

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

NOAA Fisheries is committed to minimizing bycatch in U.S. fisheries to increase the sustainability of our fisheries and help protected species recover.

The National Bycatch Report is the only national-level report published by NOAA Fisheries that summarizes fish, marine mammal, sea turtle, and seabird bycatch estimates in major U.S. fisheries.

The data summary and analysis methods used in the report to produce comparable bycatch estimates across fisheries and regions do not reflect individual aspects of specific fisheries, so the report should not be used for day-to-day management of fisheries.

Highlights from the U.S. National Bycatch Report

First Edition Update 3



Shrimp trawlers in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. Photo: NOAA Fisheries/Noelle Olsen

Estimating Bycatch

Bycatch occurs when fishing operations discard fish, cause unobserved mortality, or interact with living marine resources such as marine mammals, seabirds, corals, sponges, sea turtles or protected fish. Bycatch of fish can contribute to overfishing and impede efforts to rebuild fish stocks, and bycatch of marine mammals and species listed under the Endangered Species Act can contribute to population declines and impede population recovery.

To help document bycatch, NOAA Fisheries has published the *U.S. National Bycatch Report First Edition Update 3* (NBR), which provides bycatch estimates at the national level for fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds in major U.S. fisheries for 2014 and 2015. This report provides information on overall bycatch and, in addition to stock assessments or other data on individual stocks and fisheries, may inform fishery monitoring, science, and management priorities.

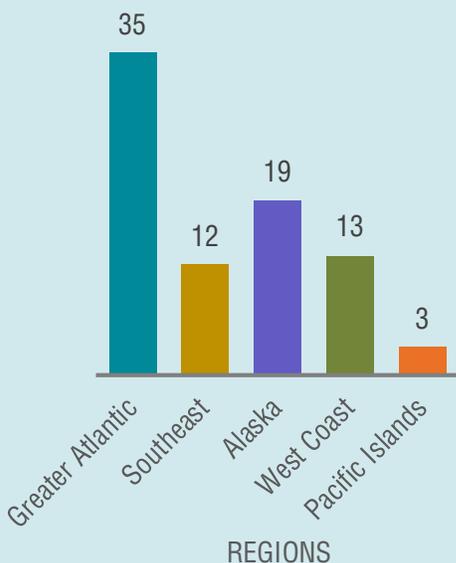
NBR bycatch estimates should not be viewed as definitive estimates in all cases, but are indicative of bycatch amounts in particular fisheries, or relative levels of bycatch across fisheries.

This Update, as well as the First Edition, Update 1, and Update 2 of the report, are available on the NOAA Fisheries National Observer Program website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/fishery-observers>

Discard and Landing Estimates for the Major U.S. Fisheries Included in the Report



Total Number of NBR Fisheries with Bycatch Estimates



Regional Highlights

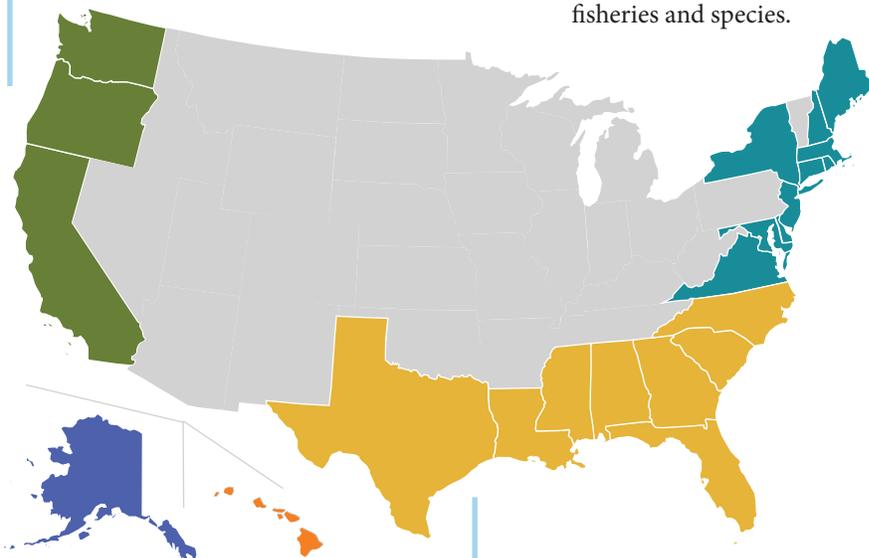
West Coast Region

In 2015, some West Coast fisheries adopted electronic monitoring to help enhance their bycatch estimates.



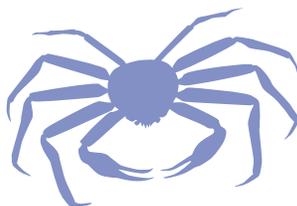
Greater Atlantic Region

Since the previous NBR update, the Greater Atlantic Region has a greatly expanded number of bycatch estimates for fisheries and species.



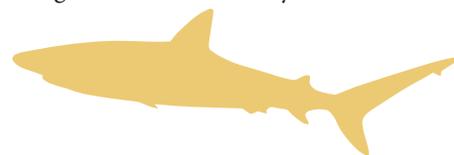
Alaska Region

The Alaska Region included new bycatch estimates for 10 crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.



Southeast Region

The Southeast Region included NBR estimates for 2 fisheries for the first time — the Southeastern Atlantic Shrimp Trawl Fishery and the Southeastern Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Shark Bottom Longline Research Fishery.



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For more detailed information on NOAA Fisheries National Observer Program, please visit:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/fishery-observers>