



# NOAA FISHERIES

NOAA Fisheries releases its annual summary report on U.S. recreational and commercial fishery landings.



## U.S. Fisheries Facts

- U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.5 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$5.4 billion.
- Dutch Harbor, Alaska and New Bedford, Massachusetts remain the top commercial fishing ports.
- Approximately 10.4 million saltwater recreational anglers took over 68 million trips and caught over 392 million fish, 60 percent of which were released.

## Fisheries of the United States, 2014 A Statistical Snapshot of 2014 Fish Landings



### About the Report

Each year NOAA Fisheries compiles key fisheries statistics from the previous year into an annual snapshot documenting fishing's importance to the nation. The 2014 report provides landings totals for both domestic recreational and commercial fisheries by species and allows us to track important indicators such as annual seafood consumption and the productivity of top fishing ports. These statistics provide valuable insights, but to fully understand the overall condition of our fisheries, they must be looked at in combination with other biological, social, and economic factors of ecosystem and ocean health.

### Sustainable Fisheries, Jobs, and the Economy

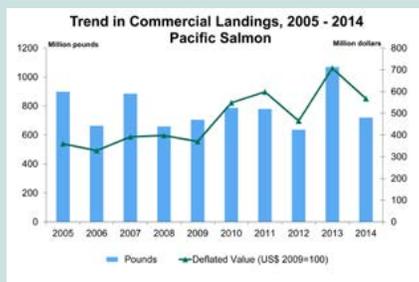
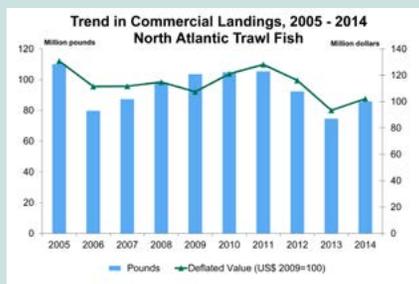
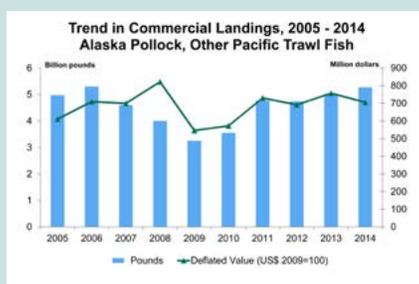
Fisheries, whether for commerce or recreation, play an enormous role in the U.S. economy. In 2014, U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.5 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$5.4 billion. 10.4 million anglers made more than 68 million marine recreational fishing trips and landed 392 million fish. Fish processors, icehouses, restaurants, grocery stores, bait and tackle shops, fuel stations, and a multitude of other businesses benefit from healthy commercial and recreational fishing.

### Healthy Stocks Mean Healthy Economies

Continuing to maintain high commercial fish landings and values is good news for fishermen, fishing communities, and for the Americans who want sustainable, healthy U.S. seafood. We are seeing that responsible management is helping us "turn the corner" towards more sustainable and profitable commercial fisheries.



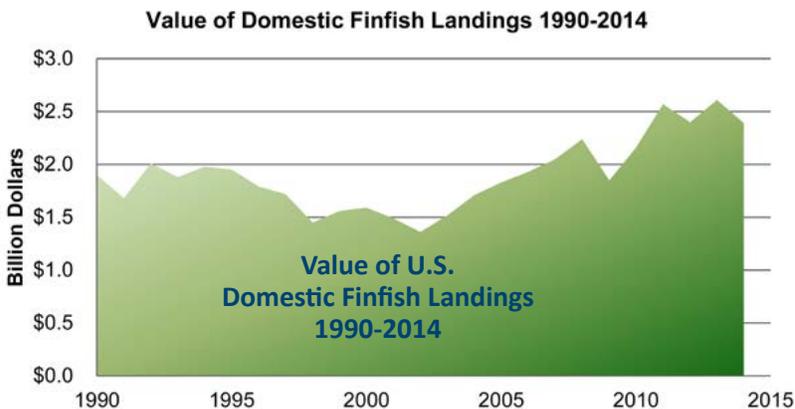
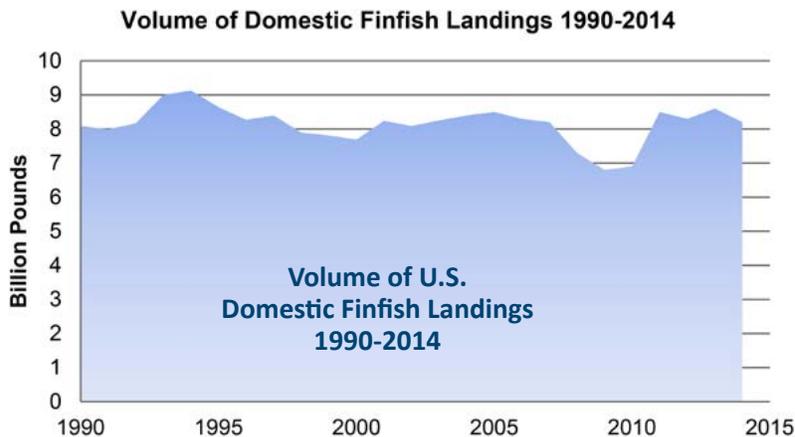
## Trends Among Commercially Important Species (2014)



## By the Numbers

### COMMERCIAL FISHERIES LANDINGS

U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.5 billion pounds of seafood in 2014, valued at \$5.4 billion. These figures represent a small decrease in pounds (4 percent) and a smaller decrease in value (0.8 percent) over 2013. Poundage and value continue to remain higher than the average for recent years (5-year average is 9.1 billion pounds).



### REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Alaska led all states in both volume and value of landings; however, volume decreased by 2% and value decreased by 9%. In the Mid Atlantic, volume increased by 3% and value increased by 8%. In the Gulf of Mexico region, landings decreased by 20%; despite this drop the value increased by 9%.

### TOP 5 STATES

#### By volume of landings:

1. Alaska (5.7 billion pounds)
2. Louisiana (870.5 million pounds)
3. Washington (555.3 million pounds)
4. Virginia (398.1 million pounds)
5. California (366.1 million pounds)

#### By value of landings:

1. Alaska (\$1.7 billion)
2. Maine (\$547.7 million)
3. Massachusetts (\$524.7 million)
4. Louisiana (\$449.2 million)
5. Washington (\$358.3 million)

### RECREATIONAL FISHERIES LANDINGS

Recreational anglers took 68 million trips and caught nearly 392 million fish in 2014. Over 60 percent of these fish were released alive. The estimated total weight of landed catch (almost 157 million fish) was 186 million pounds. Striped bass remained the top catch among saltwater anglers, with over 24 million pounds caught in 2014.



## What's behind some of the changes?

Landings of some species went up and some went down. For example, the Nation's largest catch, walleye pollock, had landings of 3.1 billion pounds (up 5%) valued at \$400 million. On the other hand, menhaden landings decreased by 210.8 million pounds (over 14%) and nearly \$11.9 million (over 9%) compared with 2013. Overall, the total volume of landings in the U.S. showed a small decrease (4% equal to 393 million pounds) from the 2013 level, while the value showed a smaller (1% equal to \$42 million) decrease. The 2014 landings volume and value remain well above the average for the last decade.



## What about the performance of catch share programs?

The first catch share program in the U.S. was implemented in 1990. Today, there are 15 catch share programs currently in place in the U.S. NOAA Fisheries developed new performance indicators to measure the economic performance of U.S. catch share programs. A full report documenting the performance of these programs was released in August 2013. To learn more, visit: <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/economics/fisheries/commercial/catch-share-program/index>

## Top U.S. Commercial Fishing Ports

For the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Dutch Harbor, Alaska led the nation as the port with the highest volume of seafood landed (761.8 million pounds valued at \$191.4 million). Alaska Pollock (walleye) made up 87.1% of the volume and 41.8% of the value. High-value snow crabs and king crabs accounted for an additional 40% of the value of Dutch Harbor landings and 3.3% of the volume. For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year New Bedford, Massachusetts had the highest valued catch, due in large part to the highly valued sea scallop fishery. Sea scallops account for 76.6% of the value of landings in New Bedford.



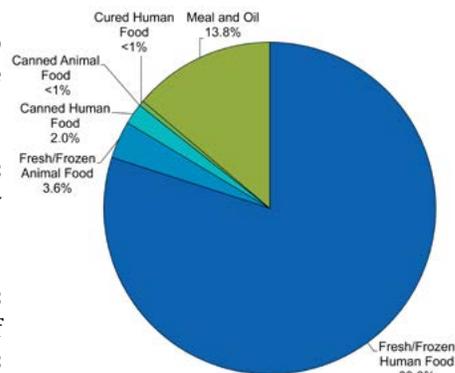
## Sustainable Seafood

Americans consumed nearly 4.6 billion pounds of seafood in 2013. The U.S. is the World's second largest consumer of seafood after China according to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The average American ate 14.6 pounds of fish and shellfish in 2014, essentially unchanged from 2013.

While most fish caught in the United States is consumed as seafood, over 20 percent of the 2014 catch was used for other products such as pet food fish meal and oil.

## Disposition of U.S. Domestic Landings, 2014

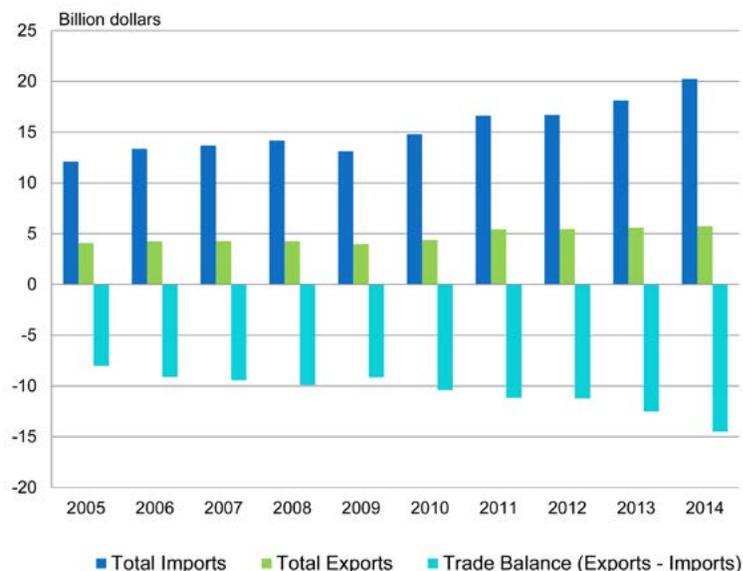


## Fresh Facts, Smart Seafood

When consumers go to the market for seafood, they can be assured that if the species is harvested in the U.S., it has been caught or farmed responsibly. NOAA Fisheries provides the public with easy-to-understand, science-based facts at FishWatch.gov to help them make smart, sustainable seafood choices. FishWatch delivers regularly updated information on how U.S. seafood is harvested under regulations that keep the environment healthy, fish populations thriving, and our seafood industry on the job.

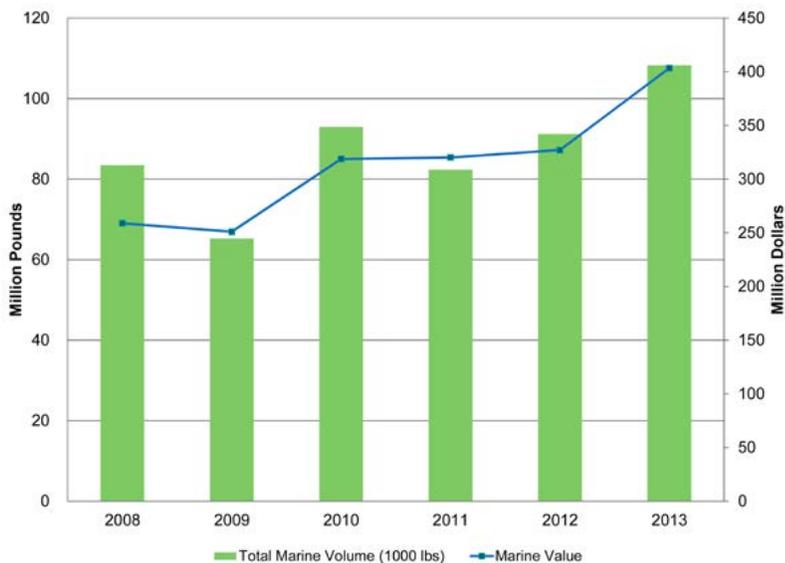
## Imports and Exports

To meet consumer demand, the United States continues to be a major importer of seafood. Over 90 percent of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported, measured by edible weight. This measure has been rising in recent years reflecting an increase in imported seafood. However, a significant portion of this imported seafood is caught by American fishermen, exported overseas for processing, and then reimported to the United States.



## Aquaculture

The U.S. produced \$1.4 billion worth of aquaculture seafood in 2013. Marine aquaculture production has been increasing steadily in recent years at an average annual rate of about nearly five percent from 2008-2013. Because aquaculture focuses on high-value food species, the value of U.S. aquaculture production equals about 25% of the value of U.S. commercial wild catch, while the volume equals 7% of the wild catch. The top U.S. marine aquaculture species are oysters (\$152 million), Atlantic salmon (\$105 million), and clams (\$122 million).



## Collecting Reliable Data

The collection and analysis of recreational and commercial catches provide scientists and managers with important information they need to make informed decisions. We use a number of different methods—including surveys, catch cards, and logbooks—to gather recreational and commercial fishing landings data. Fishermen’s landings combined with other sources of fishery-independent data give us a good understanding of the health and productivity of the resource.



For more information:  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov)

