



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 ocean resources and their habitat. 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. In the past decade, in partnership with the regional fishery management councils, interstate fishery commissions, and our stakeholders, and driven by the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA), the agency has essentially ended overfishing and made significant progress rebuilding domestic fish stocks. By preventing overfishing and rebuilding stocks, we are strengthening the value of fisheries to the economy and communities, and also ensuring that marine ecosystems are able to provide a sustainable supply of seafood for the nation now and in the future.



The endangered Hawaiian monk seal is one of NOAA Fisheries' Species in the Spotlight.

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

NMFS also has jurisdiction over 152 threatened or endangered species. Given the number of species that have been petitioned or are under consideration for listing, more species will likely be added to the list in 2017. NOAA is working with our partners on conservation measures and recovery strategies as well as to support economic development.



Unmanned aerial vehicle allows scientists to study killer whale health and reproduction while also offering a glimpse into the family life of these social animals

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: www.fisheries.noaa.gov





Recent Mission Highlights

U.S. Fisheries Continue to Rebuild

In 2016—the 40th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Act—NOAA’s dynamic, science-based, stakeholder-driven management process showed continued success at ending overfishing and rebuilding stocks, providing invaluable benefits to the economy. As a result of the combined efforts of NOAA, the regional fishery management councils, and all NOAA’s partners, through the end of 2016, the number of stocks listed as subject to overfishing (9%) or overfished (16%) remained near all-time lows, and two additional stocks (barndoor skate and North Atlantic albacore tuna) were declared rebuilt. A 2015 analysis showed that U.S. fisheries contributed \$208 billion in sales (a 12% increase from 2011) and supported 1.6 million jobs (a 1% increase from 2011).

Gulf of Mexico Aquaculture Plan Created to Grow U.S. Seafood Supply

NOAA collaborated with partners to create the first-ever framework for commercial-scale aquaculture in U.S. Federal waters. This novel permitting program in the Gulf of Mexico will support an increase in safe and sustainable seafood while promoting vibrant coastal communities and economies. This program will grow and diversify the U.S. seafood supply and reduce the \$12 billion seafood trade deficit by enabling up to 64 million pounds of cultured product per year (a 70 percent increase nationwide).

NOAA Helps Build International Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing

NOAA is one of the lead U.S. agencies for capacity building and technical assistance for the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), which entered into force globally in June 2016. This Agreement prevents vessels carrying illegally harvested fish from accessing ports around the world, and is a major milestone in the international effort to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. In FY 2016, NOAA developed an implementation plan and training modules for state, territorial, and international partners. Staff also traveled to Guam, American Samoa, Indonesia, and the Philippines to provide training and assist with PSMA implementation. These efforts help ensure the success of the Agreement and thereby reduce the amount of IUU product entering domestic markets.

Humpbacks Rebound after Decades of Conservation Efforts

NOAA removed 9 of 14 distinct population segments of humpback whales from the Federal list of threatened and endangered species in 2016. An extensive scientific review and careful consideration of public comments showed that international efforts to protect and conserve whales are proving successful for most humpback populations. Now that nine populations no longer warrant listing, NOAA can concentrate its efforts on the four populations identified as endangered and one population identified as threatened.



NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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