

Fisheries of the United States



NOAA FISHERIES

2012

Statistical Highlights

U.S. COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (Round weight)

World-wide catch by U.S. Vessels⁽¹⁾ :

10.2 billion pounds (4.6 million metric tons) - down 1%

Valued at \$5.7 billion - exvessel value - up 1%

Of 10.2 billion pounds:

8.9 billion pounds (4.0 million metric tons) of finfish - down 1%

1.3 billion pounds (0.6 million metric tons) of shellfish - down 4%

U.S. Landings in the 50 United States⁽²⁾:

9.6 billion pounds (4.4 million metric tons) - down 2%

Valued at \$5.1 billion - down 3%

Of 9.6 billion pounds

7.5 billion pounds (3.4 million metric tons) for food - down 5%

2.2 billion pounds (1.0 million metric tons) for industrial purposes - up 11%

(Includes bait and animal food)

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

Total = 11.6 billion pounds (5.3 million metric tons) - down 4%

Landings = 7.5 billion pounds (3.4 million metric tons) - down 5%

Imports = 10.6 billion pounds (4.8 million metric tons) - down 2%

Exports = 6.5 billion pounds (2.9 million metric tons) - down 2%

Per capita consumption: 14.4 pounds (6.5 kilograms) edible meat - down 4%

FOREIGN TRADE (Product weight)

Imports - edible:

5.4 billion pounds (2.4 million metric tons) product weight

Valued at \$16.7 billion

Exports - edible:

3.3 billion pounds (1.5 million metric tons) product weight

Valued at \$5.5 billion

U.S. Landings By Distance from Shore

Distance	Billion Pounds	Million Metric Tons	Percent	Billion Dollars	Percent
0-3 miles	3.2	1.4	31	2.2	40
3-200 miles	6.4	2.9	63	2.9	50
International	0.6	0.3	6	0.6	10
TOTAL	10.2	4.6	100	5.7	100

US Domestic Landings - Top Five Species/ Groups

Volume				Value			
Rank	Species	Million Pounds	Percent	Rank	Species	Million Dollars	Percent
1	Pollock	2,887,033	30	1	1. Crabs	680.7	13
2	Menhaden	1,770,509	18	2	Scallops	561.3	11
3	Cod	728,629	8	3	Shrimp	490.1	10
4	Flatfish	702,905	7	4	Salmon	489.1	10
5	Salmon	635,805	7	5	Lobster	465.8	9

Flatfish excludes halibut

World Fisheries (Live weight, 2011)

Includes aquaculture and captured catch

Total catch 344.3 billion pounds (156.2 million metric tons)

U.S. catch 12.2 billion pounds (5.5 million metric tons)(including weight of mollusk shells)

U.S. catch is 3.6 percent of world catch

Contribution To Gross National Product (GNP)

U.S. consumers spent an estimated \$82.6 billion for fishery products.

In producing and marketing these items, the commercial fishing industry contributed \$42.0 billion in value added to the U.S. GNP.

Marine Recreational Fisheries⁽³⁾

Major Species

Atlantic and Gulf				Pacific			
Rank	Species	Thousands of Fish Caught	Percent	Rank	Species	Thousands of Fish Caught	Percent
1	Spotted Seatrout	42,638	12%	1	Chub Mackerel	1,244	9%
2	Atlantic Croaker	21,826	6%	2	Barred Surfperch	1,125	8%
3	Pinfishes	21,717	6%	3	Black Rockfish	792	6%
4	Black Sea Bass	19,052	5%	4	Sanddabs	544	4%
5	Summer Flounder	16,532	5%	5	Kelp Bass	461	3%

2012 Atlantic and Gulf Coast catch: 361.9 million fish

2012 Pacific Coast (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) catch: 13.9 million fish

U.S. Recreational Catch Types By Area Fished

Area	Thousand Pounds	Thousand Metric Tons	Percent of Catch	Thousands of Fish Harvested	Percent of Harvest	Thousands of Fish Released	Percent of Release
Inland	90,833	41.2	45%	85.6	61%	163.1	68%
STS	54,917	24.9	27%	41.1	29%	61.0	25%
EEZ	57,435	26.0	28%	13.2	9%	15.3	6%
TOTAL	203,185	92.1		140.0		239.4	

U.S. Recreational Catch Number of Trips By Area Fished

Area	Atlantic and Gulf		Pacific	
	Thousand Trips	Percent of Trips	Thousand Trips	Percent of Trips
Inland	41,430	66%	1,758	31%
STS	17,487	28%	3,680	64%
EEZ	3,772	6%	283	5%
TOTAL	62,689		5,721	

U.S. Recreational Top Encountered Species

Harvested:				Released:			
Rank	Species	Thousands of Fish	Percent of Harvest	Rank	Species	Thousands of Fish	Percent of Release
1	Spotted Seatrout	15,416	11%	1	Spotted Seatrout	27,222	11%
2	Atlantic Croaker	7,195	5%	2	Black Sea Bass	16,642	7%
3	Kingfishes	5,981	4%	3	Pinfishes	16,398	7%
4	Pinfishes	5,319	4%	4	Atlantic Croaker	14,631	6%
5	Sand Seatrout	5,191	4%	5	Summer Flounder	14,255	6%

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 Marine Recreational Information Program, 1981 - 2011

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) 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), Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. MRIP produced a new method for estimating catch-rates which was applied to data from 2004-2011 to produce revised, unbiased effort and catch estimates. The data tables produced in this volume are the products of this new estimation computational method. Detailed information and access to the data are available on the MRIP web page (<http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/index.html>).

Exceptions to Coverage - Recreational Fisheries Statistics Program

Care is advised when comparing catch estimates for the Recreational Fisheries Statistics Program time series because of differences in sampling coverage.

- In the South Atlantic and Gulf sub-regions (NC-LA), the Recreational Fisheries Statistics Program 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.
- 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 Recreational Fisheries Statistics Program.
- West Pacific U.S. territories have not been surveyed by the Recreational Fisheries Statistics Program since 1981.
- Hawaii was not surveyed between 1981 and 2002.
- 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 Recreational Fisheries Statistics Program 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, Recreational Fisheries Statistics Program 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) - 1986 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 (Washington) - 1993 to 1994
All Waves (CA through WA) - 1990 to 1993, 2004 to present	

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

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