



How to Support Your Working Waterfronts & Commercial Fishermen

Commercial fisheries are a pillar of American food security and economy. They provide livelihoods and healthy meals in all 50 states, all year long. Like farmers and ranchers, fishermen are supported by a few core federal activities. Coastal infrastructure supports seafood commerce, while fisheries science and management support vibrant fishing economies and working waterfronts.

These policies and programs impact your fisheries and seafood constituents:



Magnuson-Stevens Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) is the primary U.S. fishery management law. It outlines 10 National Standards, each focusing on a management principle like Bycatch, Communities, and Safety at Sea. It protects thriving and renewable U.S. seafood commerce, fisheries access, and a science-based, stakeholder driven management system.



Farm Bill

The Farm Bill is an omnibus, multi-year law governing agricultural & food programs. Seafood stakeholders have not historically been included in the bill or critical USDA programs, despite fundamental contributions to the food system. In future iterations, fishing communities hope to see increased seafood inclusions.



Ocean Development

It takes thoughtful and comprehensive planning to ensure Blue Economy sectors coexist well. Seafood, tourism, wind power, and transportation all provide benefits and drive economies, but their development must be cooperative and holistic to protect fishing livelihoods, working waterfronts and access to healthy American seafood.



NOAA/NMFS

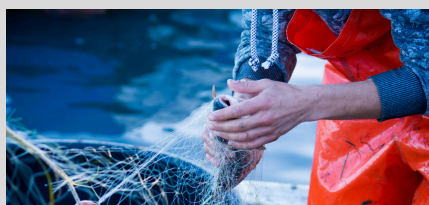
The National Marine Fisheries Service is a branch of NOAA. NMFS provides fundamental services like in-season fisheries management, stock surveys and ocean science, all supporting a thriving U.S. seafood sector. Other NOAA services, like weather forecasting, keep fishermen safe in a dynamic marine environment.



How fisheries and seafood policies impact the American people

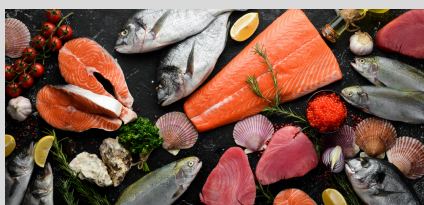
U.S. fisheries benefit the nation in many ways, and are impacted by a wide range of policies, governmental actions and ocean industries. Fisheries and seafood businesses engage in federal policy to ensure that Americans have access to healthy, reliable U.S. seafood.

These are some of the leading values that strong U.S. fisheries provide:



Food Security

Food security is the ability to access enough nutritious, affordable food. The U.S. imports most of the seafood it eats, and exports most of what it catches. We can prioritize U.S. seafood security with domestic marketing, fisheries science, and diversified working waterfronts.



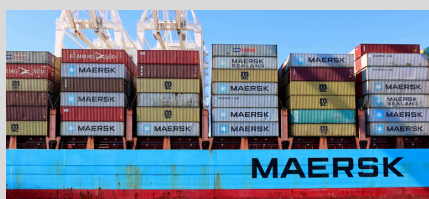
Health

Seafood provides critical proteins and micronutrients, such as iodine, potassium, zinc, B vitamins, and vitamin D. Omega-3s in seafood support childhood development and reduce heart disease risks. We prioritize these benefits by including seafood in U.S. food policy and programs.



Small Business Opportunity

Many U.S. fishing operations are small family businesses. Often community-based operations, they provide job opportunities and fortify coastal and rural economies. We feed families, local food systems, supply chains, and rural economies by supporting a robust fishing fleet.



Seafood Commerce

Seafood products range from affordable shelf stable foods and frozen fillets to premium white tablecloth entrees. One of the most traded food commodities in the world, seafood is a high value resource serving as a primary economic driver in multiple U.S. regions.



Coastal Infrastructure

Fishing and seafood businesses underpin coastal utilities and infrastructure that serve the broader community. Working waterfronts stabilize essential resources like port, fuel and harbor services, food processing and distribution infrastructure, and core utilities like power and water.



Maritime Workforce

Fishing ports support robust maritime economies and skilled trades including mechanics, machinists, welders, fabricators, vessel construction, shipping and marine research. Fisheries create opportunity and stability for a workforce serving the broader U.S. business community.