

# Economics: National Ocean Watch



Living Resources



Marine Construction



Marine Transportation



Offshore Mineral Extraction



Ship and Boat Building



Tourism and Recreation



## Ocean and Great Lakes Economic Data

Millions of jobs depend on ocean and Great Lakes resources. Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) is the only nationally consistent data set focused on this part of the economy. ENOW provides economic statistics for both employed and self-employed workers in six ocean-dependent sectors, from tourism to ship building. These data have many uses, including helping coastal officials understand the jobs, wages, goods, and services that these ocean resources provide. Visit the website to access these data and obtain information designed to help coastal communities use economic data.

## Data Specifications

- Area of Coverage: Approximately 400 coastal counties, 30 coastal states, 8 regions, and the nation
- Dates Available: 2005 to 2014
- Format: Comma-separated value (CSV)

## ENOW – More Than Just Data

While ENOW is known for providing the best available ocean and Great Lakes economic data, there is more to the site than just data. Also available are stories that showcase how communities use economic data in their decision-making processes. County-based “snapshots” allow communities to download county economic data in a handout-ready format. Short, informative videos explain basic economic terms and principles. And most importantly, staff members stand behind this effort and are available to provide guidance to communities that have questions.

Visit ENOW to learn more, or contact our staff at [ocm.enow@noaa.gov](mailto:ocm.enow@noaa.gov)

### Economic Quick Bites

- The U.S. ocean economy employs more people than telecommunications, home construction, and crop production combined.
- Approximately 120,000 people are responsible for all the seafood produced in the U.S.
- Half the jobs in the living resources sector are held by self-employed workers.
- In 2014, the U.S. ocean economy produced almost \$352 billion in goods and services.

### See What People Are Saying about ENOW

ENOW provided a good basic snapshot for us to use to further the conversation with stakeholders, the public, and resource managers. It provides a really solid foundation for us to identify further data gaps and inform future studies.

*Jennifer Hennessey, Ocean Policy Lead  
Washington State Department of Ecology*

We have 62 miles of coastline and only one mile of that is inner harbor, working waterfront. Having this economic data really helps give it prominence and political support.

*Sarah Garcia, Harbor Planning Director  
City of Gloucester, Massachusetts*

This is great data to help remind people that we rely on our environment and that we need to nurture it and take care of it, and grow our industry around our coastal waters.

*Harrison P. Bresee, Regional Economic Planner  
Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission*

