2.1	1.4
Bluefish	0.0	0.0	2.8	3.4	3.9	4.6	6.7	8.0
Subtotal	0.0	0.0	4.9	4.8	3.9	4.6	8.8	9.4

**Anadromous Fish**

River herring	0.0	<0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1
American shad	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4
Striped bass	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.6	6.5	7.8	9.2	10.4
Subtotal	<0.1	<0.1	3.7	3.1	6.5	7.8	10.2	10.9

**Invertebrates**

Shortfin squid	0.3	15.4	7.4	9.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	24.4
Longfin inshore squid	0.0	0.0	18.6	17.0	0.0	0.0	18.6	17.0
American lobster	0.2	0.2	39.7	30.4	0.0	0.0	39.9	30.6
Northern shrimp	0.0	0.0	1.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	1.7	2.4
Atlantic surfclam	0.0	0.0	26.7	28.5	0.0	0.0	26.7	28.5
Ocean quahog	0.0	0.0	17.6	14.9	0.0	0.0	17.6	14.9
Sea scallop	3.7	6.8	10.1	14.5	0.0	0.0	13.8	21.3
Subtotal	4.2	22.4	121.8	116.7	0.0	0.0	126.0	139.1

<b>Total</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>348.3</b>	<b>339.7</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>422.3</b>	<b>420.9</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Landings expressed as live weights except for bivalve molluscs (meat weight).