

NOAA Keeps Fishing Communities Strong

For more than 50 years, the United States has recognized that the ocean is critical to our economy and wellbeing. To understand, predict, and protect against threats to the ocean and coastal communities, decades of bipartisan collaborations have built a world-class institution—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Congress has invested in the safety, stability, and future well-being of communities across the country by supporting NOAA so that it can provide life-saving weather forecasting and emergency preparedness services, conduct scientific research, and restore and maintain our coasts and marine resources for the benefit of the American people.

NOAA's impact is especially felt in fishing communities all around the country. Fishing puts seafood on menus and tables nationwide, provides millions of people with recreational opportunities, and connects us to our cultural traditions. NOAA Fisheries (also called the National Marine Fisheries Service) provides the essential science and management that have made our fisheries among the most productive in the world.

NOAA Builds Local Economies

Fisheries put billions of pounds of seafood on the plates of consumers nationwide and sustain the businesses and livelihoods of 2.3 million people in our nation. They offer opportunities for recreation and cultural practice that are enjoyed by millions. And they help support a robust U.S. economy, generating \$321 billion in sales impacts and nearly \$150 billion in value-added impacts.

NOAA FEUS 2022

NOAA Fisheries Sustains Communities and Industry

Just a few decades ago, overfishing was virtually unchecked; weak management and insufficient science led to devastating fish stock collapses. Congress and past administrations, with input from industry, scientists, and the public, worked to build a better system. Now, NOAA Fisheries leads the sustainable management of fisheries and is a lifeline for coastal communities and our economy.



NOAA keeps fisheries healthy. Surveys on NOAA's fleet of "white ships" and cooperative research with fishermen and industry inform stock assessments that tell us how fish populations are doing. Without this science, managers would be in the dark, and fishermen would face more uncertainty and smaller catches.



NOAA empowers local leadership and decision-making. The agency supports a uniquely collaborative system that empowers state managers, fishermen, and others to contribute to fishery management so that decisions are tailored to the needs of fisheries in each region.



NOAA ensures a safe and abundant seafood supply. The agency carries out core management functions, including implementing and enforcing fisheries law. Ensuring a sufficient, safe supply of fish and other seafood while balancing the need for healthy resources and ecosystems is at the core of the NOAA Fisheries mission.

NOAA Fisheries benefits the nation through:

- Data, science, and research foundational to U.S. fishing
- Economic and social benefits to communities
- Innovation in fishing gear and practices
- Ensuring all fishermen have a fair opportunity to fish
- Reducing bycatch
- Ocean and coastal habitat management and restoration
- Protecting ocean resources, marine mammals, and ecosystems
- Delivering fisheries disaster aid
- Improving safety at sea
- Promoting U.S. seafood competitiveness

Fisheries Need all of NOAA

It isn't just NOAA Fisheries that supports fisheries. All parts of NOAA support the business of fishing and the seafood industry.

NOAA Builds Partnerships and Collaboration

NOAA doesn't function alone—it works with countless partners on science, management, and conservation. From industry, state and local governments, Tribes, academic institutions, community groups and others, NOAA partnerships touch communities throughout the nation and provide sweeping economic benefits. Many of NOAA's programs help fund grants and projects that are ultimately implemented at a local scale by local partners.

Weather forecasts and satellites: Fishermen rely on accurate weather forecasts to make decisions about whether and where to fish and how to do so safely. The fishing industry counts on NOAA's accurate forecasts, warnings, and emergency alerts. This also means fisheries depend on NOAA's operation of satellites and buoys and cutting-edge research.

Navigation: NOAA provides nautical charts, tide and current predictions, and geospatial data that support safe maritime navigation for fishermen and for the vessels that transport fisheries products around the U.S. and the globe.

Environmental monitoring: Fishermen need to know about hazards in the marine and coastal environment. For example, NOAA's work to understand the occurrence and extent of red tides can help fishermen and ensure safe seafood.

Habitat protection and restoration: NOAA ensures the conservation of habitats important for fisheries and maintaining a healthy ocean.

Community services: Many programs within NOAA offer services to assist coastal communities. Like extension agents in agriculture, Sea Grant extension agents are focused on topics that can help fishermen and fishing communities, such as seafood safety, fishing gear enhancement, and restoring habitat.