



NOAA FISHERIES

NOAA Fisheries provides vital services to the nation: productive and sustainable fisheries, safe sources of seafood, the recovery and conservation of protected resources, and healthy ecosystems – all backed by sound science and an ecosystem-based approach to management.

For more information:

NOAA Fisheries
www.fisheries.noaa.gov

NOAA Office of Aquaculture:
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/aquaculture

FishWatch
www.fishwatch.gov

U.S. Aquaculture: A Vital Link in Meeting Our Domestic Seafood Needs



The United States is a Major Seafood Producer

The United States is a major producer of safe, nutritious and sustainable seafood. U.S. commercial fishermen landed 7.8 billion pounds of seafood in 2014, valued at \$5.3 billion. The U.S. aquaculture industry was valued at \$1.4 billion in 2013. U.S. fisheries are among the world's largest and most sustainable. As the United States continues to make progress rebuilding overfished stocks, we look forward to increased and more stable catches from wild fisheries. However, even if fully rebuilt, these fisheries alone will not meet the growing demand for seafood.

Half of the seafood we eat in the United States already comes from aquaculture – most of it is imported. Over 90 percent of the seafood consumed in the United States by value is imported, a percentage that has steadily increased over the past decade and now accounts for a seafood trade deficit of over \$14 billion.

Aquaculture Represents a Big Part of our Future Seafood Supply

Increasing production of aquaculture is necessary to address the significant emerging challenge to substantially and sustainably increase our domestic seafood supply.

To meet increasing global demand for seafood, aquaculture has grown rapidly in the past 30 years and now provides half of the world's seafood supply. U.S. aquaculture currently accounts for 20 percent of the value of domestic fishery landings, but U.S. production still lags far behind much of the world despite representing a significant opportunity for coastal communities and domestic seafood production capacity.

Marine aquaculture creates jobs, supports resilient working waterfronts and coastal communities and provides international trade opportunities. NOAA is working to support development of sustainable U.S. aquaculture to complement our wild fisheries and provide these economic opportunities.

Sustainable Seafood

Wild Capture Fisheries

U.S. fisheries are a global model of success in responsible management, and this success directly influences national standards and practices. With world-class science, and as a strong partner in international efforts for sustainable fisheries, NOAA Fisheries is a global model for fisheries management.

Fisheries management in the United States has been a long journey of investment and sacrifice to achieve fisheries that are both biologically sustainable and economically important. The U.S. science-based management system has evolved over time into a verifiable, transparent process that strives for continuous improvement. The management system is designed to prevent overfishing, quickly stop overfishing when it occurs, rebuild overfished stocks, and provide significant economic benefit and fishing opportunities for commercial, recreational and subsistence fishermen.



Aquaculture

The United States has a small but vibrant marine aquaculture industry. After 30 years of innovation and learning, production is beginning to expand. The practices and technologies available today are significantly improved over those available during the industry's early years. NOAA, with our partners and collaborators, has developed economically and environmentally sustainable marine aquaculture practices in U.S. waters. These efforts are paying off; U.S. marine aquaculture production has grown 5% per year by volume during the past 5 years (2008-2013).

With some fishing communities facing the challenge of reduced catch levels, some fishermen are looking to aquaculture to supplement and support fishing livelihoods. Doubling current domestic aquaculture production could result in tens of thousands of jobs in coastal communities. Supporting efforts

now to grow more seafood sustainably in the future will be instrumental in meeting the challenge of supplying food for the United States and growing global population, projected to reach 9 billion by 2050.

Want to learn more about U.S. seafood? Visit FishWatch!

FishWatch provides regularly updated, easy-to-understand information on why choosing safe, sustainable seafood is a smart decision. NOAA Fisheries developed the FishWatch Toolbox to help spread the word about the science behind sustainable seafood. FishWatch will arm you with the facts about the industry, science, and management sustaining your seafood – from the ocean or farm to your plate.

Go to www.fishwatch.gov.

