

## Understanding the Commercial Fisheries and Recreational Fisheries Economic Impact Estimates

Every year, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) publishes commercial and recreational fisheries economic impact estimates for all coastal states and the United States as a whole in the *Fisheries Economics of the United States* (FEUS) report. Based on feedback from stakeholders we are providing updated tables below to illustrate Commercial Fishing Industry Economic Impacts with and without imports.

The numbers in FEUS provide an estimate of the total economic activity generated from the marine fishing industry. They describe the overall size of the fishing industry in the economy (i.e., how these industries are currently supporting the U.S. economy and each coastal state's economy). This snapshot can help policymakers understand the economic contribution of the fishing industry to the economies of individual states as well as the nation as a whole.

The FEUS measures the economic impact of commercial and recreational fisheries using four key metrics to assess the contributions of the fishing industry to a region's or state's economy:

1. Employment is specified on the basis of full-time and part-time jobs.
2. Sales is the gross value of sales by businesses within the economic region affected by an activity.
3. Labor income includes personal income (wages and salaries) and proprietors' income (income from self-employment).
4. Value Added is the contribution made to the gross domestic product in a region.

It is important to note that the economic impacts reported in FEUS are not those used in fishery management decisions. The analyses required for fishery management are more targeted than the snapshot provided in FEUS. In particular, there are two important differences between the economic impact information presented in FEUS and the economic impact estimates used in fishery management decisions:

First, not all of the sectors or expenditure types included in the FEUS estimates are used in management. For example, FEUS typically includes import data in the commercial economic impact estimates because these estimates demonstrate the contribution of the commercial fishing and seafood industry to a state's economy, including the number of jobs as well as income generated by the industry. However, commercial fisheries management assessments almost always exclude imports as well as the retail sector because these factors are irrelevant to assess specific fishery management decisions. Similarly, FEUS includes saltwater anglers' durable good expenditures because they generate significant economic impacts in coastal states and across the broader economy. In fact, durable goods expenditures accounted for roughly 82 percent of recreational fishing jobs and sales economic impacts in 2012. But fishery management assessments generally exclude durable goods expenditures because they cannot be tied to a particular fishery.

Second, whereas FEUS presents the current economic impacts generated at the state and national levels, management is strictly interested in the change in impacts resulting from a proposed regulation in a given fishery. For example, both the commercial and recreational fishing industries contribute significantly to the economy. But economic impact estimates relevant to management are those associated with a change resulting from a particular regulation in a particular fishery, a small fraction of these totals.

In conclusion, while the economic impact information contained in the NMFS FEUS report is important as a snapshot to demonstrate total economic activity generated from the marine fishing industry, more targeted economic analyses are necessary for fishery management decisions.

**2012 Commercial Fishing Industry Economic Impacts with Imports**

|                       | Job Impacts      | Income Impacts    | Output Impacts     | Value Added Impacts |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Alaska</b>         | <b>55,890</b>    | <b>1,781,616</b>  | <b>4,232,307</b>   | <b>2,228,884</b>    |
| <b>Gulf</b>           |                  |                   |                    |                     |
| AL                    | 9,947            | 172,314           | 460,514            | 229,316             |
| FL                    | 82,141           | 3,092,392         | 16,553,480         | 5,532,209           |
| LA                    | 33,391           | 659,974           | 1,927,986          | 920,873             |
| MS                    | 8,532            | 149,147           | 377,374            | 193,349             |
| TX                    | 25,911           | 677,391           | 2,499,832          | 1,036,657           |
| <b>Hawai'i</b>        | <b>10,544</b>    | <b>262,059</b>    | <b>855,139</b>     | <b>382,849</b>      |
| <b>Mid Atlantic</b>   |                  |                   |                    |                     |
| DE                    | 367              | 9,607             | 46,713             | 15,690              |
| MD                    | 15,622           | 440,159           | 1,800,489          | 686,761             |
| NJ                    | 50,754           | 1,766,641         | 7,921,903          | 2,871,912           |
| NY                    | 51,681           | 1,352,047         | 6,366,436          | 2,243,446           |
| VA                    | 19,052           | 461,762           | 1,538,449          | 673,068             |
| <b>New England</b>    |                  |                   |                    |                     |
| CT                    | 3,857            | 128,092           | 603,308            | 212,505             |
| MA                    | 107,064          | 2,223,411         | 8,483,740          | 3,381,475           |
| ME                    | 32,971           | 615,930           | 1,875,020          | 892,006             |
| NH                    | 4,971            | 147,640           | 609,187            | 232,000             |
| RI                    | 10,509           | 295,885           | 1,224,565          | 468,920             |
| <b>Pacific</b>        |                  |                   |                    |                     |
| CA                    | 145,433          | 5,172,755         | 24,043,813         | 8,582,461           |
| OR                    | 16,051           | 385,350           | 1,174,111          | 550,045             |
| WA                    | 60,955           | 2,002,804         | 7,533,447          | 3,055,370           |
| <b>South Atlantic</b> |                  |                   |                    |                     |
| GA                    | 14,124           | 435,997           | 1,962,985          | 717,018             |
| NC                    | 8,800            | 218,377           | 782,684            | 325,893             |
| SC                    | 1,766            | 41,253            | 119,975            | 57,683              |
| <b>US</b>             | <b>1,270,141</b> | <b>38,721,983</b> | <b>140,660,993</b> | <b>59,017,417</b>   |

**2012 Commercial Fishing Industry Economic Impacts without Imports**

|                       | Job Impacts    | Income Impacts    | Output Impacts    | Value Added Impacts |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Alaska</b>         | <b>55,390</b>  | <b>1,763,217</b>  | <b>4,166,477</b>  | <b>2,202,108</b>    |
| <b>Gulf</b>           |                |                   |                   |                     |
| AL                    | 9,272          | 152,553           | 380,561           | 199,122             |
| FL                    | 9,315          | 217,398           | 823,750           | 333,908             |
| LA                    | 30,493         | 565,923           | 1,475,401         | 764,256             |
| MS                    | 8,449          | 146,610           | 365,338           | 189,171             |
| TX                    | 17,899         | 392,497           | 1,078,674         | 550,187             |
| <b>Hawai'i</b>        | <b>8,124</b>   | <b>176,742</b>    | <b>446,517</b>    | <b>240,091</b>      |
| <b>Mid Atlantic</b>   |                |                   |                   |                     |
| DE                    | 334            | 8,191             | 38,674            | 13,136              |
| MD                    | 7,020          | 137,530           | 373,868           | 187,364             |
| NJ                    | 8,808          | 238,389           | 717,337           | 342,247             |
| NY                    | 3,067          | 50,048            | 144,043           | 70,008              |
| VA                    | 15,054         | 321,058           | 832,135           | 432,909             |
| <b>New England</b>    |                |                   |                   |                     |
| CT                    | 1,213          | 24,966            | 72,839            | 34,805              |
| MA                    | 68,554         | 961,465           | 2,599,542         | 1,308,693           |
| ME                    | 31,328         | 563,509           | 1,630,439         | 805,771             |
| NH                    | 1,985          | 41,544            | 112,181           | 56,795              |
| RI                    | 4,917          | 103,671           | 286,287           | 145,205             |
| <b>Pacific</b>        |                |                   |                   |                     |
| CA                    | 17,439         | 490,679           | 1,308,974         | 675,347             |
| OR                    | 13,121         | 287,199           | 693,939           | 384,269             |
| WA                    | 22,276         | 606,878           | 1,475,547         | 822,777             |
| <b>South Atlantic</b> |                |                   |                   |                     |
| GA                    | 2,190          | 40,551            | 103,326           | 55,196              |
| NC                    | 5,180          | 105,597           | 255,059           | 139,887             |
| SC                    | 1,528          | 33,642            | 82,517            | 44,812              |
| <b>US</b>             | <b>744,850</b> | <b>18,498,532</b> | <b>50,545,765</b> | <b>26,237,335</b>   |