

C 55.309/2-2:991/supp.

Current Fishery Statistics No. 9100

Fisheries of the United States, 1991

Supplemental

May 1992



U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

National Marine Fisheries Service

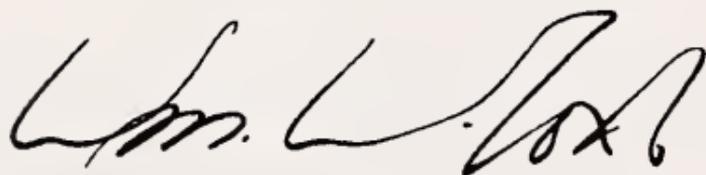


LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR:

The fisheries of the United States represent a vast renewable natural resource providing the people of this nation with food, income, employment, and recreation. The U.S. has about 90,000 miles of tidal shoreline which support marine resources that are among the largest, most varied, and valuable in the world. These resources contribute significantly to the quality of American life.

Fisheries are very important to our economy. In 1991, U.S. commercial fishermen landed 9.5 billion pounds of fish and shellfish with a dockside value of \$3.3 billion, while the U.S. industry exported more than \$6.2 billion in fishery products. Marine recreational fisheries annually involve some 17 million anglers who spend over \$7.2 billion. As a nation we spent more than \$26.8 billion on seafood purchases in 1991, and consumed an estimated 14.9 pounds of seafood per capita.

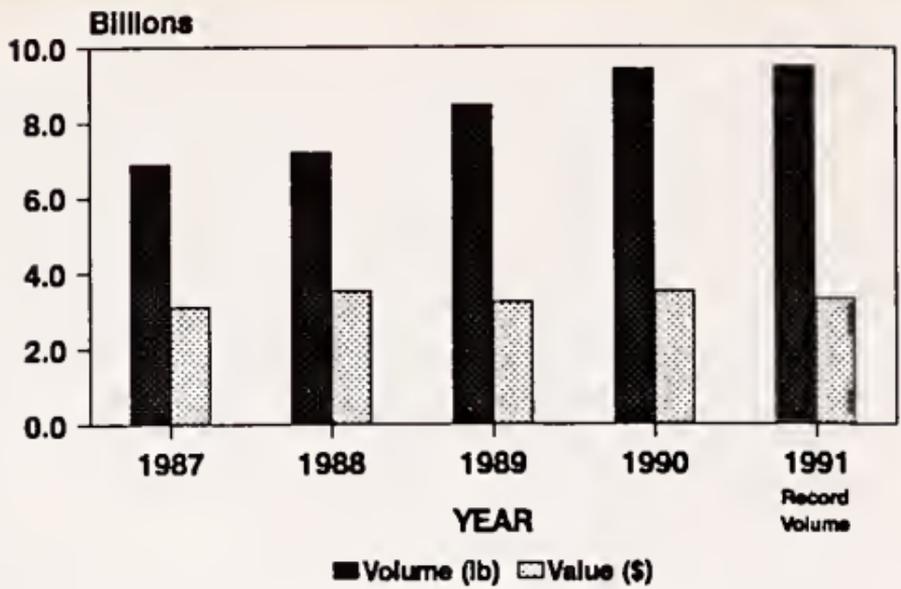
Holding stewardship over America's living marine resources is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Through its National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA protects and enhances these resources and their environment. By encouraging and assisting the U.S. fishing industry, NOAA seeks to optimize economic benefits for the nation and ensure continued opportunities for future generations.



William W. Fox, Jr.
NOAA Assistant Administrator for
Fisheries

The Fisheries Statistics Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service maintains a variety of data on U.S. and world fisheries. This brochure provides a general overview of the size, scope, and world position of the U.S. fisheries, and the U.S. supply and consumption of fishery products.

U.S. Commercial Landings

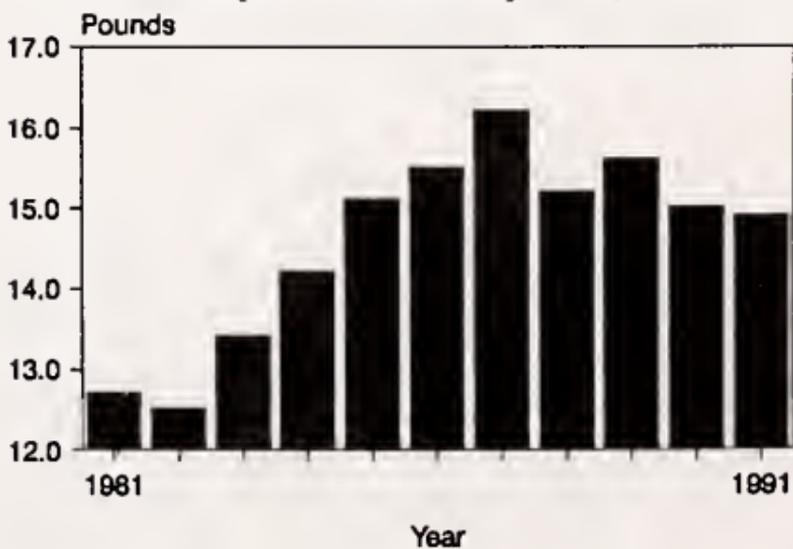


Commercial landings by U.S. fishermen in 1991 amounted to 9.5 billion pounds (4.3 million metric tons) of edible and non-edible fishery resources valued at \$3.3 billion. A metric ton is equal to 2,204.6 pounds. Over 300 species are taken commercially. The "round" weights shown in the above graph and elsewhere in this brochure include the weights of whole fish, but not the shell weights of mollusks.

Per capita Consumption

Per capita consumption of commercially caught fish and shellfish in 1991 was 14.9 pounds, just slightly less than the revised 1990 estimate of 15.0 pounds. The current emphasis on the role of diet in health makes the nutritional qualities of seafood especially appreciated, since most fish and shellfish have a low-fat/high-protein content.

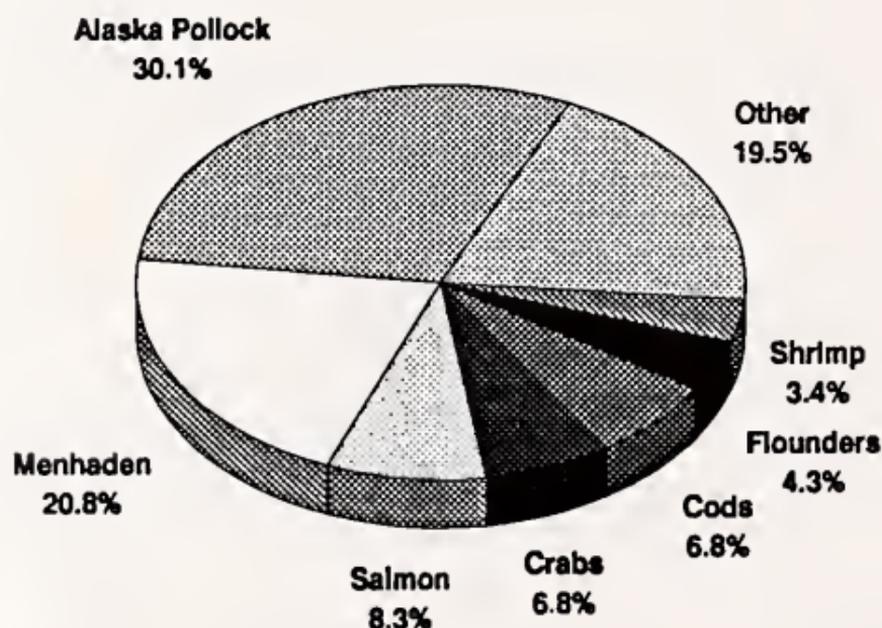
U.S. Per Capita Consumption, 1981 -1991



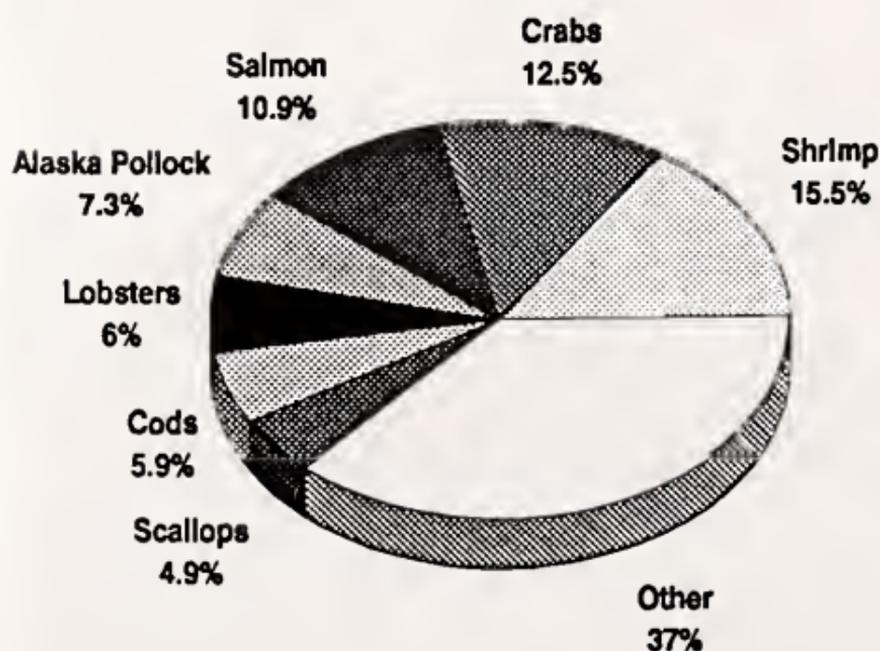
Major Commercial Species

In terms of volume, the top five species groups caught by U.S. commercial fishermen in 1991 were Alaska pollock, menhaden (an oily fish used primarily for industrial purposes), salmon, crabs and cods. Shrimp, crabs, salmon, pollock, and lobsters were the top five species in terms of value. Dutch Harbor-Unalaska, Alaska with landings of 731.7 million pounds (331.9 thousand metric tons), was the leading port in terms of volume. New Bedford, Massachusetts with landings valued at \$157.7 million, was the leading port in terms of value.

Total Volume = 9.5 billion lb



Total Value = \$3.3 billion



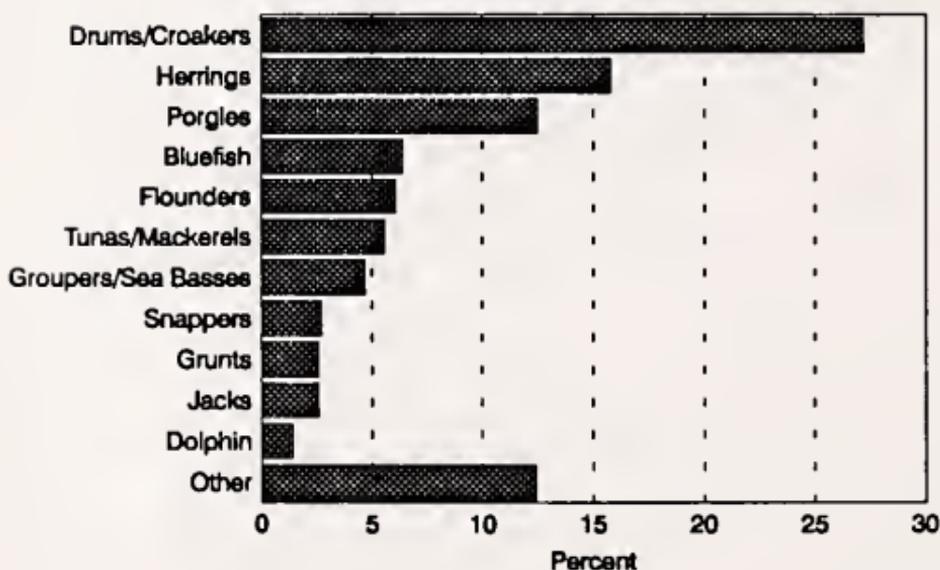
Major Recreational Species

NMFS collects data on marine angling through its Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) to generate estimates of overall recreational catch, effort and participation in the U.S. The MRFSS consists of an intercept survey of fishermen in the field and telephone surveys of households.

The estimated total catch of finfish on the Atlantic coast by marine anglers in 1991 was 379.5 million fish. The estimated landings (total catch less fish released alive) were 186.0 million fish (49 percent of the total) weighing 233.0 million pounds. These fish were taken on an estimated 59.1 million fishing trips. Data for the Pacific coast are only available through 1989 (a modified MRFSS will be resumed on the Pacific coast in 1992.)

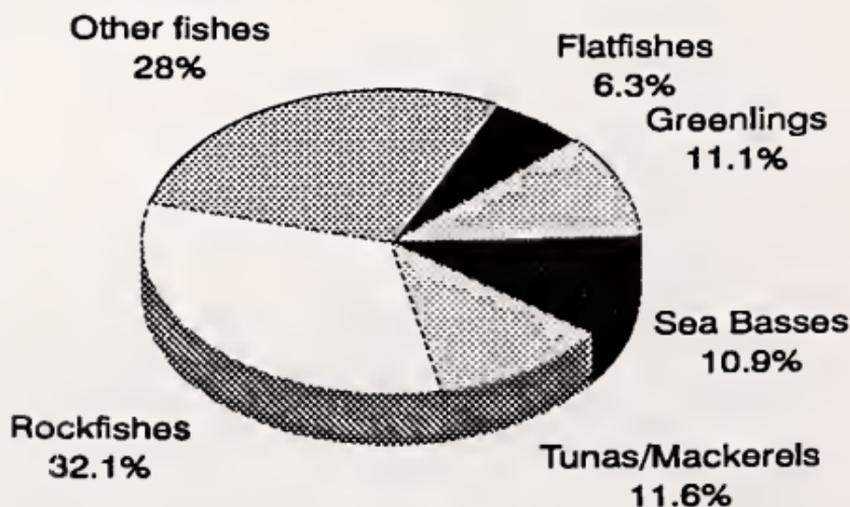
1991 Atlantic & Gulf Coast

Landings = 186.0 million fish



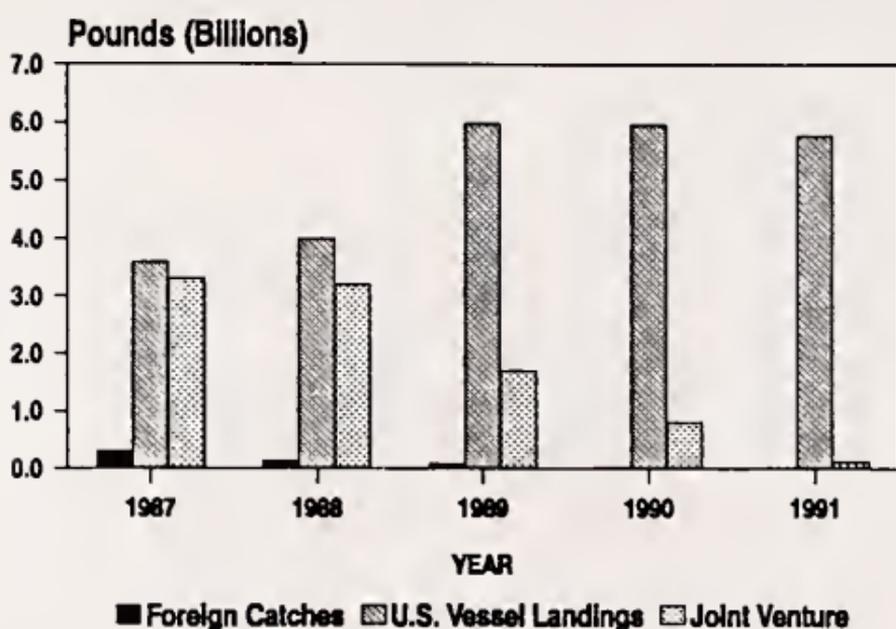
1989 Pacific Coast

Landings = 27.8 million lb



Catch in the U.S. EEZ

In the interest of commercial and recreational fishermen, the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (MFCMA) was enacted by the Congress to provide the national focus and effort deemed necessary to protect our fishery resources from overfishing and establish a mechanism for conservation. The MFCMA established a U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extending from the seaward boundaries of the territorial sea (3 nautical miles from shore in most



cases) to 200 nautical miles from shore. All fishery resources within the EEZ, except highly migratory species of tuna in the Pacific, are subject to management by one or more of the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils created by the MFCMA. The Councils analyze scientific data and hold frequent public meetings in the process of developing Fishery Management Plans (FMP's) for species requiring management. The FMP's are designed to provide for the optimum utilization of the resources, while giving preference to U.S. fishermen over foreign fishermen. Thirty-two FMP's were fully implemented as of December 31, 1991.

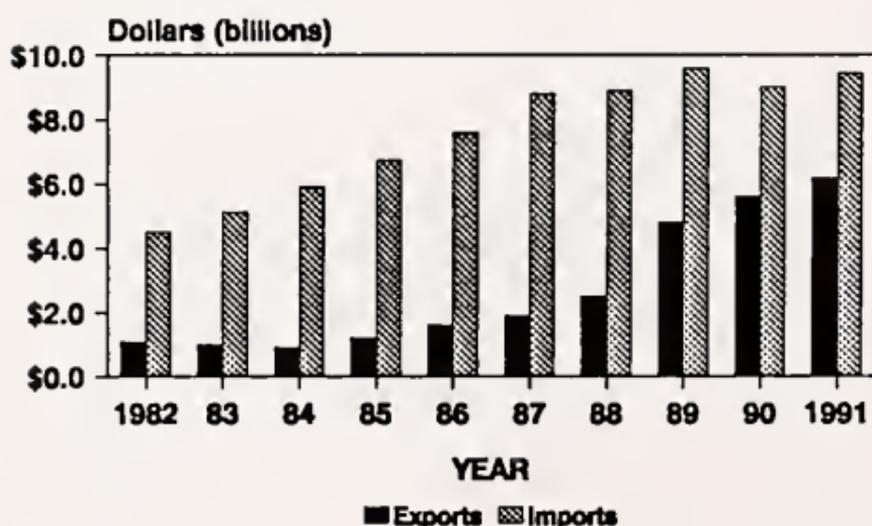
Joint Ventures

The MFCMA led to the development of "joint ventures" in 1979, wherein U.S. commercial fishermen catch and transfer to foreign vessels at sea certain species for which U.S. demand is low relative to the abundance of the species. In 1979 joint

venture catches were 23.3 million pounds (10,600 metric tons) worth \$1.3 million. The joint venture catches peaked in 1988 when 3.2 billion pounds (1,452.2 thousand metric tons) were caught worth \$221.1 million. The U.S. harvesting and processing capabilities have expanded greatly in the last few years, decreasing the need for these joint venture arrangements. In 1991 the joint venture catch decreased to 124.1 million pounds (56,300 metric tons) worth \$3.9 million. While joint ventures were an important transitional opportunity for U.S. harvesters, current domestic processing technologies and marketing arrangements are capable of handling the catches from U.S. fishery resources.

Foreign Trade

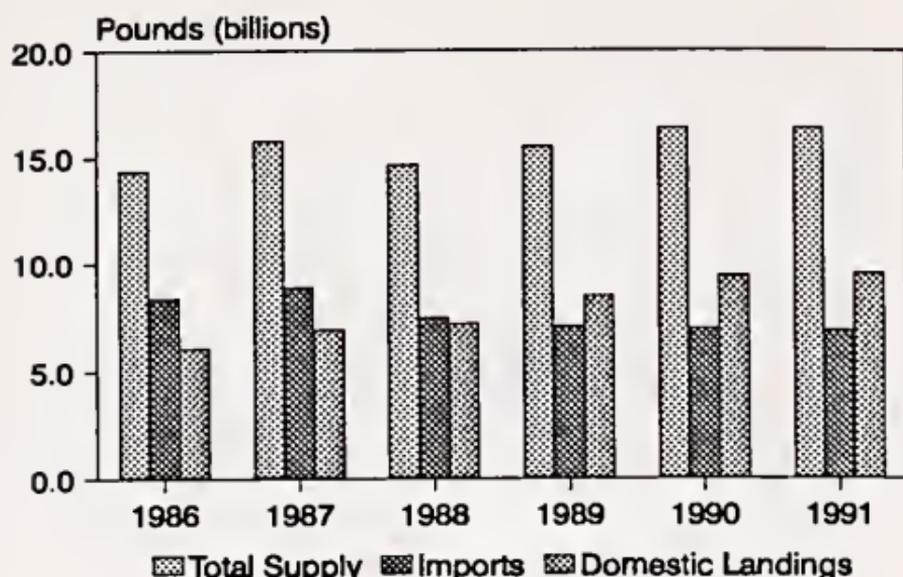
Total fishery imports in 1991 were valued at \$9.4 billion (up 4.3 percent), while U.S. exports of fishery products were valued at \$6.2 billion (up 9 percent). The U.S. has run a fishery trade deficit since 1895, but the deficit has been shrinking in recent years. Shrimp imports alone were valued at \$1.8 billion in 1991. Other major items were tuna, fresh and frozen fish fillets, and frozen fish blocks used to produce fish sticks. Major export items included salmon (fresh, frozen and canned); crabs (fresh and frozen); blocks and slabs (fresh and frozen); and industrial fishery products.



U.S. Supply of Fishery Products

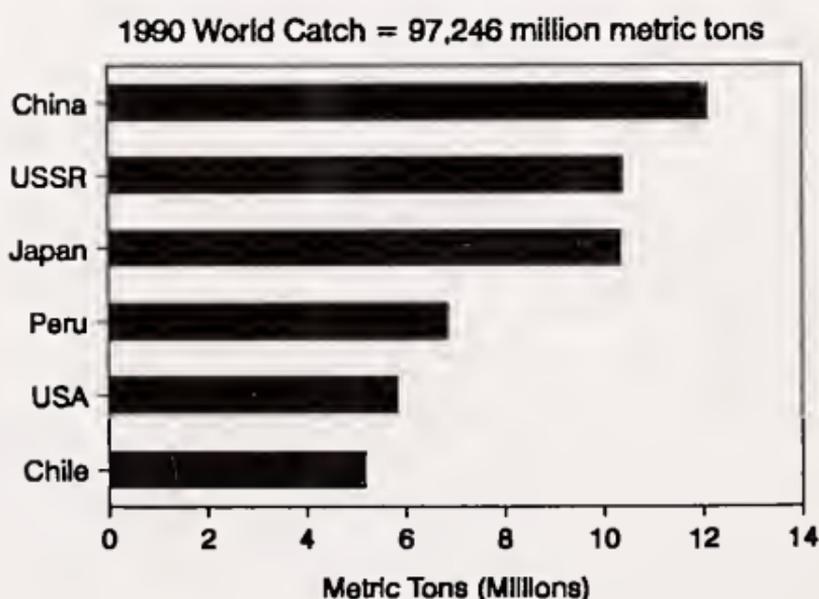
Despite the generally increasing volume of U.S. commercial landings over the years, the U.S. has remained a major importer of fishery products. In

1991 imports accounted for 42 percent of the total U.S. supply of all fishery products.



Leading Fishing Nations

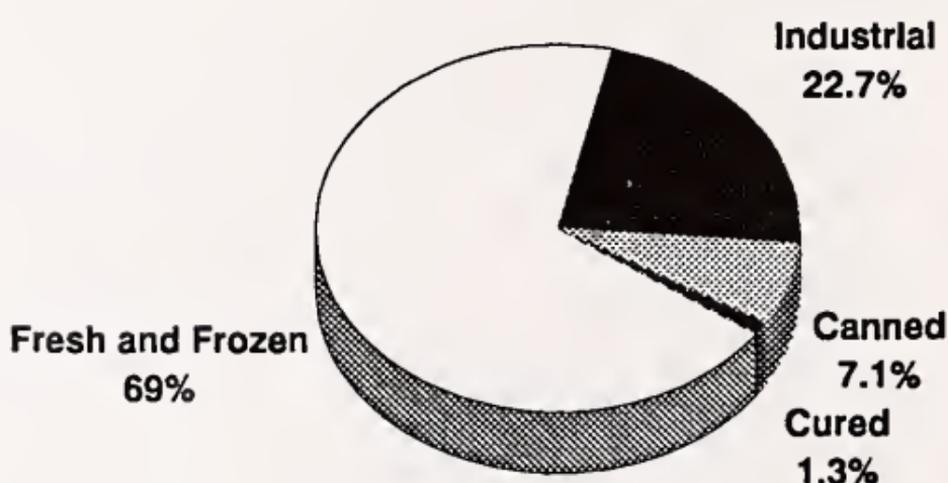
The U.S. ranked fifth among major fishing nations in 1990 world catch, the most recent year for which comparable data are available. The "live" weights shown in the graph include shell weights, which are not included in totals used elsewhere in this brochure. Statistics for mariculture, aquaculture, and other kinds of fish farming are included in country totals. Statistics on quantities caught by recreational fishermen are excluded.



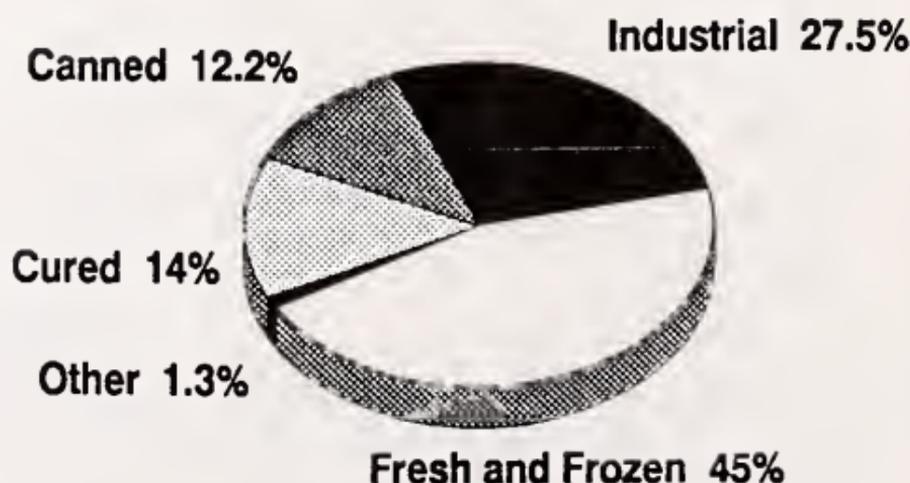
Disposition of Catch: U.S. and World

The U.S. utilized 74 percent (7.0 billion pounds) of its domestic landings for human food in 1991. This percentage was only slightly lower than the 1990 record of 75 percent. The high utilization rate for human food is due largely to the landings of Alaska pollock and other groundfish species used in surimi and other analog products. Landings used for industrial (non-food) purposes showed an increase for the second year in a row with 2.5 million pounds (up one percent). Landings used for canned bait and pet food declined to 62 million pounds (down 36 percent).

1991 - U.S.



1990 - World



Contact the nearest NMFS Regional Office for more information about U.S. fisheries, including such NMFS programs as marketing, consumer services, and voluntary fishery product inspection. For more information about Regional Fishery Management Councils, contact the Council nearest you.

NMFS REGIONAL OFFICES

Northeast Region
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
(508) 281-9300

Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.
BIN C15700, Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 526-6150

Southeast Region
Duval Bldg.
9450 Kager Blvd.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(813) 893-3141

Alaska Region
Federal Bldg.
P.O. Box 21668
709 West Ninth St.
Juneau, AK 99802
(907) 586-7221

Southwest Region
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200
Lang Beach, CA 90802
(310) 980-4001

REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS

New England
Suntaug Office Park
5 Broadway (Route 1)
Saugus, MA 01906
(617) 231-0422

Caribbean
Banca de Pance Bldg.
Suite 1108
Hata Rey, PR 00918
(809) 753-6910

Mid-Atlantic
Federal Bldg.
Suite 2115
300 So. New St.
Dover, DE 19901
(302) 674-2331

Pacific
Metro Center, Suite 420
2000 S.W. First Ave.
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 326-6352

South Atlantic
Southpark Bldg.
Suite 306
1 Southpark Circle
Charleston, SC 29407
(803) 571-4366

North Pacific
605 W. 4th Ave., Rm. 306
P.O. Box 103136
Anchorage, AK 99510
(907) 271-2809

Gulf of Mexico
Lincoln Center
Suite 881
5401 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 228-2815

Western Pacific
1164 Bishop St., Rm. 1405
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 523-1368



A000020596729

Additional copies of this p
Fisheries Statistics Division (F/RE1)
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
1335 East West Highway - Rm. 8313
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 713-2328