

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Highlights from the Annual Report

Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2014



Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA Fisheries is the federal agency with delegated authority to oversee fishing activities in federal waters. The Act created a system of regional fishery management councils that allows government to work with fishermen and partners to sustainably manage our nation's fisheries.

In the 40 years since the passage of the Act, we have ended chronic overfishing, rebuilt 39 fish stocks, and put our fisheries on solid sustainable footing. It is evident that the U.S. investment in continuous improvement and modernization of the science and innovative management strategies for sustainable fisheries is paying off.

Be a part of history
@NOAAFisheries #MSA40

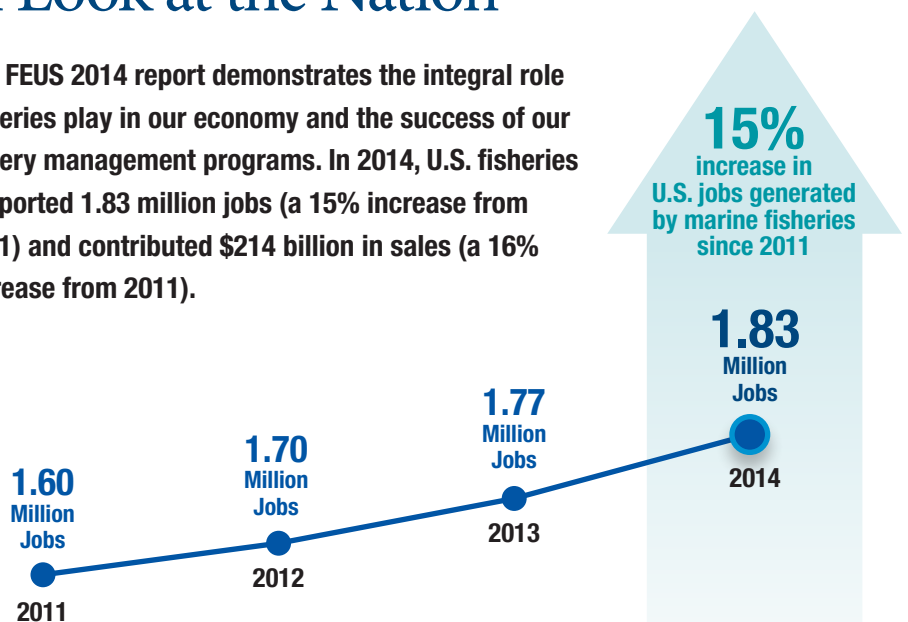
Fisheries and the Economy

U.S. fisheries provide jobs, food and recreational opportunities, and are a vital part of our cultural heritage. They are also an economic engine that supports U.S. fishing communities nationwide.

One of NOAA Fisheries' core missions is promoting sustainable fisheries, including the economic vitality of the communities that depend on this resource. Every year, we publish a report that highlights the economic benefits of U.S. fisheries to our national economy: *Fisheries Economics of the United States (FEUS)*. FEUS tracks economic trends of the commercial fishing and seafood industry, recreational fishing industry, and other marine-related sectors. Analyzing this cross-section of the fishing industry offers an overall picture of the economic benefits provided by each sector. This document looks specifically at the commercial fishing and seafood industry and the recreational fishing industry.

A Look at the Nation

The FEUS 2014 report demonstrates the integral role fisheries play in our economy and the success of our fishery management programs. In 2014, U.S. fisheries supported 1.83 million jobs (a 15% increase from 2011) and contributed \$214 billion in sales (a 16% increase from 2011).



National and Regional Highlights

FEUS highlights eight Regional Fishery Management Councils around the United States that create fishery management plans for the sustainable use of federal fisheries. Regional Councils include: North Pacific, Pacific, Western Pacific, New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico.

The following U.S. and state impacts include both commercial and recreational fishing values.

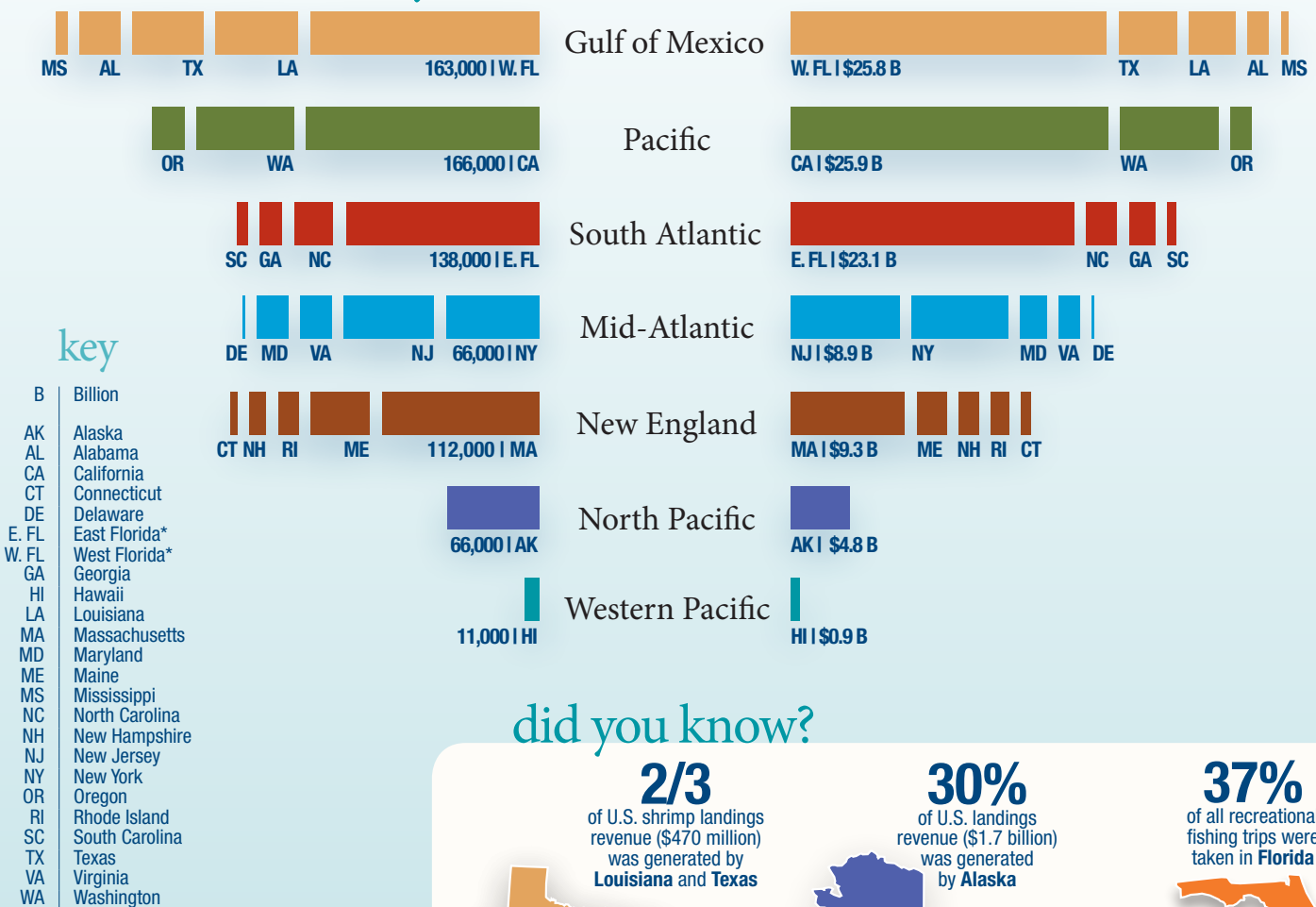
U.S. Impacts

1.83 million jobs
+8% from 2012 | +4% from 2013

\$214 billion sales
+7% from 2012 | +7% from 2013

state contributions by region

jobs sales



*W. FL and E. FL include recreational impacts for these areas and statewide commercial impacts; it is not possible to separate commercial impacts by sub-area.

Commercial Fisheries and Seafood Industry Highlights

The Commercial Fisheries and Seafood Industry section reports on the impact of fishermen who sell their catch for profit. Because a large quantity of seafood is imported into the United States, we estimate some commercial impacts both with and without imports. The value of U.S. commercial fisheries landings remains strong and has a broad positive impact on the U.S. economy. In 2014, the seafood industry supported nearly 1.4 million jobs and generated \$153 billion in sales impacts. The industry saw an increase in jobs (3%) and sales impacts (8%) from 2013.

U.S. Impacts

With Imports
1.4 million jobs
 +3% from 2013
\$153 billion sales
 +8% from 2013

Without Imports
811 thousand jobs
 -2% from 2013
\$54 billion sales
 no change from 2013

States with the Most Jobs and Sales

Florida

With Imports	Without Imports
93 thousand jobs	12 thousand jobs
\$18.3 billion sales	\$1.1 billion sales

Massachusetts

With Imports	Without Imports
98 thousand jobs	59 thousand jobs
\$8 billion sales	\$2.2 billion sales

California

With Imports	Without Imports
143 thousand jobs	18 thousand jobs
\$23.2 billion sales	\$1.3 billion sales

○ trend analysis | Why did domestic harvest jobs decrease 2% from 2013-2014, while import jobs increased?

Domestic harvest jobs decreased slightly from 2013 to 2014 due to lower landings revenue during the same period. The decrease in landings revenue was influenced by declines in salmon landings revenue (-\$134 million), which can be explained by the biennial cycle of pink salmon: pink salmon tends to have weaker runs in even-numbered years. This decrease in landings revenue thus led to a decrease in sales and job impacts during the same time period.

Recreational Fisheries Highlights

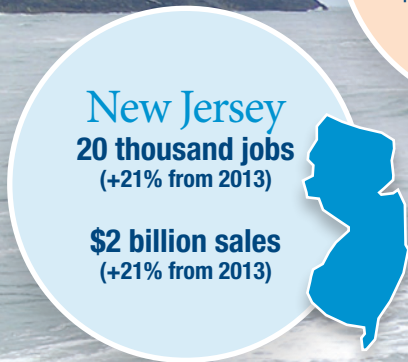
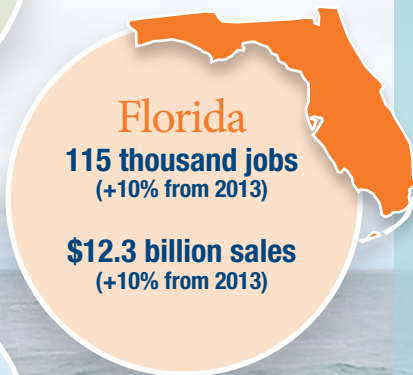
Saltwater recreational fishing is among the nation's favorite pastimes, and it remains a key contributor to the national economy. In 2014, recreational fishing supported 439,000 jobs and generated \$61 billion in sales impacts. This sector saw an increase in jobs (4%) and sales (4%) impacts from 2013.

U.S. Impacts

439 thousand jobs
+3% from 2012 | +4% from 2013

\$61 billion sales
+3% from 2012 | +4% from 2013

states with the most jobs + sales



new estimates | Providing a more accurate picture of the recreational landscape

- 1. A New Economic Survey** Increases in jobs and sales are closely linked to how much anglers spend on recreational fishing purchases. For the first time, the 2014 angler durable goods expenditure survey used the angler license frame for East Coast and Gulf states, which increased sample sizes and resulted in higher expenditures for a number of goods. The results from the new survey, adjusted for inflation, were applied to 2012 and 2013 because these estimates were deemed more reliable.
- 2. Updated Economic Model** The model used to calculate economic impacts was updated in 2014 to account for changes in the overall economy. In general, the results indicated that for every dollar spent by anglers, more jobs were generated within a state and across the country.
- 3. Healthy Economy** The increases in average expenditures from 2011 to 2014 are in part due to a general improvement in economic conditions where anglers are once again more willing and able to purchase big-ticket items such as boats, second homes, and vehicles.

Sustainable Fisheries Management in Action

Catch share programs are one of the most effective management tools we have to promote sustainable fisheries. Key goals of these programs are to maintain or rebuild fish stocks and to sustain fishermen, coastal communities, and vibrant working waterfronts. The following are examples of how and why catch share programs were implemented and their impacts on fisheries.

key examples

West Coast Groundfish Trawl Catch Share Program

The economic performance of this Program has been strong — net revenue per active catcher vessel increased 65% relative to the pre-catch share period (2009-2010) for the non-whiting groundfish fishery and 400% for the whiting fishery. Meanwhile, motherships experienced a 62% increase and catcher-processors experienced a 7% decrease in net revenue per active vessel.

Expanded observer coverage and dockside monitoring, which were implemented coincident to this Program, coupled with long-term adherence to catch targets and improved stock assessment models have also contributed, to varying degrees, to the management success story. For example, in the first three years of catch shares, the total catch of rebuilding stocks (of which three — canary rockfish, widow rockfish and petrale sole — are now declared rebuilt) was 50% lower than the previous three years. In sum, the outlook for this fishery is promising.



Sablefish



Walleye Pollock

American Fisheries Act Pollock Cooperatives

The American Fisheries Act Pollock Cooperatives were established in 1999 and 2000 with the goals of settling allocation disputes between inshore (catcher vessels) and offshore (catcher/processors) sectors and ending the race for fish. Key program performance indicators show that the program has largely been an economic and management success. Capacity has been reduced and efficiency increased; a higher portion of fish is being utilized; and quota, landings, inflation-adjusted pollock revenue, and revenue per active vessel all increased.

Salmon bycatch, however, has been a recurring issue in the fishery and the focus of persistent attention and recent action by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, as Chinook salmon in western Alaska rivers is one of the most important subsistence fisheries in the United States. The Council passed additional measures in 2015 to reduce Chinook and chum bycatch including penalties for vessels with high bycatch rates, salmon excluder device requirements, seasonal reallocation of pollock quota, and hard cap reductions in years of low Chinook in-river abundance. While the effectiveness of these newest measures is yet to be seen, recent salmon bycatch by this fleet has been substantially lower than its peak in the mid to late 2000s.

How are catch share programs performing?

Fisheries Economics of the United States provides key 2013* performance indicators. These indicators show:

The race to fish has ended, resulting in longer fishing seasons, safer working conditions, and improved management performance.

Catch share species revenue⁺ increased in 9 of 16 programs and subprograms.

Revenue⁺ per vessel increased in all programs.

The number of active vessels decreased in all programs but one.

Annual catch limits were exceeded for only two stocks.

*2013 is the most recent year for which key performance indicators are available.

⁺ Revenue is adjusted for inflation.

2014 saw increases in national jobs and sales impacts in fishing-related sectors and throughout the national economy.

in fishing-related sectors and throughout the national economy.

Commercial + Recreational Fishing

+4% jobs since 2013 | **+7%** sales since 2013

Commercial Fishing

+3% jobs since 2013 | **+8%** sales since 2013

Recreational Fishing

+4% jobs since 2013 | **+4%** sales since 2013

Additional Highlights

Reducing Bycatch

In 2015, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council passed additional measures to reduce overall Pacific halibut bycatch limits by over 20% in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries. These reductions may provide additional harvest opportunities in the directed BSAI halibut commercial fishery, especially for halibut-dependent communities in western Alaska, in the near and long term.

Protecting Corals

In June 2015, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council approved an amendment to the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan to protect deep sea corals from the impacts of bottom-tending fishing gear in the Mid-Atlantic. The amendment will create “deep sea coral zones” in areas where corals have been observed or where they are likely to occur.

New Programs:

Lobster In June 2015, NOAA Fisheries announced a lobster trap transfer program that applies to three areas: Area 2 (Southern New England waters primarily off Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts), the Outer Cape Cod Area, and Area 3 (offshore fishery from Maine to North Carolina). The new trap allocations will be effective for the start of the 2016 fishing year.

Bluefin Tuna The Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Individual Bluefin Quota Program began in 2015, bringing the total number of federal catch share programs to 16.

Looking Forward

New developments are always on the horizon to continue increasing the strength of our fishery economy and the sustainable use of our fisheries.

Learn More

www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/economics/publications/feus/FEUS-2014/index