

SEA GRANT
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The wide-spread publicity surrounding harvest restrictions on various U.S. fish stocks sometimes over shadows the importance of commercial and recreational fishing in providing food for people.

The world harvest of wild-caught seafood was about 205 billion pounds in 2005. Since 1996, the harvest has varied from 191 billion pounds to 210 billion pounds. The world population in 2005 was 6.5 billion people. Therefore, the waters of the world produced about 32 pounds of seafood per person. The actual per capita consumption varies widely across countries. Several Asian nations and small island nations consume well over a 100 pounds per person. At the other extreme, some African nations consume less than five pounds per person.

In the U.S., commercial fishermen landed 9.5 billion pounds with a dock side value of \$4 billion dollars in 2006. About 7.8 billion pounds was used for food. We imported 5.4 billion pounds of edible fish product and exported 3 billion pounds. Our per capita consumption of seafood is the equivalent of about 50 pounds of live fish or 16.6 pounds of edible meat.

Consumption figures do not include recreationally caught fish which adds another 257 million pounds to the total. It is estimated that 13 million anglers participated in the harvest resulting in about 20 pounds per angler and almost an additional pound per person for the U.S. population.

