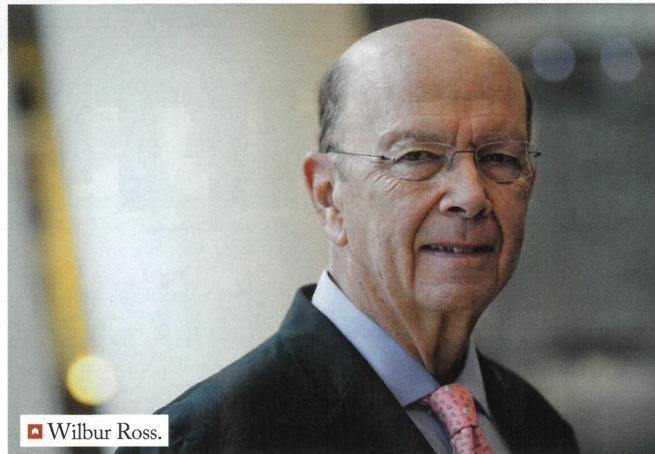


# SALTWATER ANGLING WORTH \$36 BILLION IN USA

The USA's National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has the fabulously ambitious mission: "To understand and predict changes in the earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources." Every year it publishes its annual Fisheries of the United States report, which deals mainly with commercial fishing, but it does also recognise the huge impact that recreational fishing has on the GDP of the USA.

In its recently published 2016 report it states: "Saltwater recreational fishing is an American pastime, conservation contributor, and important economic driver nationwide. Millions of Americans access the great outdoors through recreational fishing each year, strengthening families, friendships, and communities while contributing \$63 billion in sales impacts and \$36 billion in gross domestic product each year to the national economy."

Saltwater recreational fisheries are crucial for introducing and connecting the next generation to the natural world while simultaneously presenting complex



Wilbur Ross.

stewardship challenges, including balancing ecosystem conservation with social and economic benefits for the nation.

"We recognise the importance of the recreational fishing community and its benefits to coastal economies and are committed to actively engaging with and responding to its interests at both the national and regional levels."

As a pastime, and key contributor to the economy, saltwater recreational fishing is still a firm favourite, with slight increases in 2016 to 9.6 million anglers making nearly 63 million trips, compared to

2015 with nine million and 61 million trips. In 2016 anglers caught more than 371 million fish, with some 61 per cent of them being released alive.

By weight, striped bass remains the top harvested catch among saltwater anglers, followed by dolphinfish, bluefish, yellowfin tuna, spotted seatrout, and summer flounder.

The report also shows that the average American ate 14.9lb of fish and shellfish in 2016, a decrease from 15.5lb in 2015. US dietary guidelines recommend 8 to 12oz of a variety of seafood species per week, or 26 to 39lb per person per year, so average

consumption is well below the guidelines.

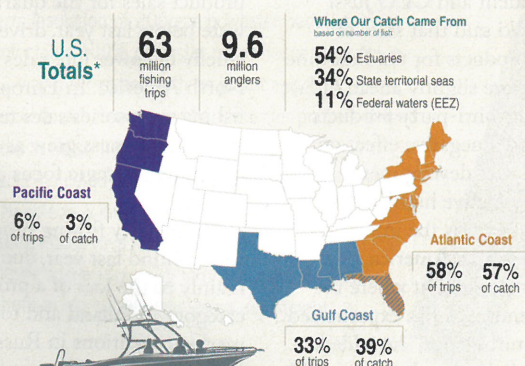
In 2016, the total catch landed by commercial fishermen was down 1.5 per cent from 2015 to 9.6lb billion, but the value of that catch increased by 2.1 per cent total of \$5.3 billion. In the same year an increase of 1 per cent to 5.8lb billion of seafood was imported, with a 3.5 per cent increase in value to \$19.5 billion. A significant amount of the imported seafood is caught by American fishermen, exported overseas for processing, and then re-imported to the US.

"With the United States importing billions of pounds of seafood annually, and with so much of that seafood foreign farm-raised, the numbers in this report underscore the untapped potential of aquaculture here at home," said secretary of commerce Wilbur Ross. "Expanding our nation's aquaculture capacity presents an opportunity to reduce America's reliance on imports while creating thousands of new jobs."

NOAA Fisheries will release a detailed look at economic impact of recreational and commercial fisheries on the US economy in the upcoming Fisheries Economics of the United States report.

Saltwater recreational fisheries are crucial.

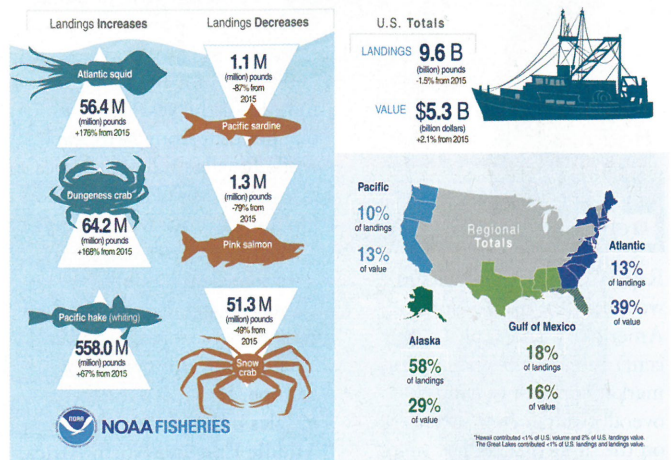
## 2016 U.S. Recreational Fisheries Saltwater Trips and Catch



\*Alaska data are not available for 2016. Hawaii contributed 2% of U.S. trips and 1% of U.S. catch. Puerto Rico contributed 1% of U.S. trips and 1% of U.S. catch.

NOAA FISHERIES

## 2016 U.S. Commercial Fisheries and the Seafood Industry Highlights



\*Hawaii contributed +1% of U.S. volume and 2% of U.S. landings value. The Great Lakes contributed +1% of U.S. landings and landings value.