

North Carolina's Wild-Caught Commercial Seafood Industry

MAKING A SPLASH ON THE COAST AND ACROSS THE STATE

North Carolina's wild-caught commercial seafood industry provides nearly \$300 million in economic impact and 5,500 jobs in the state. While the largest impacts occur in the harvesting sector along the coast, the industry also includes the seafood preparation and wholesaling, retail, and restaurant sectors. Growing inland consumer demand for local seafood is increasing the economic impact of the industry across the state via restaurant and retail sales. This project was funded through the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Commercial Fishing Resource Fund Grant Program.

Total Income

Commercial Fishing

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| economic impact | \$155.3M |
| employment | 2,660 |

Seafood Preparation and Processing

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| economic impact | \$14.4M |
| employment | 210 |

Fish Markets and Retailers

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| economic impact | \$80.3M |
| employment | 1,616 |

Seafood Restaurants

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| economic impact | \$47.3M |
| employment | 1,043 |

Total

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| economic impact | \$297.3M |
| employment | 5,528 |

North Coast



| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Commercial Fishing | \$65.8M |
| Seafood Preparation and Processing | \$5.4M |
| Fish Markets and Retailers | \$5.3M |
| Seafood Restaurants | \$2.1M |
| North Coast Total | \$78.6M |

Central Coast



| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Commercial Fishing | \$48.6M |
| Seafood Preparation and Processing | \$3.2M |
| Fish Markets and Retailers | \$0.6M |
| Seafood Restaurants | \$5.0M |
| Central Coast Total | \$57.5M |

South Coast



| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Commercial Fishing | \$21.6M |
| Seafood Preparation and Processing | \$1.8M |
| Fish Markets and Retailers | \$1.0M |
| Seafood Restaurants | \$6.0M |
| South Coast Total | \$30.3M |

VALUE ADDED INCOME

All figures are value-added income for 2019. For commercial fishing value-added is total sales. At the seafood processing, restaurant, and retail levels, value-added is sales minus the cost of non-labor inputs. Value-added does not include non-North Carolina inputs, and avoids double counting product used several times in the production chain. Economists view value-added as the most accurate measure of economic impact.

Methodology and addition details for the estimates included in this factsheet are available by emailing eric.edwards@ncsu.edu