



An Introduction to the

MARINE FISH CONSERVATION NETWORK



Recreational fishing for
bluefish

Credit: John McMurray

ABOUT THE MARINE FISH CONSERVATION NETWORK

The Marine Fish Conservation Network is a coalition of commercial and recreational fishing associations, regional and national conservation groups, aquaria, sustainable seafood suppliers, and marine science organizations dedicated to sustaining abundant fish populations, healthy marine ecosystems, and thriving working waterfront communities through defending and strengthening U.S. ocean and fisheries conservation policies. For the last two decades, we have united our members around a shared mission: **conserve and revitalize wild ocean fisheries** for the economic betterment, cultural enrichment, and health benefit of people and communities nationwide. We are dedicated to ensuring that abundant, productive, and resilient U.S. ocean fisheries will provide jobs, economic security, and sustainable domestic seafood now and for future generations.

WHY WE CARE ABOUT U.S. OCEAN FISHERIES

Americans depend on successful U.S. fishing and seafood industries to support local and national economies and provide food security. **Our fisheries support more than two million jobs and contribute well over \$300 billion to the American economy.** The U.S. has made great strides toward more science-based, sustainable management of its ocean fisheries, but the work is far from done. In the face of climate change and other growing threats, we need to take steps now to ensure working waterfronts and ocean fisheries can support fishing and seafood jobs, businesses, and American families for years to come.

A LEADING VOICE FOR FISHERIES AND FISHING COMMUNITIES

Fish don't have a voice, and they can't advocate for policies that help our ocean ecosystems thrive. But the people who depend on the sea for their jobs, recreation, and livelihoods DO have voices – many of them. **Our policy recommendations have been thoroughly vetted by our diverse coalition of stakeholders, ensuring that our united**

- According to NOAA's latest economics report, U.S. commercial fishing generated an estimated **\$183 billion** (without imports) and recreational fishing generated an estimated **\$138 billion** in total sales impacts.²
- **Fifty fish stocks** have been rebuilt since 2000.³
- US fisheries support **1.6 million** commercial fishing jobs and **692,000** recreational fishing jobs.⁴

voice speaks for people and communities nationwide. We bring these voices straight from America's working waterfronts to Congress, federal agencies, and other places where they must be heard. In turn, the Network guides our partners through the latest developments on Capitol Hill and works with them to galvanize community action for policies that promote the sustainability, productivity, and resiliency of U.S. fisheries, marine ecosystems, and coastal economies. Together, our coalition continues to chart a course toward healthier oceans and more productive fisheries, ensuring that America's fishing and seafood businesses and coastal communities can better meet the challenges of the future.



Commercial fishing in the
Gulf of Mexico

Credit: NOAA

GET INVOLVED WITH THE MARINE FISH CONSERVATION NETWORK

Please join us to ensure that U.S. policy continues to support healthy oceans and productive fisheries for the benefit of our small businesses, coastal communities, and marine ecosystems.

FOLLOW OUR BLOG, "FROM THE WATERFRONT"

www.conservefish.org/blog

"From the Waterfront" shares stories of our fishing past, present, and future to demonstrate the invaluable role that well-managed fisheries play in healthy ocean ecosystems and our American fishing tradition.

JOIN OUR WATERSIDE CHAT

conservefish.org/resources/waterside-chat/

Network Deputy Director Tom Sadler talks with guests about current ocean policy and fisheries management topics and what policy decisions mean for people's livelihoods, communities, recreation, and coastal ways of life. View our Waterside Chat on YouTube, or listen on Spotify, Amazon Music, or Apple Podcasts.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Get the latest news and information on **Facebook** or **Twitter/X: @marinefishcons**.

CONTACT THE NETWORK

For more information, please visit our website at conservefish.org, or email Executive Director Robert C. Vandermark at info@conservefish.org.

¹<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-economics-united-states>

²<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-economics-united-states>

³<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/status-stocks-2023>

⁴<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/sustainable-fisheries/fisheries-economics-united-states>