



NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service

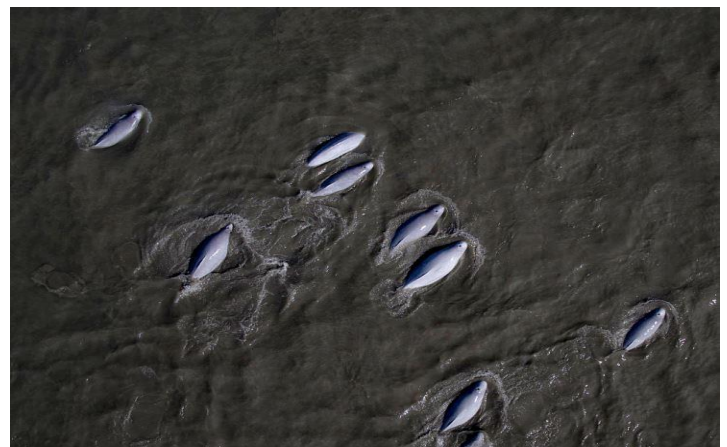
Stewardship of living marine resources

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the stewardship of the nation's marine fisheries and their habitat. U.S. commercial and recreational saltwater fishing provides significant contributions to our economy, which include \$208 billion in sales impacts, \$62 billion in job income impacts, and \$97 billion in industry value-added impacts. NMFS works to increase the sustainability and economic value of our fisheries, improve the resiliency of our fishing communities and working waterfronts, protect and recover threatened and endangered species, and maintain and restore healthy coastal habitats for living marine resources.

U.S. fisheries are among the world's largest and most sustainable. Over the past decade, NOAA, in partnership with the regional fishery management councils, interstate fishery commissions, and stakeholders, has made significant progress in rebuilding domestic fish stocks and overfishing rates remain near all-time lows. By preventing overfishing and rebuilding stocks, we strengthen the value of fisheries to the economy and communities, and ensure that marine ecosystems are able to provide a sustainable supply of seafood for the nation now and in the future.



Seafood in open air market.



Unmanned aerial vehicle allows scientists to study Cook Inlet beluga whales as part of research to learn more about why they have been slow to recover.

These achievements demonstrate the strength of the U.S. science-based management model under the Magnuson–Stevens Act and underscores the importance of ending overfishing as the key to both economic and environmental stability in this sector.

NMFS also has jurisdiction over 161 threatened or endangered species. Given the number of species that have been petitioned or are under consideration for listing, more species may be added to the list in 2018. NOAA is working with our partners on conservation measures and recovery strategies as well as to support economic development.

NMFS is at the forefront on using advanced technology to assist with data collection in the air and under the water. For example, using a remote-controlled hexacopter, scientists collected high quality photographs, as well as breath samples, from whales' spouts for the first time. The samples provide biological information on factors like family history, stress levels, and health condition. Developing cost-effective monitoring technologies throughout the Nation is critical to ensure that NOAA can manage and conserve species.



For more information, please visit the [NMFS website \(https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov\)](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov).





Recent Mission Highlights



NOAA Investments Support New Aquaculture Businesses to Help Feed America and Support Local Jobs

In 2017, NOAA and partners conducted research, development, and outreach in support of new and existing marine aquaculture businesses and state initiatives across the nation. NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center produced over 8,000 all-female sablefish by employing cutting-edge aquaculture techniques developed over the past six years. This effort provided the groundwork for a pilot-scale study of commercial-scale sablefish production by Native American tribes in the Puget Sound region. Among many NOAA-supported state initiatives were Connecticut and Rhode Island's new shellfish initiatives modeled after the NOAA National Shellfish Initiative to increase the number of oysters, clams, and mussels through commercial production and restoration. NOAA invests in aquaculture to reduce the nation's reliance on foreign-produced farmed seafood imported to feed Americans, reduce risk posed to the nation's food security, and increase economic opportunity. NOAA continues to focus on regulatory efficiency and sustainable practices for marine aquaculture.

National Standard 1 Revisions Further Stabilize U.S. Fisheries

Fisheries, whether for commerce or recreation, play an enormous role in the U.S. economy. Fishermen, processors, ice houses, restaurants, grocery stores, bait and tackle shops, fuel stations, and many other businesses benefit from healthy commercial and recreational fishing. NOAA has rebuilt 44 fish stocks since 2000 and overfishing rates are near all-time lows. A critical component driving the success of sustainable fisheries management in the United States is a set of guidelines under the Magnuson-Stevens Act called the National Standard 1, or NS1. In 2017, NMFS published a revision of the NS1 that provides tools to increase stability and flexibility in fishery management while not establishing any new requirements to revise current management plans. Tools include the ability to establish multi-year overfishing status determination criteria, the ability to phase in catch reductions and further guidance on carryover of unused quota. The revised guidelines also help the U.S. maintain our progress in ending and preventing overfishing.

NOAA Helps Build International Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing

NOAA helps to ensure that seafood imported into the U.S. was legally harvested and truthfully labelled. The Seafood Import Monitoring Program, implemented in January 2018, is a major step to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and seafood fraud internationally. Importers must electronically submit more data about the harvest and landing of fish and fish products, and they must maintain auditable records of the chain of custody. This will provide additional protections for our national economy, global food security, and the sustainability of our shared ocean resources.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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