



NOAA FISHERIES

**Providing vital services for
our nation's ocean resources
and their habitat—**

- **Productive and sustainable fisheries**
- **Safe sources of seafood**
- **Recovery and conservation of
protected species**
- **Healthy ecosystems**

**All backed by sound science and
an ecosystem-based approach
to management.**

Sustainable Fisheries—A U.S. Success Story

U.S. fisheries are among the world's largest and most sustainable. Seafood harvested from U.S. federally managed fisheries is sustainable as a result of our publicly transparent and adaptable management process that adjusts to the ever-changing marine environment, including impacts from changing ecosystems, habitat, and climate.

We work to prevent overfishing, rebuild fish stocks, and provide significant economic benefits for the nation as well as fishing opportunities for commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishermen.

In 2012, U.S. commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generated more than \$199 billion in sales impacts, contributed \$89 billion to the Gross Domestic Product, and supported 1.7 million jobs in marine fishing and across the broader economy.



Using the Magnuson-Stevens Act as our guide, NOAA Fisheries works with regional fishery management councils and many other partners and stakeholders to assess and predict the status of fish stocks, establish catch limits, reduce bycatch, and ensure compliance with fisheries regulations.

Enforcing a Level Playing Field

Enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support a diverse U.S. economy. We are committed to combating illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing to prevent ecological and economic impacts to U.S. fisheries and particularly impacts to the livelihoods of American fishermen. We work with international partners to promote effective conservation and management measures for fisheries and protected species throughout the world.

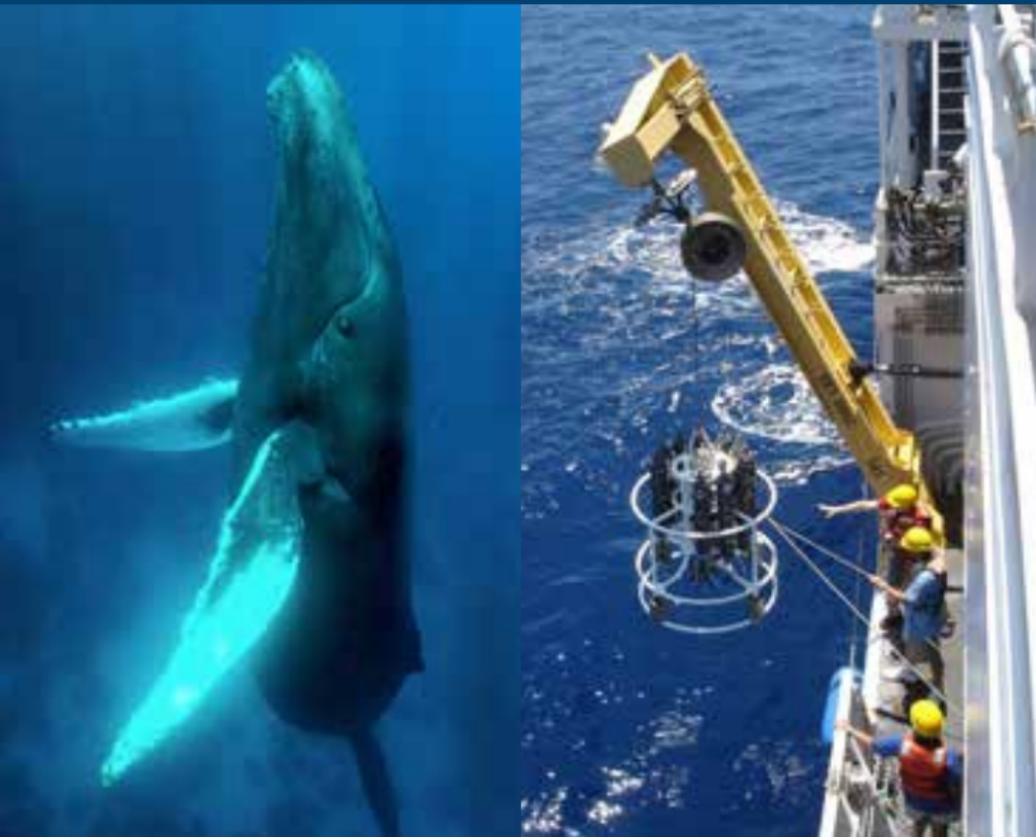


More Habitat, More Fish

Habitat loss is one of the greatest threats to marine life. Habitat such as wetlands and coral reefs provide important feeding and breeding grounds for fish and protected species. NOAA Fisheries works to protect and restore habitat to help sustain fisheries and recover and maintain protected species populations.

Aquaculture—A Promising Future

Aquaculture is essential for meeting the increasing global demand for seafood, supporting important commercial and recreational fisheries, and recovering depleted species and marine habitat in the United States and globally. Cutting-edge research by NOAA Fisheries and partners has led to many of the technological and scientific innovations advancing sustainable aquaculture operations in the world, including shellfish culture, alternative feeds, and equipment.



Protecting Marine Mammals and Endangered Species

Protected marine life such as whales, sea turtles, corals, and salmon serve as sentinels of the sea—when they are in trouble, we know our ocean ecosystems are in trouble, too. Recovery of imperiled species is a long-term challenge and, although the United States has made significant strides in the past 40 years, global collaboration and action are critical for assessing and protecting these species beyond our waters.

Starting with Sound Science

We are building on the success of our science-based approach and investing in basic data gathering and more cost-effective applications of “next-gen” technologies that will give us near real-time, high-quality data to inform management and help us maintain healthy populations of fish, protected species, and their habitat.

Our integrated ecosystem-based management approach is informed by science to protect and sustain diverse and productive ecosystems and the services they provide. It incorporates the entire ecosystem, including humans, into resource management decisions, giving our oceans the greatest chance to adapt and thrive.

Global Cooperation Needed

Fisheries and protected species are global resources that require international stewardship. The United States works internationally to share strategies and innovations to end overfishing and recover protected species. This includes international research collaborations to improve scientific knowledge about living marine resources.



www.FishWatch.gov

Get to know your seafood. FishWatch provides up-to-date information on the status of some of the nation's most valuable fisheries and includes facts on U.S. science-based fisheries management as well as tips on how to make educated seafood choices.

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