



FISH AND WILDLIFE ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

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Comparing NOAA's Recreational and Commercial Fishing Economic Data

**Produced for the
American Sportfishing Association**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

May 2013

Executive Summary

In 2011 recreational anglers landed more than 204.9 million pounds of saltwater fish.^{1,2} In pursuit of these fish, saltwater anglers spent \$26.8 billion on fishing tackle and equipment and trip-related goods and services. Including multiplier effects, their spending generated \$70.3 billion in economic output (sales), created \$32.5 billion in value-added growth and supported 454,542 jobs with \$20.5 billion in income.

Commercial fishermen in the U.S. landed 9.9 billion pounds of fin- and shellfish in 2011 valued at \$5.3 billion. Finfish represented 86 percent of the total commercial landings by weight and 49 percent of the total value, at 8.5 billion pounds and \$2.6 billion respectively.

Of the commercial sector's landings, 4.9 billion finfish pounds were the same species frequently targeted by recreational anglers, with a landed value of \$2.1 billion. Including multiplier effects along the entire value chain from harvesters to processors to final consumers, commercial finfish harvest of species also sought by anglers generated \$20.5 billion of economic output. This is the "sales impact," which is not to be confused with expenditures or retail sales. In addition, \$10.6 billion of value-added impacts and 304,611 jobs with \$7.5 billion of income were generated.³

Table 1. Economic Impacts of Recreational and Commercial Fishing in the United States, 2011.

U.S.			
Impacts	All Recreational Species ⁴	All Commercial Finfish Species	Commercial Landings of Finfish Species Also Sought by Anglers
Landings	204,947,000	8,480,921,000	4,854,877,000
Value of Landings (Commercial)		\$2,582,567,000	\$2,067,411,000
Expenditures (Recreational)	\$26,783,311,000		
<u>Economic Impacts:</u>			
Sales (total multiplier effect)	\$70,315,216,000	\$25,578,722,000	\$20,476,418,000
Jobs	454,542	380,513	304,611
Income	\$20,518,517,000	\$9,359,032,000	\$7,492,143,000
Value Added	\$32,471,761,000	\$13,299,298,000	\$10,646,426,000

Commercial estimates include only finfish and excludes imports.

Table 2. Economic Impacts of Recreational and Commercial Fishing in the United States per Pound of Fish Harvested, 2011⁵.

Impacts	All Recreational Species	All Commercial Finfish Species	Commercial Landings of Species Also Sought by Anglers
Sales (total multiplier effect)	\$331.32	\$3.02	\$4.22
Jobs per 1,000 lbs	2.1	0.045	0.063
Income	\$96.32	\$1.10	\$1.54
Value Added	\$152.24	\$1.57	\$2.20

¹ Includes all harvested fish including NOAA Fisheries catch type categories A+B1.

² Does not include fish caught in Alaska or Texas as estimates of recreational landings here were not available from NOAA.

³ A preliminary examination found that approximately 0.4 percent of fish harvested by recreational anglers were species not targeted by the commercial sector. A more careful assessment of commercial species suggests the percentage of recreational-only species is less than that. Due to the small percentage of recreational fishing in this category, no adjustments were made to the published estimates of economic impacts from recreational fishing.

⁴ Does not include pounds landed in Alaska or Texas.

⁵ Recreational impacts do not include Texas or Alaska as estimates of pounds landed were not available from NOAA.

Data Source

This study relies on data, reports and analytical tools provided by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). Much of the information was taken from the *Fisheries Economics of the U.S. 2011* report. Detailed species catch information for both recreational and commercial fishing was taken from online query tools available from NOAA Fisheries at <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/access-data/run-a-data-query/queries/index>.

The two types of queries used include the snapshot query and the time series query. A time series query was used to access the species assistance tool. Recreational species harvest data for California, Washington and Oregon were obtained through the RecFIN website hosted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission - <http://www.recfin.org/data/estimates/tabulate-recent-estimates-2004-current>.

All species were considered and their assignment to recreational, commercial or both fisheries is detailed in Appendix A of the full report. NOAA's online Interactive Fisheries Economic Impacts Tool was used to generate a ratio of income to sales for commercial fishing which was applied to the estimates of commercial sales impacts - <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov:443/apex/>.

Figure 2. Total Percentage of Saltwater Landings in the United States, 2011

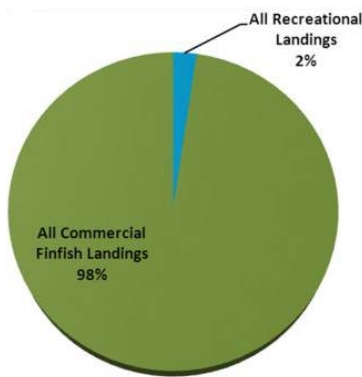


Figure 2. Economic Impact of Saltwater Landings in the United States, 2011

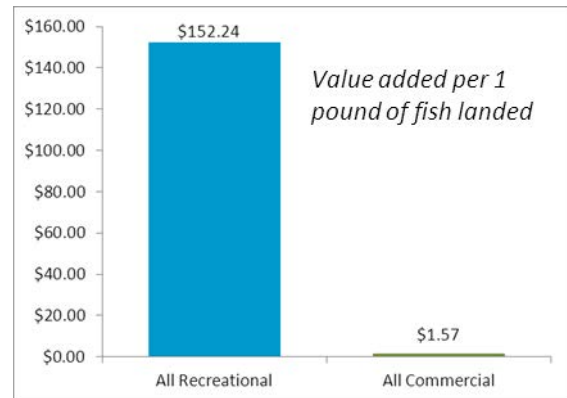


Figure 3. Total Jobs from Recreational and Commercial Fishing in the United States, 2011

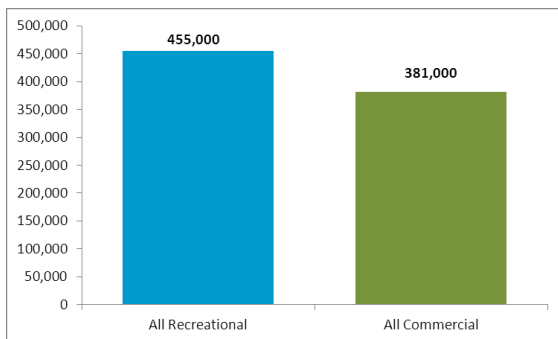


Figure 4. Jobs per 100,000 pounds Landed in the United States, 2011

