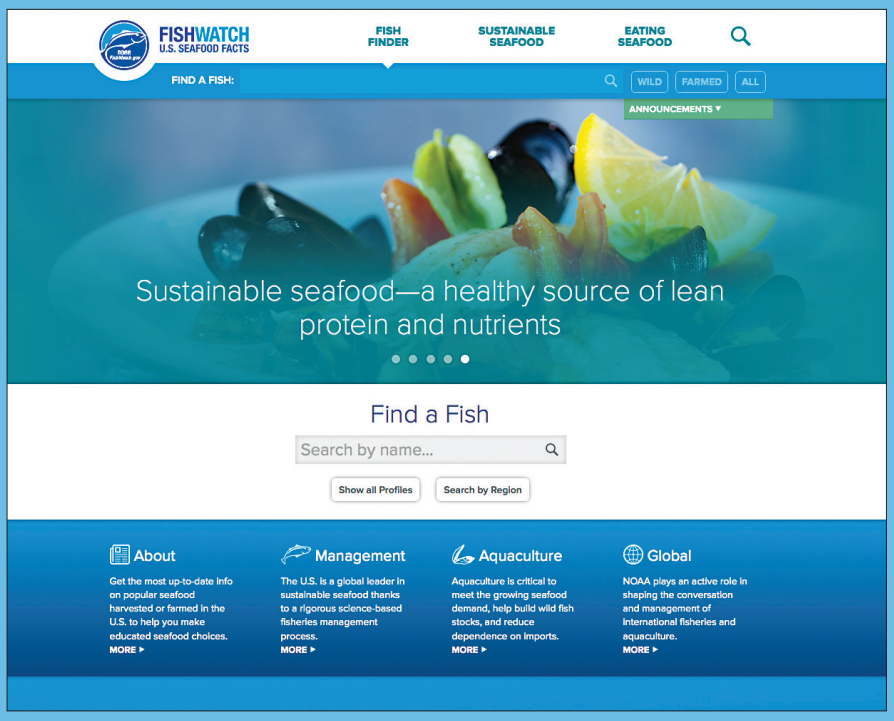
FISHWATCH

The nation's database on U.S. managed sustainable seafood

Make smart seafood choices by getting the facts about what makes U.S. seafood sustainable—from the ocean or farm to your plate.

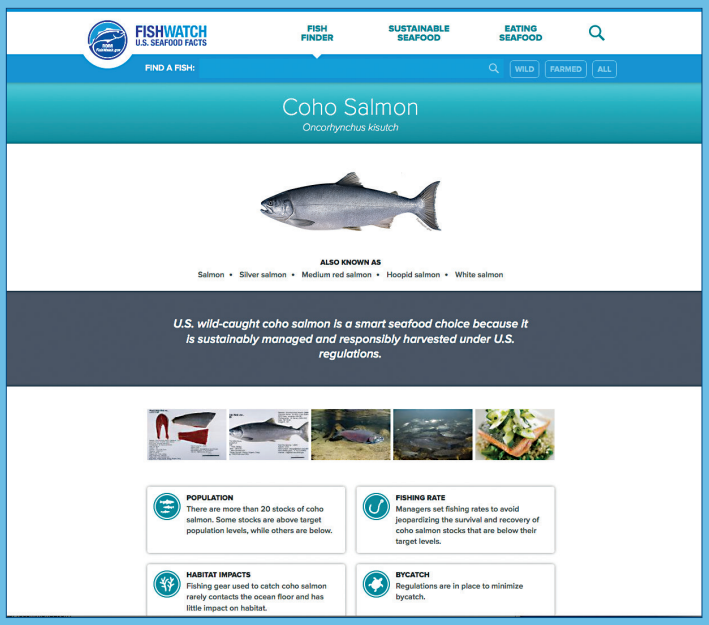


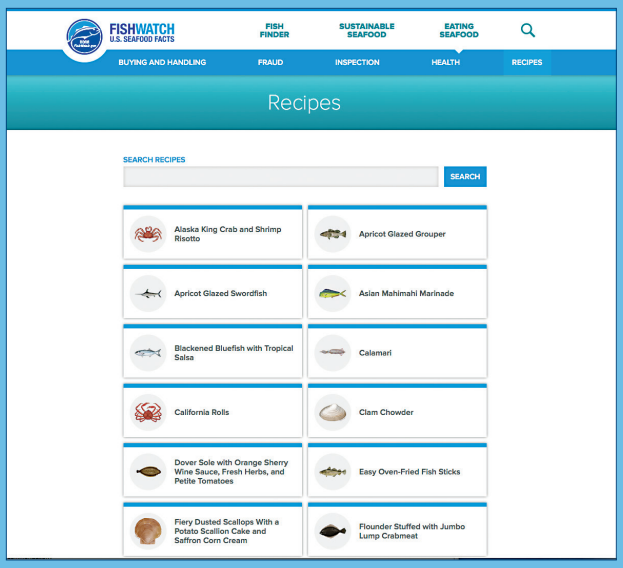
Search for up-to-date information on the status of some of the most valuable U.S. harvested and farmed seafood.

Sustainable Fisheries—The U.S. Leads the Way

U.S. fisheries are big business—providing jobs and recreation and keeping our coastal communities vibrant. In fact, the United States is a global leader in responsibly managed fisheries and sustainable seafood. U.S. fisheries are scientifically monitored, regionally managed, and legally enforced under 10 national standards of sustainability. Managing sustainable fisheries is a dynamic process that requires constant attention to new scientific information that guides management actions to adapt to changing ocean conditions.

Fishery managers use a variety of scientific information—stock assessments and species and ecosystem research—to set harvest and operational requirements for each fishery. These requirements support the goals of sustaining fish populations, protecting habitat and other species, and keeping fishermen on the job. Even if a species is overfished, this adaptive management system allows for restricted harvest levels to rebuild the stock and keep responsible fishermen on the water and fishing communities at work. So, you can be assured the U.S. seafood you see at the store is being actively managed for today's consumers and future generations.





FishWatch provides detailed information on some of your favorite seafood and includes some great recipes too!

U.S. Aquaculture – Critical for a Supply of Sustainable Seafood

Although the sustainability of our domestic wild-capture fisheries continues to improve, we cannot meet increasing domestic demand for seafood through wild-caught fisheries alone. Over the last 30 years, global wild-capture fisheries have plateaued while aquaculture has become the fastest growing form of food production worldwide. Unfortunately, the United States produces a relatively small amount of its own seafood from aquaculture and relies heavily on foreign aquaculture imports to meet the growing demand for healthy protein. It is critical for the U.S. to expand its own aquaculture industry in order to ensure a sustainable supply of healthy, eco-friendly seafood in the U.S. Not only does marine aquaculture provide a domestic source of economically and environmentally sustainable seafood, it also creates jobs, supports resilient working waterfronts and coastal communities, and provides new international trade opportunities.

Make Smart Seafood Choices with FishWatch

FishWatch provides up-to-date information on the status of some of the nation's most valuable marine fish harvested in U.S. federal waters and U.S. aquaculture farms that help meet the growing global demand for healthy, environmentally sound protein—seafood. Don't worry. No technical, government talk here—just information that helps you understand the science, laws, and management process sustaining our domestic seafood supply.

The seafood profiles on FishWatch have information ranging from a species' origin and biology to how we study and monitor populations. They also cover how these species are harvested, managed or farmed and even how they taste! FishWatch also includes information about the United States' role in shaping the conservation and management of international fisheries to ensure a level playing field for U.S. fishermen, consumer confidence in safe and legal seafood, and sustainable fisheries management. You'll also find tips on buying and handling seafood along with some great recipes you'll definitely want to try.

NOAA Fisheries and FishWatch

NOAA Fisheries, the leading science authority for managing U.S. marine fisheries, is responsible for monitoring and enforcing marine fisheries within the U.S. exclusive economic zone—4.4 million square miles and 95,000 coastland miles. We represent the U.S. around the world, pushing for sustainable practices and effective enforcement of fisheries management. We also work closely with federal and state partners to regulate U.S. marine aquaculture. We maintain FishWatch to help consumers get unbiased facts on the science and management behind the responsible harvest and farming of U.S. seafood.